

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE

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How to Use Self-Learning Material?

The pedagogy used to design this course is to enable the student to assimilate the concepts with ease. The course is divided into modules. Each module is categorically divided into units or chapters. Each unit has the following elements:

- **Table of Contents:** Each unit has a well-defined table of contents. For example: "1.1.1. (a)" should be read as "Module 1. Unit 1. Topic 1. (Sub-topic a)" and 1.2.3. (iii) should be read as "Module 1. Unit 2. Topic 3. (Sub-topic iii).
- Aim: It refers to the overall goal that can be achieved by going through the unit.
- Instructional Objectives: These are behavioural objectives that describe intended learning and define what the unit intends to deliver.
- **Learning Outcomes:** These are demonstrations of the learner's skills and experience sequences in learning, and refer to what you will be able to accomplish after going through the unit.
- Self-Assessment Questions: These include a set of multiple-choice questions to be answered at the end of each topic.
- **Did You Know?:** You will learn some interesting facts about a topic that will help you improve your knowledge. A unit can also contain Quiz, Case Study, Critical Learning Exercises, etc., as metacognitive scaffold for learning.
- **Summary:** This includes brief statements or restatements of the main points of unit and summing up of the knowledge chunks in the unit.
- **Activity:** It actively involves you through various assignments related to direct application of the knowledge gained from the unit. Activities can be both online and offline.
- **Bibliography:** This is a list of books and articles written by a particular author on a particular subject referring to the unit's content.
- **e-References:** This is a list of online resources, including academic e-Books and journal articles that provide reliable and accurate information on any topic.
- Video Links: It has links to online videos that help you understand concepts from a variety of online resources.



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Indian Heritage and Culture

Course Description

A flood of new light has been shed on the subject heritage and culture thanks to the dedicated effort of generations of experts. However, the findings of their investigations were primarily intended for specialists, and many people are still completely unaware of India's spiritual and aesthetic virtues, as well as her contribution to world culture. As India emerges from the shadows once more, it is more important than ever for us to communicate the rest of the world the wonders of her previous achievements in the fields of culture, heritage, religion, art, and literature. It is criminal to dismiss a culture that gave the world philosophy, art, architecture, paintings, music, and dances, as well as great religious teachers like the Buddha, rulers like Ashoka and Akbar, Krishnadevaraya and Shivaji, the Ajanta frescos, the south Indian bronzes, the superb master pieces of Sanchi and Borobudur, and the temples, masques, and palaces found throughout India.

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As a result, the following folios try to trace Indian culture and heritage. It is tough to define "culture," but I have considered it to mean all of India's faiths that have contributed to the development of civilisation, social and religious concepts, manners and morality, literature, and art—all of which have shaped our culture. The major topic of Indian heritage and culture, which demonstrates extraordinary unity of spirit and remarkable perseverance in the pursuit of a rich, sophisticated civilisation of unrivalled qualities. Indian culture has always been marked by a capacity for assimilation and synthesis. It has functioned not only in Ancient India's religious ideas and social institutions, but also in the medieval period's ongoing efforts to reconcile clashing tendencies, and it continues to do so now when new and odd components from the West are introduced. Let culture, which has urged humanity to advance in its march, now take the current warring globe to greater heights of success.



Indian Heritage and Culture course consists of 4 modules

MODULE 1: Culture

Introduction to Culture -Definition of Culture, Types of culture, Importance of culture in human Life, Definition of Civilisation, comparison between culture and Civilisation, Heritage, Unity in Diversity

MODULE 2: History and Culture through the Ages

Ancient India- The Indus valley civilisation, Vedic period, Religions, New religious movements/ heterodox faiths (500 BC) Buddhism and Jainism. Architecture: Mauryan Art, post-Mauryan cultural developments, Age of Harshvardhana, cultural development during the Gupta period, Nalanda's emergence as a great center of learning, Pallavas and the Cholas,

MODULE 3: Medieval India

Medieval India life of people. Advent of Islam in India-Islam and Sufism-Islamic Art and Architecture, Medieval Indian Culture – Bhakti Movement-Vijayanagar Period-Art and Architecture and Literature

MODULE 4: Modern India

Modern India- Rise of the West and its impact on India, India in the 18th century: economy, society and culture, social condition, Socio-Religious reform in India, Growth and Development of Indian Press, Growth and rise of Indian cinema



