

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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TEST COPY

VIDUSHI SINGH

AIR - 13

(CSE 2022)

HISTORY OPTIONAL

 **8448496262**  **iascore.in**

CULTURE

Time Allowed: 90 min.

Max. Marks: 150

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 10 questions. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it. • Answer the questions in 250 words each. All questions carry equal marks. 15 x 10 = 150 Marks • Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind. • Answers must be written within the space provided. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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Name Nidushi Singh

Roll No. 40666

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Nidushi

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

REMARKS

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GS MAINS TEST SERIES 2022

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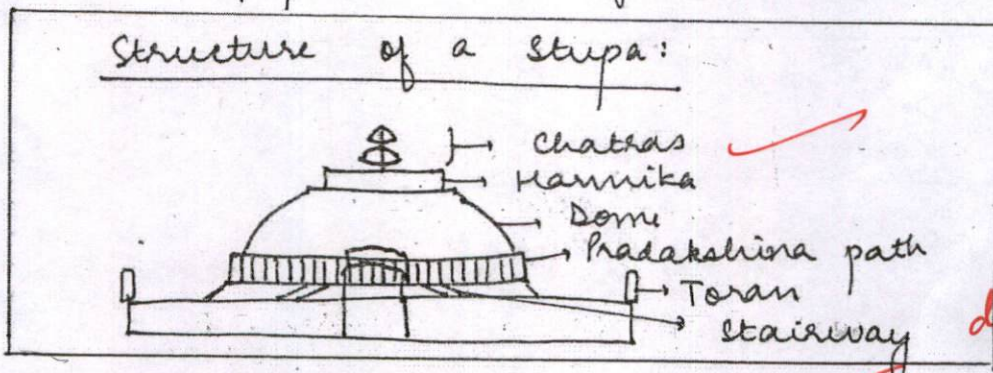
| 2022

Q1. Stupas not only have their relevance in religious context but also show their importance in terms of architecture and social life. Substantiate. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

'STUPAS' were burial mounds prevalent in India from the Vedic period. It is a conventional representation of funeral cumulus in which relics and ashes of the dead were kept. During the period of Ashoka, art of stupa reached its zenith, with around 84,000 stupas erected all over the subcontinent. Although a Vedic tradition, Stupas were popularised by Buddhists.

Good! that you related this with vedic period itself

Structure of a Stupa:



You presented depiction well

In Buddhism, earliest Stupas were said to have the ashes of Buddha, therefore, stupas began to be associated with Buddha's body.

Relevance of Stupas in Religious context:

Early Stupa art expounded Buddhist ideals in the following manner:

Remarks

1. Buddha's ashes in the mound of dirt activated the energy of Buddha himself.
2. Domed shape of stupa came to represent a person sitting in meditation such as Buddha when he achieved enlightenment.
3. Pradakshina Path suggested the endless cycle of birth and rebirth (samsara).
4. Torans are directional gates guiding the practitioners on correct path to achieve 4 Noble Truths.

Importance of stupas in terms of Architecture and social life:

Architectural Importance of stupas:

1. sculptures: stupas were initially devoid of idol worship of Buddha. Therefore, there were beautiful sculptures in the Toranas to indicate Buddha's philosophy.
2. Earlier, stupas were constructed out of bricks. However, with time and spread of Buddhism, stone works

Religious significance and archaeological aspect have been described well!

Remarks

were added to the stupas.

3. With time, idol worship became quite prevalent, and the ~~symbols~~ of Buddha were replaced with actual images. These images had ~~regionally different~~ characteristics.

Social Importance of Stupas:

1. Jataka Stories: Toranas of the stupa contained sculptures of Jataka stories. eg → Queen Mayadwi's dream, Ruru Jataka, Shibi Jataka, etc. *Good!*
2. Elements of Mahayana & Vajrayana: With time, people started worshipping Buddha's actual images and sculptures and statues of Buddha were erected.
3. Elements from other religions: Stupa art. was very diverse. Various elements of Hinduism and their influence are felt in the architecture of stupas.
Eg: Shalhanjika sculpture at Sanchi.
4. Patronage by different rulers & dynasties over centuries. Thus, stupas not only have their relevance in religious context, but also show their importance in terms of architecture & social life.

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2

Remarks

Overall, you have addressed this question well - presentation is also appreciated.

Q2. In 6th and 5th century BC Buddhism not only provided an alternative social and religious system, but also supported the changing economic conditions. Comment.

(15 Marks) (250 Words)

BUDDHISM is one of the major religions of the world that originated in the Indian sub-continent and has now spread to large parts of South-East Asia. Origin of Buddhism is attached to the story of 'Siddhartha' who attained enlightenment and became Gautama Buddha. At the age of 26, Siddhartha of Sakyan kingdom left his house to find the truth of life.

Need to provide a shorter introduction.

6th and 5th Century BC conditions for origin of Buddhism:

1. By 6th & 5th Century BC, Mahajanapadas and Vedic Brahmanism had dug their heels deep into the society of North India.

2. ~~But~~ Varna system had divided the population strictly on basis of occupation and by 5th Century BC, it became the social norm, reflecting oppression of the under-

Good, that you are discussing social condition during that time.

Remarks

privileged Shudras.

3. Women by 5th century BC were barred from learning Vedas and had lost their independence that prevailed in Vedic Times.

