

# CUET PG 2026 Art and Aesthetics Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :1 Hours 30 min	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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## General Instructions

1. The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
2. There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
3. +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
4. For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
5. Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
6. You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
7. Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
8. All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

1. Which ancient Indian text is considered the foundational treatise on performing arts, including dance, music, and drama?

- (A) Arthashastra
- (B) Natyashastra
- (C) Manusmriti
- (D) Shilpa Shastra

**Correct Answer:** (2) Natyashastra

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The **Natyashastra** is an ancient Sanskrit treatise on performing arts, traditionally attributed to the sage **Bharata Muni**. It is considered the foundational text for Indian classical theatre, dance, and music.

The work discusses various aspects of stage performance such as:

- Acting techniques
- Dance movements and gestures
- Musical elements
- Stage design and production

It also introduces the concept of **Rasa** (aesthetic emotion), which is central to Indian artistic traditions.

**Step 1: Identify the foundational text for performing arts.**

The **Natyashastra** provides systematic guidelines for theatrical performance and classical dance traditions in India.

**Step 2: Eliminate other options.**

- **Arthashastra** deals with statecraft and economics.
- **Manusmriti** focuses on social and legal codes.
- **Shilpa Shastra** relates to architecture and sculpture.

Thus, the foundational treatise on performing arts is the **Natyashastra**.

**Quick Tip**

**Natyashastra by Bharata Muni** is the classical Indian text on **dance, music, theatre, and aesthetics**.

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**2. The "Rasa Theory," essential to Indian aesthetics, was primarily developed by which scholar?**

- (A) Bharata Muni
- (B) Kalidasa
- (C) Abhinavagupta
- (D) Panini

**Correct Answer:** (3) Abhinavagupta

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The concept of **Rasa** (aesthetic emotion) originates from the **Natyashastra** of Bharata Muni. However, the theory was further elaborated and philosophically developed by the Kashmiri scholar **Abhinavagupta** in his commentary called *Abhinavabharati*.

Abhinavagupta expanded the interpretation of **rasa** and explained how artistic performances evoke aesthetic experience in the audience.

The traditional **rasas** include:

- **Shringara** (love)
- **Hasya** (laughter)
- **Karuna** (compassion)
- **Raudra** (anger)
- **Veera** (heroism)

- Bhayanaka (fear)
- Bibhatsa (disgust)
- Adbhuta (wonder)
- Shanta (peace)

**Step 1: Identify the scholar who developed the theory further.**

Although Bharata Muni introduced the concept, **Abhinavagupta** provided the most influential interpretation and development of Rasa Theory.

**Step 2: Eliminate other options.**

- **Bharata Muni** introduced rasa but did not elaborate it philosophically as Abhinavagupta did.
- **Kalidasa** was a classical Sanskrit poet and playwright.
- **Panini** was a grammarian known for Sanskrit grammar.

Thus, the scholar who primarily developed the Rasa Theory is **Abhinavagupta**.

#### Quick Tip

**Rasa Theory:** Introduced in the **Natyashastra** by **Bharata Muni**, elaborated by **Abhinavagupta**.

**3. Which school of miniature painting is famous for the masterpiece "Radha (Bani-Thani)"?**

- (A) Mughal School
- (B) Kangra School
- (C) Kishangarh School
- (D) Mewar School

**Correct Answer:** (3) Kishangarh School

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The **Kishangarh School of miniature painting** developed in the princely state of Kishangarh in Rajasthan during the 18th century. It is renowned for its refined style, delicate lines, and lyrical representation of romantic themes.

One of the most famous paintings from this school is "**Bani-Thani**", often identified as an artistic representation of **Radha**.

The painting is characterized by:

- Elongated face
- Arched eyebrows

- Lotus-like eyes
- Graceful and elegant expression

**Step 1: Identify the painting tradition associated with Bani-Thani.**

The masterpiece **Radha (Bani-Thani)** was painted by the artist **Nihal Chand** under the patronage of Raja Sawant Singh of Kishangarh.

