

Introducing Hinduism
Self Test Questions
Chapter 13 – 18

Chapter 13

1. What is another name for Bādarāyaṇa's Vedānta Sūtra?
2. How many primary maṭhas were there, and who were their leaders?
3. According to Advaita Vedānta philosophy, what is the one thing that is real?
4. What are the essential qualities of Brahman according to Advaita Vedānta?
5. What is neti-neti, and which philosophy promotes it?
6. Rāmānuja upholds this as the highest path, which path is it?
7. How many branches did the Śrī Vaiṣṇava tradition split into, and what were they called?
8. Which philosophy postulates the existence of three types of entities, and what are they?
9. Define Uttara Mīmāṃsā. Which philosophical system is it associated with?
10. What does advaita mean?

Chapter 14

1. How might the word Tantra be translated?
2. What is Ādi-Śakti?
3. Define siddhi.
4. Śaiva Siddhānta is based on three fundamental realities, what are they?
5. Is Śaiva Siddhānta a dualistic or non-dualistic philosophy?
6. What is the mark of the Left Hand Tantra?
7. Who was Trika Śaivism's greatest exponent?
8. In Kashmir Śaivism is the creation of the universe made manifest through Śiva or Śakti?
9. Who is Bhairava, and what does his trident symbolize?
10. Define nāḍī and list the three most important of these.

Chapter 15

1. Define zamīndār.
2. Who was called both the "father of Indian unrest," and the "Maker of Modern India?"
3. Who is Kabīr and why is he an important figure to Hinduism?
4. These are groups on the margins of Bengali society, known for their mendicant lifestyle and music. Who are they?
5. Who proclaimed, "There is no Hindu; there is no Muslim?"
6. What are the "five Ks," and who wears them?
7. What was the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and why was it important?
8. Who was India's first prime minister?
9. What is the "Dravidian Movement?"
10. Who wrote the book Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?, and why is it so significant?

Chapter 16

1. What percentage of Nepal's population is Hindu?
2. What is the name of one of Nepal's most widely celebrated religious festivals?
3. Who is Taleju Bhavānī?
4. Nepal's living goddesses are known as what?
5. What is a devarāja cult?
6. Harihara is a fusion of which two deities?
7. What is the Thai version of the Rāmāyaṇa called?
8. What is the name of the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia?
9. Did the Balinese adopt the four-fold varṇa system of Indian Hinduism?
10. What are the Balinese names for Śiva, Viṣṇu, and Brahmā?

Chapter 17

1. What is the name of the Ramakrishna Order in the West?
2. To what society did Krishnamurti belong?
3. Who founded the Transcendental Meditation movement? ?
4. Who founded ISKCON?
5. Who is the founder of the Divine Life Society?
6. Bhagwan Rajneesh is also known by what name?
7. Who was Swami Vivekānanda's guru?
8. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi attracted which popular music band in 1970?
9. Which guru promoted the meditative technique called the Mystic Rose?
10. What was B. K. S. Iyengar's guru?

Chapter 18

1. How big is India's cow population?
2. How is the notion of ahiṃsā related to vegetarianism?
3. What is the Chipko Movement?
4. Who promulgated the message "Everyone's Lord is [the same] One?"
5. Who is perhaps the most recognized Hindu holy man in all of India?
6. What is vibhūti?
7. List the four most important maṭhas founded by Śaṅkara and his disciples.
8. Who are the Daśanāmis, and why are they referred to as such?
9. What were some of the reforms that occurred which sought an equality between men and women?
10. What factors have contributed to the practice of infanticide of baby girls?