

## Introduction:

In the reconstruction of Indian history from 600 BC to 600 AD., historians have taken invaluable information from Buddhist, Jain, and Brahmin texts. Apart from these texts, temples, stupas, monuments, etc. also provide authentic information.

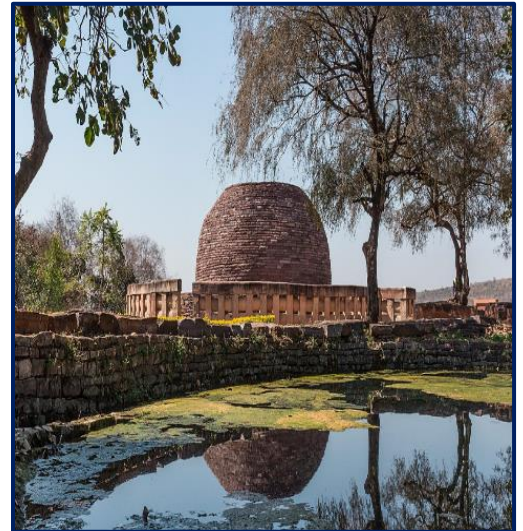
## 1. A History of Buddhism- Sanchi Stupa



In the reconstruction of Indian history from 600 BC to 600 AD, historians have taken invaluable information from Buddhist, Jain, and Brahmin texts. Apart from these texts, temples, stupas, monuments, etc. also provide authentic information.

The rulers of Bhopal, Shah Jahan Begum and her successors played an important role in the preservation of the Sanchi Stupa.

A new branch of the Annan that originated in India in the 6th century BC. Buddhism and Jainism are the most popular. Lord Mahavira is considered to be the true founder of Jainism. The founder of Buddhism is Lord Buddha.



Jainism remained in India, but the Buddha spread to other countries.

Ashoka and Kanishka were Buddhists in a distant land.

Both Jainism and Buddhism have left a rich legacy to various sectors of Indian society.

During this period, i.e., from 600 BCE to 600 CE, there were two Brahmin branches. Vaishnavism and Shaivism made great progress.

In the reconstruction of Indian history from 600 BC to 600 AD historians took information from Buddhist, Jain and Brahmin texts. In addition, a large number of monuments and inscriptions provided important information.

## 2. Background of different religions:

The Tired Mid-First Millennium BCE is often regarded as a turning point in world history, marking the rise of thinkers such as Zarathustra in Iran, Kang Ji in China, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle in Greece, and the Great Buddha and Gautama Buddha in India. Saw.

He sought to understand the mysteries of existence and the relationship between man and the cosmos (connected to the whole universe) in order.

There are many pre-existing traditions of ideas, religious beliefs and practices. We know all this from the Rig Veda compiled between 1500 and 100 BCE.

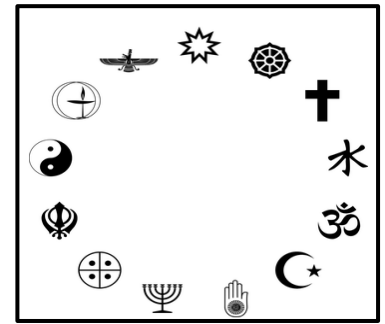


The elders of the house made sacrifices for the household.

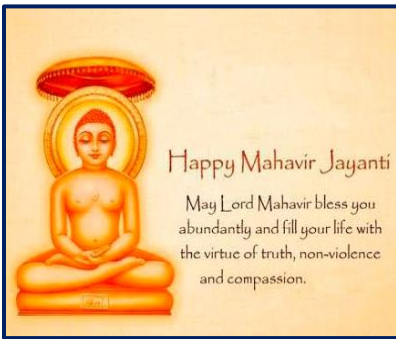
More elaborate sacrifices such as Raja-suya and Ashvamedha were performed by leaders and kings with the help of Brahmin priests.

Thoughts in the Upanishads raise various questions about life, especially about the meaning of life and the possibility of life after death and rebirth.