**Step 2: Eliminate other options.**

- **Mughal School** focused on courtly and historical themes.
- **Kangra School** is known for lyrical depictions of Krishna legends.
- **Mewar School** is an earlier Rajasthani painting tradition.

Thus, the miniature painting school famous for "**Radha (Bani-Thani)**" is the **Kishangarh School**.

#### Quick Tip

**Bani-Thani** is a famous painting of the **Kishangarh School** and is often called the "**Mona Lisa of India**".

**4. The "Dancing Girl" figurine, a landmark of ancient Indian sculpture, belongs to which civilization?**

- (A) Mauryan Civilization
- (B) Gupta Civilization
- (C) Indus Valley Civilization
- (D) Vedic Civilization

**Correct Answer:** (3) Indus Valley Civilization

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The famous bronze figurine known as the "**Dancing Girl**" is one of the most iconic artifacts discovered from the **Indus Valley Civilization** (also known as the Harappan Civilization), which flourished around 2500–1900 BCE.

This sculpture was discovered at the archaeological site of **Mohenjo-daro** in present-day Pakistan.

**Step 1: Identify the civilization associated with the sculpture.**

The figurine was made using the **lost-wax casting technique** and represents a young girl standing in a confident pose with one hand on her hip.

**Step 2: Eliminate other options.**

- **Mauryan Civilization** is known for the Ashokan pillars and polished stone sculptures.

- **Gupta Civilization** is famous for classical Hindu and Buddhist sculptures.
- **Vedic Civilization** did not produce such bronze figurines.

Thus, the "Dancing Girl" figurine belongs to the **Indus Valley Civilization**.

#### Quick Tip

The **Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro** is a famous bronze sculpture from the **Indus Valley Civilization**.

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### 5. Who is often credited as the father of the Bengal School of Art?

- (A) Raja Ravi Varma
- (B) Abanindranath Tagore
- (C) Nandalal Bose
- (D) Jamini Roy

**Correct Answer:** (2) Abanindranath Tagore

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The **Bengal School of Art** emerged in the early 20th century as a nationalist art movement in India. It sought to revive traditional Indian artistic styles and reject Western academic realism promoted during the colonial period.

**Abanindranath Tagore**, the nephew of Rabindranath Tagore, is widely regarded as the **founder and father of the Bengal School of Art**.

**Step 1: Understand the objectives of the Bengal School.**

The movement emphasized:

- Indian cultural themes
- Spiritual and mythological subjects
- Inspiration from Mughal and Rajput miniature painting

**Step 2: Eliminate other options.**

- **Raja Ravi Varma** blended Indian themes with European realism.
- **Nandalal Bose** was a prominent student and later leader of the movement.
- **Jamini Roy** developed a distinctive folk-inspired modern style.

Thus, the father of the Bengal School of Art is **Abanindranath Tagore**.

### Quick Tip

**Abanindranath Tagore** founded the **Bengal School of Art**, which promoted revival of traditional Indian painting styles.

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**6. Which Western art movement is characterized by a focus on light and its changing qualities, featuring artists like Claude Monet?**

- (A) Cubism
- (B) Impressionism
- (C) Surrealism
- (D) Expressionism

**Correct Answer:** (2) Impressionism

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

**Impressionism** was a 19th-century Western art movement that originated in France. It emphasized capturing the **effects of light and atmosphere** rather than detailed realistic representation.

Artists of this movement often painted outdoors to capture the changing qualities of natural light.

**Step 1: Identify the artistic style associated with Claude Monet.**

**Claude Monet** is one of the most prominent Impressionist painters. His works often depict landscapes and scenes with visible brushstrokes and vibrant colors to capture momentary impressions.

**Step 2: Eliminate other options.**

- **Cubism** uses geometric shapes to represent subjects.
- **Surrealism** explores dream-like imagery and subconscious themes.
- **Expressionism** focuses on emotional intensity and distortion.

