

Name: _____ Date: _____

New Questions and Ideas

Q1. Write about the monasteries of Jainas and Buddhists.

Ans.

Q2. Write a short note on the 'System of Ashramas'.

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Ans. Monasteries of Jainas and Buddhists

- i. Supporters of the monks and nuns built temporary shelters for them in gardens, or they lived in natural caves in hilly areas.
- ii. As time went on, many supporters of the monks and nuns, and they themselves, felt the need for more permanent shelters and so monasteries were built. These were known as viharas.
- iii. Very often, the land on which the vihara was built was donated by a rich merchant or a landowner, or the king.

Q2. Write a short note on the 'System of Ashramas'.

Ans. Around the time when Jainism and Buddhism were becoming popular, brahmins developed the system of ashramas. Here, the word ashrama does not mean a place where people live and meditate. It is used instead for a stage of life. Four ashramas were recognised: brahmacharya, grihastha, vanaprastha and samnyasa.

Brahmacharya – During this stage of life, Brahmin, kshatriya and vaishya men were expected to lead simple lives and study the Vedas during the early years of their life.

Grihastha – During this stage, they had to marry and live as householders.

Vanaprastha – During this stage, they had to live in the forest and meditate.

Samnyasa - Finally, they had to give up everything and become samnyasins.

The system of ashramas allowed men to spend some part of their lives in meditation. Generally, women were not allowed to study the Vedas, and they had to follow the ashramas chosen by their husbands.