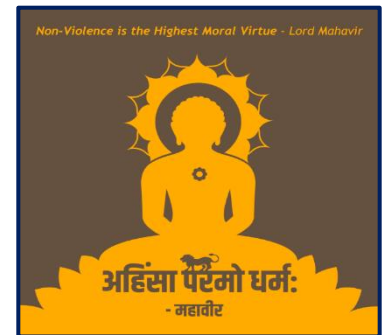
There were lively discussions and debates in the huts where the traveling monks took refuge. Thinkers like Mahavira and Buddha questioned the authority of the Vedas.



### 3. Mahaveer Message:



- According to Jainism, the whole world is animated, meaning that there is life even in stone, rock and water.
- Injury to living beings is central to Jain philosophy. According to Jainism, the cycle of birth and rebirth is formed through karma.
- Hardness and rigor are required to be liberated from the cycle of karma. Jain sages and nuns made five vows. These are:
  - Avoiding murder (deciding not to do anything)
  - Avoid theft
  - Avoid lying



- Celibacy (not marriage or female)
- The property should be away.
- Jainism spread to many parts of India. Jain scholars have provided a wealth of literature in Prakrit, Sanskrit and Tamil.

### Buddha: Enlightened soul

Spread across the subcontinent, Central Asia, China, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia, Gautama Buddha was one of the most influential teachers of the time.

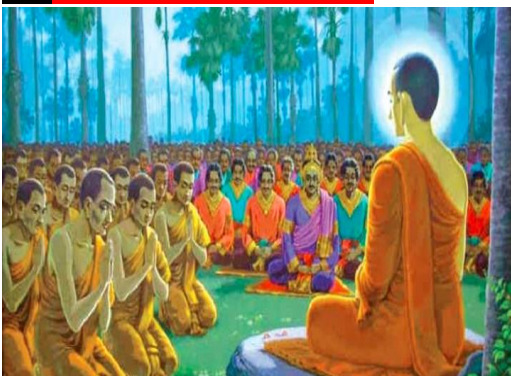


Siddhartha was the son of a chief of the Shakya dynasty. He was shocked to see an old man, a sick man and a corpse. He left the palace and set out in search of his truth. After attaining enlightenment, he attained Buddhahood or enlightenment.

Throughout his life, he was taught to live a virtuous or virtuous life.



### 4. Buddha's teachings:



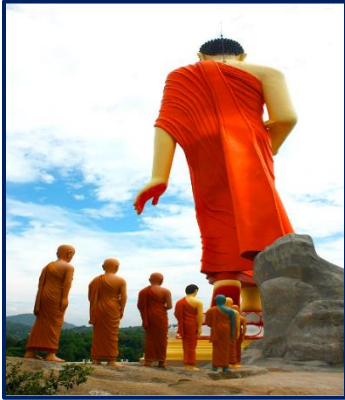
### BUDDHIST QUOTES

- The greatest achievement is selflessness.
- The greatest worth is self-mastery.
- The greatest quality is seeking to serve others.
- The greatest precept is continual awareness.
- The greatest medicine is the emptiness of everything.
- The greatest action is not conforming with the worlds ways.
- The greatest magic is transmuting the passions.
- The greatest generosity is non-attachment.
- The greatest goodness is a peaceful mind.
- The greatest patience is humility.
- The greatest effort is not concerned with results.
- The greatest meditation is a mind that lets go.
- The greatest wisdom is seeing through appearances.

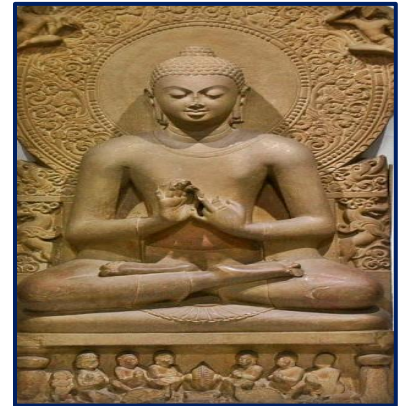


- According to Buddhism, the world is temporary (Anika) and constantly changing and it is also eternal (Anatta). In this impermanent world, sorrow (grief) is inherent in human existence.
- The Buddha emphasized personal agency and virtuous action as the means to escape from the cycle of reincarnation and to achieve self-realization and salvation.