Thus, the art movement known for focusing on light and visual impressions is **Impressionism**.

### Quick Tip

**Impressionism** focuses on capturing **light, color, and momentary visual impressions**. Famous artists include **Claude Monet, Renoir, and Degas**.

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**7. In the context of Indian classical dance, what does the term "Abhinaya" refer to?**

- (A) Footwork techniques
- (B) Expression and communication of emotions through gestures and facial expressions

- (C) Rhythmic patterns used in dance
- (D) Costumes and ornaments used by dancers

**Correct Answer:** (2) Expression and communication of emotions through gestures and facial expressions

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

In Indian classical dance, the term **Abhinaya** refers to the art of **expressing emotions, ideas, and stories through facial expressions, gestures, and body movements**. The word originates from Sanskrit, where *abhi* means "towards" and *naya* means "to lead," implying leading the audience toward emotional understanding.

Abhinaya is a crucial aspect of dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi.

**Step 1: Understand the role of Abhinaya in dance.**

Through Abhinaya, dancers convey the emotional content of a performance and communicate narratives drawn from mythology, poetry, and devotional themes.

**Step 2: Types of Abhinaya described in classical texts.**

According to traditional theory, Abhinaya includes:

- **Angika** – Expression through body movements
- **Vachika** – Expression through speech or song
- **Aharya** – Expression through costumes and makeup
- **Satvika** – Expression through inner emotional states

Thus, Abhinaya primarily refers to **expressive storytelling through gestures and facial expressions**.

#### Quick Tip

**Abhinaya = Expression in classical dance**, used to communicate emotions and narratives through gestures and facial expressions.

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**8. Which Mughal Emperor's reign is considered the golden age of Mughal architecture, specifically for the construction of the Taj Mahal?**

- (A) Akbar
- (B) Jahangir
- (C) Shah Jahan
- (D) Aurangzeb

**Correct Answer:** (3) Shah Jahan

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The reign of **Shah Jahan** (1628–1658) is widely regarded as the **golden age of Mughal architecture**. During his rule, several magnificent architectural structures were constructed, characterized by refined symmetry, marble work, and intricate decoration.

The most famous monument from his reign is the **Taj Mahal**, built in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

**Step 1: Identify the emperor associated with the Taj Mahal.**

The Taj Mahal was constructed between 1632 and 1653 during the reign of Shah Jahan.

**Step 2: Other architectural achievements during his reign.**

Notable monuments built under Shah Jahan include:

- Red Fort in Delhi
- Jama Masjid in Delhi
- Shalimar Gardens in Lahore

Thus, the Mughal emperor associated with the golden age of Mughal architecture is **Shah Jahan**.

**Quick Tip**

**Shah Jahan = Golden age of Mughal architecture**, famous for the **Taj Mahal**.

**9. What is the primary purpose of a "pyrometric cone" in a ceramic kiln?**

- (A) To decorate ceramic surfaces during firing
- (B) To measure the exact temperature inside the kiln
- (C) To indicate the heat work (combined effect of temperature and time) during firing
- (D) To regulate airflow within the kiln

**Correct Answer:** (3) To indicate the heat work (combined effect of temperature and time) during firing

**Solution:****Concept:**

A **pyrometric cone** is a small pyramid-shaped device used in ceramic kilns to monitor the firing process. It is made of specially formulated ceramic materials that bend or deform at specific heat conditions.

Unlike a thermometer, which measures only temperature, a pyrometric cone measures **heat work**, which is the combined effect of:

- Temperature
- Duration of heating

**Step 1: Understand the function of the cone.**

When the kiln reaches the intended firing conditions, the cone bends or melts at a predetermined point, indicating that the correct heat work has been achieved.

**Step 2: Why heat work matters.**

In ceramics, proper firing depends not only on the peak temperature but also on how long the material is exposed to that heat.