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- **Chapter 3.2** Medieval Indian Culture Bhakti Movement-Vijayanagar Period-Art and Architecture and Literature

MODULE 4

Through the Ages, History and Culture - Ancient India

- **Chapter 4.1 Modern India:** Rise of the West and its impact on India and Socio-economic and culture asects
- **Chapter 4.2** Socio-Religious reform in In India, Growth and Development of Indian Press, Growth and rise of Indian cinema



Indian Heritage and Culture

MODULE 1

Introduction to Culture



MODULE - 1

Introduction to Culture

Module Description

Culture is a style of living that encompasses all aspects of one's existence. Culture encompasses everything from the food you eat to the clothing you wear to the language you speak to the God you serve. Simply said, culture is the manifestation of how we think and act. It's also what we've inherited as members of society. Culture refers to all of a person's accomplishments as a member of a social group. Culture includes elements such as art, music, literature, architecture, sculpture, philosophy, religion, and science. Culture, on the other hand, encompasses one's way of life, habits, traditions, festivals, and viewpoint on many life concerns.

India is a diverse society in both law and spirit. Its diversity and togetherness are well-deserved qualities. Despite several foreign invasions, a wide synthesis of cultures, beliefs, and languages of people of all castes and tribes have managed to retain its integrity and coherence.

National unity and integrity have been retained despite severe economic and social imbalances that have prevented the creation of egalitarian social connections. India has become a one-of-a-kind cultural mosaic because of this convergence. As a result, India is in a multicultural milieu inside a united cultural whole. Of emphasising differences, the term "diversity" emphasises distinctions. It refers to the disparities or collective differences that separate one group of people from another. These distinctions might be significant.

Unit 1 Introduction to Culture

Unit 2 Unity in Diversity



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Aim

To familiarise the students with the basic concepts of culture and its evolution, and the basic factors of Unity in Diversity



Instructional Objectives

In this unit, you will be able to:

- · Comprehend the meaning and notion of culture.
- Establish the relationship between culture and civilisation.
- Determine the link between culture and legacy.
- Discuss the function and impact of culture in human life



Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this unit, you are expected to:

- · Summarise the evolution of the Thought of Culture
- Explain the Indian Culture and its impact on the contemporary society

1.1.1 Introduction

"Cultus" is a Latin word that means "cultivation, refinement, or adoration". "Sanskriti" was coined from the root 'Kri' (to do). 'Kri;-'Sanskriti' (basic matter or condition), 'prakriti' (basic matter or condition), 'Kri;-'Sanskriti' (refined matter or condition) -'vikriti' (changed or decaying substance or state). When 'prakriti' is refined it becomes 'Sanskriti,' and when it is shattered or injured, it becomes 'vikriti'.

Culture

Definition: Culture is a way of life that encompasses all aspects of one's existence. Culture is derived from the Latin word *cultus*, which means tilling, cultivating, refining, and adoration. To summarise, it refers to the process of growing and polishing something to the point that the end result inspires admiration and respect in others. It can be also defined as a person's or a group's way of living, thinking, feeling, organising, celebrating, and sharing life. As a result, culture is described as a human-created environment that incorporates all of a group's material and non-material goods that are passed down from generation to generation. Culture encompasses the development of literature, music, dance, sculpture, architecture, and other kinds of art, as well as the myriad institutions and structures that enable society's smooth and orderly operation.

Have you ever considered how far we have come as a species in numerous areas of life, such as language, literature, art and architecture, science, and religion? Have you ever pondered how



all of this came about? This occurred because we were able to reuse and build on the work of previous generations of having to start from scratch each time. You have never had to worry about writing your own script or building a new language system from scratch. These have already been granted to you as a member of society. Then you add to it by contributing or adding something new, which becomes an asset for future generations.

Culture is divided into Two types:

- 1. Material (dress, food, and household goods)
- 2. Non-Material (Ideas, ideals, thoughts, and belief)

Self-control in behavior, consideration for others' feelings, and respect for others' rights are the most recognisable characteristics of culture.