### Followers of the Buddha:

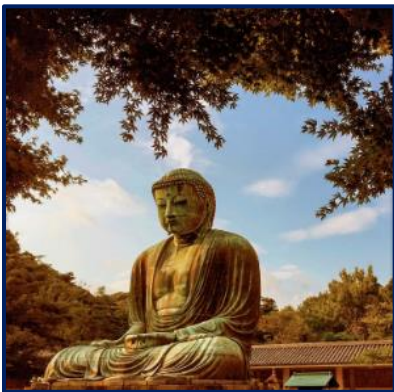


The Buddha founded the 'Sangha', an organization of monks who became gurus of the 'Dhamma'. They were called 'Bhikkhus' because they lived with alms. Later women also joined the 'community' and were called beggars. Mahaprajapati Gautami, the foster mother of the Buddha, was the first woman to become a 'bhikshuni'. Followers of the Buddha included kings, the rich, chapatis and ordinary people such as laborers, slaves and artisans. Buddhism has appealed to many who are dissatisfied with existing religious practices and confused by the rapid social changes taking place around them.



### 5. Sculpture from the time of Buddha:

The enlightenment of the Buddha was shown by many early sculptors through various symbols. E.g., The Bodhi tree (representing an event in the life of the Buddha), the empty seat (representing the Buddha's meditation), the stupa (representing Mahaparinirvana), the Dharma Chakra (showing the first sermon of the Buddha in Sarnath).



The moth sculpture is another feature of the art, which is considered an auspicious symbol and is integrated into the decoration of the stupa. Some of the finest descriptions of animals such as elephants, horses, monkeys and cattle can also be found in the stupas.



The lucky goddess Ganga Lakshmi and Nag are also seen.

### 6. New religious traditions in the time of the Buddha:



The Buddha was regarded as a human being who attained enlightenment and salvation through his own efforts. Later the concept of Bodhisattva developed. Buddhism is divided into Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism. Shaivism and Vaishnavism also originated during this period.

In such worship, the bond between the devotee and God is seen as love and devotion or devotion. The temples are built with a tall structure called the peak above the central temple to house the images of the deities.

The special feature of the early temples is that some of them are carved with huge stones in the form of artificial caves.



## 7. Description of religions:



European scholars of the 19th century were well aware of the statues of Buddha and Bodhisattva based on the Greek model. But they can sometimes not understand the gods and goddesses with multiple arms and heads or a combination of human and animal forms.

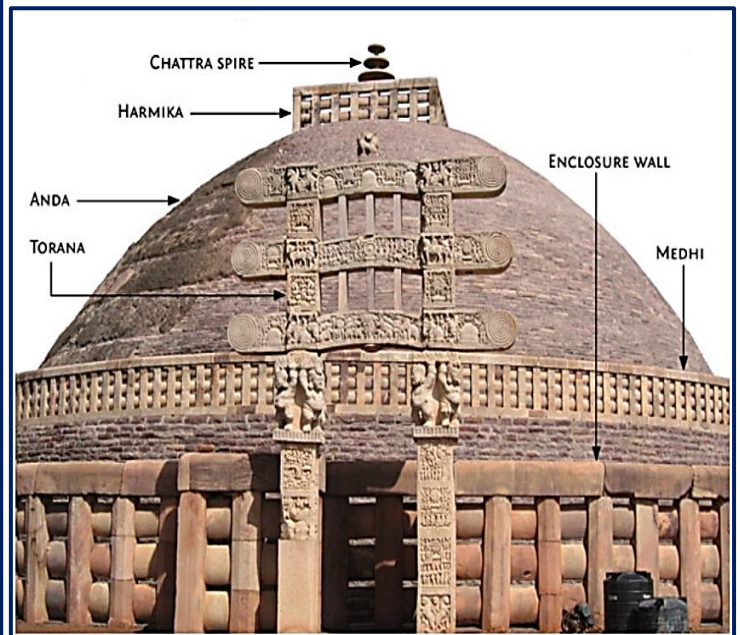
Art historians have tried to explain the meaning of sculpture with the help of textual references (such as myths), but this is not an



easy task.

Many rituals, religious beliefs, and customs are not even recorded in a permanent form, they are practiced only by the respective communities.

## 8. Stupa:



Buddhist literature mentions many aspects of the life of the Buddha.