**Step 3: Eliminate other options.**

- Pyrometric cones are not decorative elements.
- They do not measure exact temperature like thermometers.
- They do not regulate airflow in the kiln.

Thus, the primary purpose of a pyrometric cone is to **indicate the heat work during kiln firing**.

Quick Tip

**Pyrometric cone = indicator of heat work** (temperature + time) in ceramic kiln firing.

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**10. The film movement "Dogme 95" originated in which country?**

- (A) France
- (B) Italy
- (C) Denmark
- (D) Germany

**Correct Answer:** (3) Denmark

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

**Dogme 95** was a film movement created in **1995** by Danish filmmakers **Lars von Trier** and **Thomas Vinterberg**. The movement aimed to simplify filmmaking by focusing on storytelling, acting, and theme rather than elaborate special effects or production techniques. It introduced a strict set of rules known as the "**Vow of Chastity**".

**Step 1: Understand the origin of the movement.**

The Dogme 95 manifesto was first announced in **Copenhagen, Denmark**.

**Step 2: Key principles of Dogme 95.**

The rules included:

- Shooting on location only
- No artificial lighting

- Handheld cameras
- No special effects or superficial action

Thus, the Dogme 95 movement originated in **Denmark**.

#### Quick Tip

**Dogme 95** is a Danish film movement emphasizing realism and simplicity in filmmaking.

**11. Which Greek philosopher wrote "The Poetics," which discusses the concept of "Catharsis" in tragedy?**

- (A) Socrates
- (B) Plato
- (C) Aristotle
- (D) Pythagoras

**Correct Answer:** (3) Aristotle

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

"**The Poetics**" is a famous work by the Greek philosopher **Aristotle**. In this treatise, Aristotle analyzes the principles of literature, especially **tragedy**.

One of the key concepts introduced in the work is **Catharsis**.

**Step 1: Understand the concept of Catharsis.**

Catharsis refers to the emotional purification or release experienced by the audience after witnessing the intense emotions portrayed in a tragedy.

**Step 2: Aristotle's analysis of tragedy.**

According to Aristotle, an effective tragedy should evoke feelings of:

- Pity
- Fear

These emotions ultimately lead to catharsis in the audience.

**Step 3: Eliminate other options.**

- **Socrates** focused mainly on ethical philosophy.
- **Plato** wrote philosophical dialogues and criticized poetry in his work.
- **Pythagoras** was known for contributions to mathematics and philosophy.

Thus, the philosopher who wrote "The Poetics" is Aristotle.

Quick Tip

Aristotle's "Poetics" explains tragedy and introduces the concept of **Catharsis**.

**12. The Ajanta caves are predominantly famous for which type of artistic expression?**

- (A) Stone architecture
- (B) Fresco paintings and murals
- (C) Bronze sculptures
- (D) Terracotta figurines

**Correct Answer:** (2) Fresco paintings and murals

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The **Ajanta Caves**, located in Maharashtra, India, are a group of rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments dating from approximately the **2nd century BCE to the 6th century CE**.

They are world-famous for their **wall paintings and murals**, which depict scenes from the life of Buddha and stories from the **Jataka tales**.

**Step 1: Identify the major artistic feature of Ajanta.**

The caves contain beautifully preserved **fresco-style paintings** that illustrate religious narratives and courtly life.

**Step 2: Characteristics of Ajanta paintings.**

These paintings are known for:

- Expressive human figures
- Naturalistic shading
- Rich colors and intricate details

**Step 3: Eliminate other options.**

- While Ajanta includes rock-cut architecture and sculptures, its **paintings and murals are the most celebrated feature**.
- Bronze sculptures and terracotta figurines are not the primary artistic elements here.

Thus, the Ajanta caves are predominantly famous for their **fresco paintings and murals**.