Culture and Its Importance in Human Life

- Culture and life are inextricably interwoven.
- It is what classifies us as human beings. Traditions, beliefs, all ways of life, from the most spiritual to the most material, think up culture.
- Oulture is created by humans, but it is also what separates us as individuals.
- Culture is inextricably tied to the three everlasting and universal principles of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

Characteristics of Indian Culture

- Culture may be learnt and gained.
- A group of individuals shares a culture.
- A culture is a way of life shared by a group of people.
- Changes in culture.
- Culture is ever-changing.
- Culture provides us with a variety of acceptable behavior patterns.
- The cultural landscape is diversified.
- Culture is a conceptual phenomenon.





- 1. What does the word 'cultus' mean?
 - (a) Cultivating and refining
 - (b) Passing around
 - (c) Stagnating
 - (d) Migrating from place to place
- 2. What is the corresponding word for the highest phase of culture?
 - (a) Prakriti
 - (b) Sanskriti
 - (c) Vikriti
 - (d) Paristhiti
- 3. Which of the following are the aspects of culture?
 - (a) On and Off
 - (b) Significant and insignificant
 - (c) High and Low
 - (d) Material and Non-Material

1.1.2 Civilisation

'Civilisation' is the process of improving one's living conditions and, on rare occasions, bending nature to fulfil one's needs. Culture, on the other hand, refers to a refinement of the intellect and heart, as well as one's inner self. A person might be the most sophisticated even if he or she is impoverished and wears shoddy clothing. Although a wealthy individual may be deemed "civilised" he is not always "cultured." "Civilisation" is, of course, a civilisation in which people have progressed to a greater level of development.

Culture and Civilisation: The terms 'culture' and 'civilisation' are frequently interchanged. They do, however, have distinct meanings. 'Civilisation' refers to improving one's way of life, which sometimes requires nature to bend to meet one's wants. It also entails working together for better living circumstances in areas such as food, clothing, communication, and so forth. As a result, some cultures regard themselves as civilised while others look down on them.



Culture and Civilisation

Comparison Standards	Culture	Civilisation
Meaning	Culture is a term that describes the humans know, behave, and act.	Civilisation is the process by which a region or society advances beyond a certain level of human development and structure.
What is it?	End	Means
Represents	What are we?	What do we possess?
Reflected in	Religion, art, dance, literature, customs, morals, music, philosophy, etc.	Law, administration, infra- structure, architecture, social arrangement, etc.
Advancement	No	Yes
Interdependency	Culture can grow and exist without civilisation.	Civilisation cannot grow and exist without culture.





- 4. Which of the following cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation was the first to be discovered?
 - (a) Harappa
 - (b) Mohenjodaro
 - (c) Dholavira
 - (d) Kalibangan
- 5. The Indus Valley Civilisation corresponded to which of the following?
 - (a) Neolithic Age
 - (b) Copper Age
 - (c) Bronze Age
 - (d) Iron Age
- 6. Which is the major feature of town planning of the Indus Valley Civilisation?
 - (a) System of lighting the streets after dark
 - (b) The streets and buildings arranged in a grid pattern
 - (c) The dockyard
 - (d) The Great Bath and the Granary
- 7. Which of these is a unique feature of the Indus valley civilisation?
 - (a) Writing system
 - (b) Arts and crafts
 - (c) Underground drainage system
 - (d) Overseas trade
- 8. Which of the following is the most famous BRONZE STATUE of the Indus Valley Civilisation?
 - (a) The Dancing Girl
 - (b) The Priest King
 - (c) The seated figure
 - (d) The Mother Goddess figure
- 9. Where has the dockyard been found in the Indus Valley Civilisation?
 - (a) Harappa
 - (b) Mohenjodaro
 - (c) Kalibangan
 - (d) Lothal



1.3 Culture and Heritage

Heritage rerefers to all features or qualities of culture passed down from generation to generation by human forebears. They cherish, defend, and maintain them in a continuous manner, and they are proud of it. A few examples would be helpful in grasping the concept of heritage. The Taj Mahal, Gandhinagar and Delhi's Swami Narayan Temple, Agra's Red Fort, Delhi's Qutub Minar, Mysore Palace, Dilwara (Jain Temple of Rajasthan), Nizamuddin Aulia's Dargah, Amritsar's Golden Temple, Delhi's Gurudwara Sisgani, Sanchi Stupa, India Gate, and so on and so forth.

