

# NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 7TH



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Class : 7th  
Subject : History  
Chapter : 8

Chapter Name : Devotional Paths To The Divine

Q1 Match the following:

The Buddha	namghar
Shankaradeva	worship of Vishnu
Nizamuddin Auliya	questioned social differences
Nayanars	Sufi saint
Alvars	worship of Shiva

Answer.

The Buddha	questioned social differences
Shankaradeva	namghar
Nizamuddin Auliya	Sufi saint
Nayanars	worship of Shiva
Alvars	worship of Vishnu

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Q2 Fill in the blanks:

- Shankara was an advocate of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ramanuja was influenced by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were advocates of Virashaivism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was an important centre of the Bhakti tradition in Maharashtra.

Answer. (a) Shankara was an advocate of advaita.

(b) Ramanuja was influenced by the Alvars.

(c) Basavanna, Allama Prabhu and Akkamahadevi were advocates of Virashaivism.

(d) Vitthala temple was an important centre of the Bhakti tradition in Maharashtra.

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Q3 Describe the beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis.

Answer. The Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis believed in the renunciation of the world. For them, the path of salvation lay in meditating on the formless ultimate reality. They stressed on intense training of the mind and body through yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation.

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Q4 What were the major ideas expressed by Kabir? How did he express these?

Answer. The major ideas expressed by Kabir were a rejection of the major religious traditions and belief in a formless Supreme God. For Kabir, the path of salvation was through bhakti or devotion. He expressed his ideas through verses called sakhis and pads.

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Q5 What were the major beliefs and practices of the Sufis?

Answer. The Sufis believed in union with God as a lover seeking his beloved. They also believed that the heart could be trained to look at the world in a different way. They rejected the elaborate rituals and codes of behavior demanded by Muslim religious scholars. The Sufis developed various methods of raving using Zikr (chanting of a name or sacred formula), contemplation, singing and dancing.

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Q6 Why do you think many teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices?

Answer. Many teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices because such beliefs advocated social differences and practicing them was difficult and cumbersome.

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Q7 What were the major teachings of Baba Guru Nanak?

Answer. Baba Guru Nanak emphasized on the worship of one God. According to him, caste, creed or gender was irrelevant for attaining liberation. Liberation for him was the pursuit of an active life with social commitment. He gave the motto of nam, dan and isnan, which meant right worship, welfare of others and purity of conduct.

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Q8 For either the Virashaivas or the sants of Maharashtra, discuss their attitude towards caste.

Answer. Both Virashaivas and the saints of Maharashtra rejected social inequality and caste differences.

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Q9 Why do you think ordinary people preserved the memory of Mirabai?

Answer. Ordinary people have preserved the memory of Mirabai because her songs openly challenge the norms of the upper castes.

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Q10 Find out whether in your neighbourhood there are any dargahs, gurudwaras or temples associated with saints of the bhakti tradition in your neighbourhood. Visit any one of these and describe what you see and hear.

Answer. Gurudwara is the religious place for the Sikhs.

It is true that people of different faith are welcomed to gurudwaras even if they do not practice any faith.

A Darbar Sahib is always present in every single gurudwara.

Each of the gurudwara also has a langar hall where people can come and eat whoever has visited the gurudwara.

The most renowned gurudwara is the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

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Q11 For any of the saint-poets whose compositions have been included in this chapter, find out more about their works, noting down other poems. Find out whether these are sung, how they are sung, and what the poets wrote about.

Answer. DIY

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Q12 There are several saint-poets whose names have been mentioned but their works have not been included in the chapter. Find out more about the language in which they composed, whether their compositions were sung, and what their compositions were about.

Answer. DIY

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