Quick Tip

**Ajanta Caves = Buddhist murals and fresco paintings** depicting Jataka tales and scenes from Buddha's life.

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**13. Which modern Indian artist is known for his "Horse" series and was a founding member of the Progressive Artists' Group?**

- (A) Jamini Roy
- (B) M. F. Husain
- (C) Tyeb Mehta
- (D) S. H. Raza

**Correct Answer:** (2) M. F. Husain

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

**Maqbool Fida Husain (M. F. Husain)** was one of the most prominent modern Indian painters and a founding member of the **Progressive Artists' Group** formed in Bombay in 1947.

He became widely recognized for his distinctive style, which blended elements of Indian tradition with modernist artistic techniques.

**Step 1: Identify the artist associated with the Horse series.**

Husain's famous "**Horse**" series features dynamic and energetic depictions of horses, often symbolizing strength, movement, and vitality.

**Step 2: Contribution to modern Indian art.**

As a member of the Progressive Artists' Group, Husain helped shape modern Indian art by promoting artistic freedom and experimentation.

**Step 3: Eliminate other options.**

- **Jamini Roy** is known for his folk-inspired painting style.
- **Tyeb Mehta** is famous for his modernist figurative works.
- **S. H. Raza** is known for the *Bindu* series.

Thus, the artist known for the **Horse series** is **M. F. Husain**.

Quick Tip

**M. F. Husain** was a founding member of the **Progressive Artists' Group** and famous for his **Horse paintings**.

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**14. In aesthetic theory, the term "Mimesis" refers to what concept?**

- (A) Emotional purification through art
- (B) Imitation or representation of reality in art
- (C) Spiritual symbolism in artistic expression
- (D) Use of abstract geometric forms in painting

**Correct Answer:** (2) Imitation or representation of reality in art

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

The concept of **Mimesis** originates from ancient Greek philosophy and is closely associated with **Plato** and **Aristotle**. It refers to the idea that art imitates or represents aspects of reality. According to classical aesthetic theory, artists recreate or imitate the world through various forms of artistic expression such as painting, literature, and drama.

**Step 1: Understanding the meaning of Mimesis.**

The word *mimesis* literally means "imitation" in Greek. It suggests that art reflects or reproduces real-life experiences and natural forms.

**Step 2: Role in classical aesthetics.**

Aristotle considered mimesis a fundamental principle of artistic creation, where art represents human actions and emotions.

**Step 3: Eliminate other options.**

- Emotional purification is related to **Catharsis**.
- Spiritual symbolism is associated with certain religious art traditions.
- Abstract geometric forms relate more to modern abstract art movements.

Thus, **Mimesis** refers to the **imitation or representation of reality in art**.

Quick Tip

**Mimesis = Imitation of reality in art**, a key concept in classical aesthetic theory.

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**15. Which dance form uses Jayadeva's Gita Govinda extensively in its repertoire?**

- (A) Kathak
- (B) Bharatanatyam
- (C) Odissi
- (D) Manipuri

**Correct Answer:** (3) Odissi

**Solution:**

**Concept:**

**Gita Govinda**, composed by the 12th-century poet **Jayadeva**, is a lyrical Sanskrit work that describes the divine love between **Krishna and Radha**.

The text is widely used in the repertoire of the classical dance form **Odissi**, which originated in the state of Odisha.

**Step 1: Understand the relationship between Odissi and Gita Govinda.**

Many Odissi dance performances interpret verses from Gita Govinda through expressive movements and abhinaya (facial expressions and gestures).

**Step 2: Historical significance.**

The compositions of Gita Govinda have long been associated with temple traditions in Odisha, especially the **Jagannath Temple in Puri**.

**Step 3: Eliminate other options.**

- **Kathak** developed mainly in North India and Mughal courts.
- **Bharatanatyam** originated in Tamil Nadu and emphasizes Tamil devotional compositions.
- **Manipuri** focuses on Raslila traditions but does not primarily rely on Gita Govinda.

Thus, the dance form that extensively uses **Gita Govinda** is **Odissi**.

Quick Tip

**Odissi dance frequently interprets verses from Jayadeva's Gita Govinda, depicting the love of Radha and Krishna.**