The relics on the stupa (relics of the Buddha or objects he used) are considered sacred, and the entire stupa is revered as a symbol of both Buddhism and Buddhism.

According to the Buddhist scripture 'Ashokavadana', Ashoka distributed the relics of the Buddha to every important city and ordered them to build stupas on them.

By the 2nd century BCE, several stupas had been erected in Bharath, Sanchi, and Sarnath.

The stupas were built from donations made by 'bhikkhu' and 'bhikkhunis' by kings, communities, and common people.

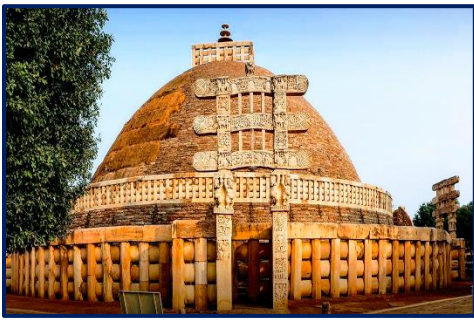
The structure of the pillars consists of several parts, the Anda (semi-circular mound), the Harmika (balcony-like structure), the Yasti (mast-like), and the Chhatri or Chhatri.

The opening stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut are plain, but the entrances are well carved and installed in four prominent places.



### Great Sanchi Stupa:

The great stupa of Sanchi is one of the most magnificent ancient buildings in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The Europeans of the 19th century were very interested in the Sanchi Stupa.

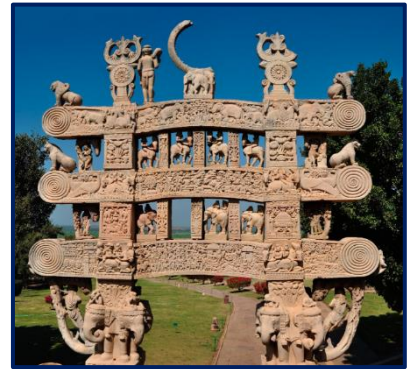


Bhopal ruler Shahjahan Begum and Sultan Jahan Begum funded the preservation of the site of the Sanchi Stupa.

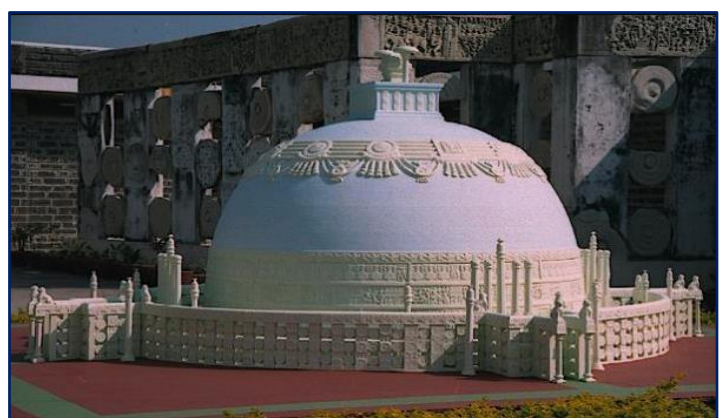
John Marshall wrote important texts on Sanchi.

The discovery of Sanchi changed our understanding of early Buddhism. This is an

example of the successful restoration and preservation of ancient sites by the Archaeological Survey of India.



### Amravati Stupa:



In 1854, Walter Elliott visited Amravati and collected several sculptural plaques, and discovered the remains of the west gate. He concluded that the construction of Amravati was very important among the Buddhist stupas.

Unfortunately, Amravati could not survive as the idols were removed from the site instead of being preserved.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

**Vedic Sanskrit:** A special type of Sanskrit composed of verses and verses.

**Rajya Yagya:** A special type of Yagya performed by leaders and kings who depend on the Brahmin to perform these rituals.

**Tripitaka:** Three books of the Buddhist scriptures.

**Sangha:** Order of the monks.

**Tirthankara:** The great teacher of Jainism.

**Stupa:** The Sanskrit word means heap. The stupa originated as a simple semi-circular mound of earth, later called further.

#### Activity

- Q1. Explain the History of Buddha?
- Q2. Make a short note on the concept of the Buddhism and Jainism?
- Q3. Write a note on the difference of religion and origin of the Jainism and Buddhism?
- Q4. Who was a follower of Buddha?
- Q5. See the political world map and find out the western alliance countries?