Heritage includes intellectual achievements, philosophy, knowledge treasures, scientific breakthroughs, and discoveries, as well as architectural works, monuments, and material artefacts. The contributions to mathematics, astronomy, and astrology made by Baudhayan, Aryabhatta, and Bhaskar Acharya; the contributions to physics made by Kanad and Varahmihir; the contributions to chemistry made by Nagarjuna; the contributions to medicine made by Susruta and Charak; and the contributions to yoga made by Patanjali, etc., are profound treasures of Indian cultural heritage. Unlike our culture, our heritage does not change. Individuals who belong to a culture or a community may pick up or borrow cultural qualities from other communities/cultures, yet our cultural legacy as Indians will endure. Indian literature and texts, such as the Vedas and Upanishads, the Gita, and Yoga System, among others, have made major contributions to the development of civilisation by providing appropriate knowledge, right conduct, behavior, and practices.

Heritage

- Our predecessors' culture is reflected in our cultural heritage.
- Humanity has inherited a culture that might be referred to as its heritage.
- The national cultural legacy is the culture that a country inherited.
- Our heritage does not alter with culture.
- Architectural buildings, tangible goods, intellectual accomplishments, philosophy, scientific developments, and discoveries are all examples of heritage.





- 10. Which of the following options is TRUE of the Indus Valley Civilisation?
 - (a) It is logographic
 - (b) It is undeciphered
 - (c) It is proto-Sanskrit
 - (d) It is proto-Dravidian
- 11. The Indus Script is thought to be Boustrophedon by some scholars because of which of the following?
 - (a) It consists of figures of animals and humans
 - (b) It is written on seals
 - (c) It is written in the form of symbols
 - (d) Some symbols are repeated in the opposite direction
- 12. Which of the following is now considered to be the major reason responsible for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation?
 - (a) External invasions
 - (b) Loss of foreign trade
 - (c) Excessive flooding
 - (d) Climate change leading to the drying of rainfall and rivers
- 13. Which of the following Indus Valley Cities is located in India.
 - (a) Lothal
 - (b) Harappa
 - (c) Mohenjodaro
 - (d) Shortugai



Indian culture

In terms of language, literature, art and architecture, science, and religion, humans have come a long way in the last few hundred years. Have you ever pondered how it all came about? To avoid having to start from scratch every time, humans were able to use and build on the work of previous generations. You have never had to create your own script or build a new language system in your life. These are already yours because you are a member of the public. Then you add to it by contributing or adding to it, benefiting future generations. This is a never-ending process. It will never be finished. One of the most significant assets that humanity can have been culture. Your culture encompasses how you live as well as how you think about things. Your family's way of life is distinct, as is that of your region and country. You might be interested in learning more about Indian culture and how it differs from your own. In this section, we will look at how Indian culture differs from other cultures and what it has to offer.

1.1.4 Characteristics of Indian Culture

Indian culture has as many facets as life itself. It encompasses a person's intellectual and social features. It also considers a person's aesthetic and spiritual desires. It also has the effect of appealing to the subconscious as a force that shapes character.

When you look at a map of India, you will notice that it is a large country with a lot of variation in its physical and social environments. We witness individuals speaking various languages, practicing various religions, and doing various rites all around us. These differences can also be seen in their eating habits and clothing styles. Peek at the many diverse types of dances and music that exist in our country. However, beneath all these differences, there remains a fundamental commonality that functions as a unifying factor. In India, people have been mixing for ages. Several people of various racial origins, cultural backgrounds, and religious beliefs have made their homes here. Let us not forget that Indian culture's composite and dynamic nature is a result of the rich contributions of all these varied cultural groupings over time. All Indians treasure the distinguishing elements of Indian culture and its distinctiveness.

Many amazing civilisations arose in many countries and places around the globe. Many of them have died out or been supplanted by new cultures. Indian culture, on the other hand, has a distinct personality. Despite massive upheavals and changes, substantial threads of continuity may be identified throughout Indian history up to the current day.





You may have heard of the Harappan culture, which lived over 4500 years ago on the Indian subcontinent. Archaeologists have discovered evidence that societies lived here prior to the Harappan civilisation's mature period. This indicates that we have a lengthy and illustrious past. What is more amazing is that the pattern of a house in an Indian village today is not particularly unlike from that of a Harappan dwelling. Some components of Harappan culture, such as the worship of Mother Goddess and Pashupati, are still practiced today.

Similarly, Vedic, Buddhist, Jain, and other traditions are still practiced today. At the same time, one should not overlook the modifications, which can be seen in multistory buildings in metropolitan centers like Mumbai and Delhi, as opposed to the single-story Harappan homes. The point to be made here is that in our society, continuity and change have always gone hand in hand.

