

Introducing Hinduism
Self Test Questions
Chapter 7 – 12

Chapter 7

1. Define āstika.
2. This term means “viewpoint,” or “perspective.”
3. What are the six conventionally listed orthodox darśanas?
4. In Jain philosophy, what can handicap or impair the jīva?
5. What are the eight limbs of yoga?
6. Define Pūrva-Mīmāṃsā and Uttara-Mīmāṃsā.
7. Which heterodox religion promulgated the Anātman doctrine?
8. What was the Sweet-Voiced philosophy, the Lokāyata, or the Way of the Masses?
9. Define Puruṣa and Prakṛti. To which philosophical system do they belong?
10. What are siddhis?

Chapter 8

1. What are the two main Hindu epics?
2. Which epic is said to have taken place in the Tretā Yuga?
3. How many kaṇḍas make up the Rāmāyaṇa?
4. Define svayaṃvara.
5. Who is Śūrpaṇakhā?
6. What is the name of the monkey general in the Rāmāyaṇa?
7. In what manner was King Janaka’s daughter born?
8. Who is the Mahābhārata’s author?
9. Who are the Pāṇḍavas and the Kauravas?
10. For how many years were the Pāṇḍavas exiled into the forest?

Chapter 9

1. Into how many chapters is the Bhagavad Gītā divided?
2. Ramaṇa Mahārṣi is an exemplar of what type of yoga, and why?
3. Define niṣ-kāma karma.
4. This term was coined by Gandhi and means “holding fast to truth.”
5. Who was given the name Mahātma (Great Soul), and why?
6. What is panentheism?
7. Who is an exemplar of the Bhakti Yoga approach, and why?
8. What is the name of Kṛṣṇa’s lover?
9. This text contains a thousand hymns to Māyon.
10. Who are the Ālvārs and the Nāyanārs?

Chapter 10

1. What were some of the Pāśupata practices?
2. What are the three real and eternal entities that Śaiva Siddhānta distinguishes?
3. Is Śaiva Siddhānta a dualistic or non-dualistic philosophy, and why?

4. With what sort of practices are the disciples of Gorakṣanātha associated?
5. What is the name of the earliest mentioned Vaiṣṇava sect?
6. Define vyūha and then list the first four vyūhas.
7. Who are the Vārkarīs?
8. What is one of the most influential texts of Śākta Hinduism?
9. Name some Hindu goddesses who are independent and not associated with male deities?
10. What are the Śakti piṭhas?

Chapter 11

1. The Purāṇas claim to be compiled by this author who also authored the Mahābhārata.
2. Smārta Brahmins worship at the shrines of which five deities?
3. Describe the common depictions of deities such as Śiva, Viṣṇu, and Mahādevī Durgā.
4. Who is Ardhanarīśvara?
5. Recount a mythic account of how Gaṇeśa got his elephant head.
6. What is the Santoshi Mā vrata?
7. Which South Indian deity is associated with Skanda?
8. What does Kālī represent?
9. What are Nāgas? Yakṣas?
10. Which goddess is associated with smallpox and cholera?.

Chapter 12

1. What are the three main components of pūjā?
2. What is a mūrti?
3. The simplest form of upacāra consists of how many offerings, and what are they?
4. Define praṇāma and give an example of such.
5. This refers to the direct, unmediated perception of the divine, what is it?
6. Hindu temples are classified into two main types, what are they?
7. Explain what is meant by garbha-gṛha.
8. Are temple priests often ranked lower on the purity hierarchy than other types of Brahmins, and if so, why?
9. Why is the practice of yātra important to Hinduism?
10. Which god is the focus of attention in the Sabaraimalai pilgrimage?