#### DO YOU KNOW?

**468 BC** Mahavira dies and attains **Nirvana** at the age of 72.

**1st century BC** Jainism was practiced by King **Kharavela of Kalinga**.

Jainism spread to Kalinga in Orissa (Odisha) in the **fourth century BC**.

**563 BC** Gautama Buddha was born in Kapilvastu to a **Shakya Kshatriya family**.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

**487 BC** First Buddhist Council.

**387 BC** Second Buddhist Council.

**251 BC** Third Buddhist Council.

## Questions For Practice

1. Which Upanishad is not related to Atharvaveda?  
(a) Ramayana  
(b) Mundaka Upanishad  
(c) Mandukya Upanishad  
(d) Shvetashvatara Upanishad
2. Reincarnation of the soul is the main theme?  
(a) Of the Aitareya Upanishad  
(b) Of the Kausitaki Upanishad  
(c) Of Taittiriya Upanishad  
(d) Of Kena Upanishad
3. Vardhaman is called Mahavir or Jina?  
(a) Reason for prior knowledge  
(b) By supernatural physical power  
(c) For victory over happiness  
(d) Due to intellectual ability
4. Which principle was not there in the Eightfold Path of Buddha?  
(a) Right vision  
(b) Proper rest  
(c) Correct speech  
(d) Correct character
5. What is a compilation of Buddha's teachings?  
(a) in the Samyukta Nikaya  
(b) in the Angutra Nikaya  
(c) in the Digha Nikaya  
(d) in all three Pitakas
6. Which principle did Mahavir Swami add to the principles of Jainism?  
(a) Non-Violence (b) Ashtadhyayi  
(c) Brahmacharya (d) Aparigraha
7. Who among the following scholars first came to India?  
(a) Hien Tsang (Hi-Tsang)  
(b) Ibn Battuta (Ibn Battuta)  
(c) Marco polo  
(d) Fa-Hien
8. Where did Lord Buddha attain enlightenment?  
(a) Vaishali (b) Bodhgaya  
(c) Sarnath (d) Kapilvastu
9. In which among the following religions tirthankara belongs?  
(a) livelihood (b) Lingayat  
(c) Buddhist (d) Jain
10. In which Jain Agamas are written?  
(a) In the Sanskrit (b) in the Roman  
(c) in Ardhamagadhi (d) in Magadh.
11. Where did the Buddha attain enlightenment?  
(a) Lumbini (b) Sarnath  
(c) Gwalior (d) Bodh Gaya
12. What is the name of the group belonging to the Buddha?  
(a) Lichchavi (b) Sakya  
(c) Mithila (d) All
13. What is meant by 'three baskets'?  
(a) Tirthankara (b) Triratna  
(c) Tipitaka (d) Trishul
14. Whose union is the union?  
(a) Beggar (b) Merchants  
(c) Merchants (d) to the dancer
15. According to which Buddhist scripture did Ashoka distribute the relics of the Buddha in every important city and order the construction of stupas on them?  
(a) Ashokavadana  
(b) Mahaparinirvana Sutta  
(c) Sutta Pitakas  
(d) Summer horoscope
16. Sanchi Stupa is here?  
(a) Near Bhopal (b) Near Indore  
(c) Near Delhi (d) Near Agra
17. Which of the following is not Bhopal Begum?  
(a) Shahjahan Begum  
(b) Sultan Jahan Begum  
(c) Noor Jahan Begum  
(d) Both (a) and (b)
18. The 24 greatest teachers of Jainism are called \_\_\_\_?  
(a) Tirthankara (b) Local  
(c) Sins (d) None
19. \_\_\_\_ Birthplace of Gautama Buddha?  
(a) Kalinga (b) Sarnath  
(c) Lumbini (d) Kushinagara
20. Where did Lord Buddha get true knowledge?  
(a) Lumbini (b) Kushinagara  
(c) Sarnath (d) Bodh Gaya
21. Sanchi has a stupa?  
(a) Near Bhopal (b) Near Indore  
(c) Near Delhi (d) Near Agra
22. Which of the following is not a Begum from Bhopal?  
(a) Shahjahan Begum  
(b) Sultan Jahan Begum  
(c) Noor Jahan Begum  
(d) Both (a) and (b)
23. The 24 great teachers of Jainism are called \_\_\_\_?  
(a) Tirthankara (b) Local  
(c) Sins (d) Crescent
24. \_\_\_\_ is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha?  
(a) Kalinga (b) Sarnath  
(c) Lumbini (d) Kushinagara
25. Where did Lord Buddha get true knowledge?  
(a) Lumbini (b) Kushinagara  
(c) Sarnath (d) Bodh Gaya
26. The new tradition of Buddhism is called \_\_\_\_?  
(a) Svetambara (b) Digambar  
(c) Hinayana (d) Mahayana
27. The most magnificent stupa is at \_\_\_\_?  
(a) Amravati (b) Sanchi  
(c) Burma (d) None
28. Choose the right option:  
Called the new tradition of Buddhism  
(a) Svetambara (b) Digambar  
(c) Hinayana (d) Mahayana
29. Choose the right option:  
(a) Sanchi Stupa near Bhopal.  
(b) Sanchi Stupa was protected by Bhopal Begum  
(c) Sanchi Stupa is associated with Buddhism.  
(d) All of these.
30. Consider the following statements:  
1. Jainism was started by Rishabh Dev.  
2. Lord Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankaras of Jainism.