In fact, one of the most astonishing aspects of Indian culture is that, despite its continuity, it has continued to change, yet the essential spirit of our culture has remained same. It has continued to discard what has become obsolete in the current day. There have been difficulties throughout our long history. As a result, reforms have been implemented and movements have grown. The religious and social awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which were sparked by Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BC, as well as Vedic religion reform movements sparked by Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BC.

The religious and social awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which were sparked by Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BC, as well as Vedic religion reform movements sparked by Jainism and Buddhism in the sixth century BC. In the early medieval India, the religious and social awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are just a few examples of dramatic shifts in Indian thinking and practice. Nonetheless, the thread of Indian culture's underlying concept has continued and continues to exist. As a result, Indian culture has always been characterised by a cycle of continuity and change. This exemplifies our culture's dynamic nature.





- 14. What are the cultural aspects passed down from one generation to another called?
 - (a) Civilisation
 - (b) Characteristics
 - (c) Cultural heritage
 - (d) Refinemen
- 15. The brotherhood among nations that India promotes corresponds to which characteristic of Indian culture?
 - (a) Secular Outlook
 - (b) Materialism and Spiritualism
 - (c) Unity in Diversity
 - (d) Universalism
- 16. Which of the following is a general characteristic of culture?
 - (a) Culture is static
 - (b) Culture is dynamic
 - (c) Culture is regressive
 - (d) Culture is obsolete
- 17. Which of the following is a characteristic of Indian culture?
 - (a) Unity in Diversity
 - (b) Insularity
 - (c) Regression
 - (d) Particularism
- 18. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of Indian culture?
 - (a) Continuity and Change
 - (b) Universalism
 - (c) Secular Outlook
 - (d) Ethnocentrism
- 19. The seated figure found on an Indus Seal is thought to be the prototype of which God?
 - (a) Brahma
 - (b) Vishnu
 - (c) Shiva
 - (d) Indra



- 20. Who was the proponent of the Central Asian theory of the Aryans?
 - (a) Dayananda Saraswati
 - (b) F. Max Muller
 - (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - (d) K.P. Jayaswal



Summary

- A person's or a group's way of life, thinking, feeling, and organising themselves, as well as how they celebrate and share life, can be characterised as culture.
- Culture encompasses a wide range of topics. It is possible to get, lose, or dispose of it. It is the outcome of a series of events.
- It is adaptable and diverse, and it allows us to engage in a wide range of permissible behaviours.
- It can change at any time. Both material and intangible factors make up culture.
- Culture creates literature, music, dance, art, architecture, and other creative forms, as well as the myriad organisations and systems that allow society to work smoothly and orderly.
- Culture supplies us with the ideas, beliefs, and values that we need to have a good life.
- Respect for the rights of others, self-control in behaviour, and regard for the feelings
 of others. Cultural heritage refers to all aspects or concepts of culture that have been
 passed down from generation to generation.
- Intellectual accomplishments, philosophy, the joy of learning, scientific advances and discoveries, architectural marvels, monuments, and tangible goods are all examples of legacy.



Terminal Questions

- 1. How can you say that Sanskriti and Culture have the same meaning?
- 2. All of humanity's and groups' accomplishments can be categorized as
- 3. Illustrate cultural heritage with instances.
- 4. Elucidate the difference between Civilisation and Culture





Question No:	Answers
1	а
2	b
3	d
4	а
5	С
6	b
7	С
8	а
9	d
10	b
11	d
12	d
13	а
14	С
15	d
16	b
17	а
18	d
19	С
20	b

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External Resources

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e-References

http://www.nios.ac.in/



Video Links

Topic	Link
Evolution of Indian culture & Civilisation	Evolution of Indian Culture from the Earliest Times to the Present Day http://www.indianculture.gov.in/ebooks/evolution-indian-culture-earliest-times-present-day
Characteristics of Indian Culture	Evolution of Indian Culture from the Earliest Times to the Present Day http://www.indianculture.gov.in/ebooks/evolution-indian-culture-earliest-times-present-day
	https://youtu.be/Ll2Qhlx5cYQ



Keywords

Mores, values, folklore, heritage, legacy, tradition, subculture, subsociety accomplishment

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE



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