3. Jainism was taught 'Path of Salvation'.
4. Jainism started associations to spread its message.
- Which of the given statements is correct / correct?
- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3  
(c) 2, 3, 4 (d) 1, 3, 4
- 31.** Who read the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts?
- (a) James Prinsep  
(b) Cunningham  
(c) Wheeler  
(d) John Marshall
- 32.** How many Mahajanapadas were there?
- (a) 17 (b) 14  
(c) 18 (d) 16
- 33.** Which of these was the most powerful Mahajanapadas from 6th to 4th century BCE?
- (a) Kuru (b) Magadha  
(c) Panchala (d) Gandhara
- 34.** Who appointed the Dhamma Mahamatras?
- (a) Bimbisara  
(b) Samudra Gupta
- (c) Ashoka  
(d) Pandya
- 35.** Who founded the Maurya Empire?
- (a) Ashoka  
(b) Chandragupta Maurya  
(c) Bindusara  
(d) Ajatashatru
- 36.** Sangam is the literature of \_\_\_\_\_ language?
- (a) Tamil (b) Malayalam  
(c) Sanskrit (d) Marathi
- 37.** Harisena was the court poet of \_\_\_\_\_?
- (a) Samudra Gupta  
(b) Chandragupta II  
(c) Ashoka  
(d) Chandragupta Maurya
- 38.** Consider the following statements about the Maurya Empire:
1. There were 5 major political centers in the empire.
  2. Megasthenes wrote about the Maurya Empire in his book Indica.
  3. Ashoka in 321 BC Established the Maurya Empire in
4. Ashoka used his resources for the propagation of Buddhism.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4  
(c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 3 and 4
- 39.** choose the right option:
- (a) Sanchi Stupa is situated near Bhopal.  
(b) Sanchi Stupa was protected by the Begums of Bhopal  
(c) Sanchi Stupa is related to Buddhism.  
(d) All these.
- 40.** Consider the following statements:
1. Jainism was started by Rishabh Dev.
  2. Lord Mahavir was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
  3. Jainism has been taught Path of Salvation.
  4. Jainism started sanghas to spread its message.
- Which of the given statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3  
(c) 2, 3, 4 (d) 1, 3, 4

## Solutions

1. (d)	5. (d)	9. (d)	13. (c)	17. (c)	21. (a)	25. (d)	29. (d)	33. (b)	37. (a)
2. (b)	6. (c)	10. (c)	14. (a)	18. (a)	22. (c)	26. (d)	30. (b)	34. (c)	38. (b)
3. (c)	7. (d)	11. (d)	15. (a)	19. (c)	23. (a)	27. (a)	31. (a)	35. (b)	39. (d)
4. (c)	8. (b)	12. (b)	16. (a)	20. (d)	24. (c)	28. (d)	32. (d)	36. (a)	40. (b)