Also mention prevalence of Animal sacrifice.

~~4. Not~~ Thus, post-Vedic age of 5th - 6th Century BC was largely oppressive for women, shudras and anyone else who dared to defy the social order.

Buddhism: Alternative social and religious system

Buddhism arose out of the oppressive regime of Post-Vedic Age. It provided an alternative social and religious system with newfound liberal ideas:

1. Middle path: Buddha propagated the ^{middle} path of, i.e., without extremes to achieve liberation.
2. Open to all: Buddhism ~~was~~ accepted by anyone and everyone & did not discriminate ~~against~~ in the Sangha.

key point.

Remarks

3. Buddhism rejected the authenticity of Vedas, thus attracting huge masses.
4. Pali as medium of propagation:
Buddha preached in Arjha-magadhi and Pali, the common tongue, rather than Sanskrit, which was spoken by the privileged class.
5. 4 Noble Truths and 8-fold Path:
provided new dimensions to the society.

Buddhism with changing economic conditions

1. Vedic Rituals often sacrificed animals which were domesticated on a large scale by 5th century BC..
2. With the rise of Mahajanapadas, urban centres were established and trade flourished. Merchants were barred from sea travel according to Shramashastras. Thus, Buddhism provided them with an alternative.
3. Middle Path and Sangha: offered economic security to the masses.

Can also provide
use of non-violence
with prosperity
of trade

Remarks

overall you attempted it well.

71
72

Q3. Vedanta is not a static philosophy or religion. It is a highly dynamic, ever-growing philosophy and religion, capable of meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles.
Comment.

(15 Marks) (250 Words)

'VEDANTA' is made of 2 words - 'Veda' and 'ant', i.e., the end of Vedas. This school of philosophy is elaborated in the Upanishads.

This school of Philosophy evolved in 9th Century AD through the philosophical intervention of Shankaracharya and led to development of Advaita Vedanta.

Another major philosopher → Ramanuja in 12th Century AD propounded Vishishtadvaita Vedanta, i.e., Brahma with attributes.

Vedanta school argues that atma or consciousness of self is similar to brahm. Therefore, if a person attains knowledge of the self, he would automatically understand brahm and achieve salvation. This makes atma and brahm indestructible and eternal.

Philosophy of vedanta has been explained well.

Remarks

Vedanta: dynamic, ever-growing philosophy and religion!

1. Vedanta focusses on knowledge of self. Knowledge of self can end the endless cycle of birth and lead to liberation from cycle of Karma.

Thus, in any context, time or space, the philosophy of Vedanta of atma and brahma, makes it relevant.

2. Vedanta propounds that Brahm is reality of everything life and everything else is Maya. Thus, this school focusses ~~not~~ more on what presents itself and ~~is~~ something that is conceivable. Everything else in life is Maya and not relevant to achieve salvation.

3. Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Dayanand Saraswati, and others also propounded the school of Vedanta, because of its spiritual and philosophical relevance.

In this part, you should have described different phases of vedanta, so you can address its dynamic and conventional aspect.

Remarks

4. Vedanta : modern day challenges and overcoming obstacles

1. Vedanta offers the requisite spiritual connection that the modern society needs in addition to its materialistic lifestyle. - Good point
2. Vedanta inspired the Indian National Movement by its ideals of unity of existence, harmony of religions and self-consciousness.
3. Spiritual context of Vedanta also makes it relevant in today's international conflicts and propounds the need of world peace.
4. Climate crisis and other problems due to anthropogenic causes and materialistic lifestyle point to the dire need of realisation and consciousness provided by Vedanta.

Vedanta holds supreme virtues and synthesizes them to provide meaningful & spiritual philosophy for human welfare.

7

Remarks

you have related it philosophes very well with the contemporary issues - keeps interesting -

Q4. Gharana system is the unique aspect of Hindustani music which sustained the diversity of style of singing and provided for traditional mode of musical training and education.

Discuss.

(15 Marks) (250 Words)

GHARANA SYSTEM is a system of social organisation linking musicians or dancers by lineage or apprenticeship and by adherence to a particular musical ideology. The word 'gharana' comes from Urdu/Hindi word 'ghar', which means 'family' or 'house'. It typically refers to the place where the musical ideology originated. A gharana also indicates a comprehensive musical ideology that differentiates one school from another. It directly affects the thinking, teaching, performance & appreciation of music. Some of the gharanas of Hindustani Music are: Agra, Gwalior, Indore, Jaipur, Kirana and Patiala. It is a unique aspect of Hindustani classical music.

Also link it with Hindustani music.

Remarks

Gharane System: diversity of style of singing

1. Coming from the Hindustani Classical Music Ideology, each gharana generates and amalgamates its own regional attributes into the style of music such that the fundamental music is unchanged but, regional attributes are enhanced.
2. In a country as vast ~~as~~ and diverse as India, Gharana system offers a platform for integration of culture and heritage and provides autonomy to singers to make their own modifications.
3. Gharana system also ~~offers~~ represents the basis of Indian society, i.e., Unity in Diversity, it ~~is~~ a sheer form.
4. This system also provides the opportunity of growth ~~to~~ to the singers.

Need to mention few examples to substantiate your points.

Remarks

Gharana System: Traditional mode of musical training and education

1. Guru-chishya Parampara is followed in a gharana system wherein one generation passes on the knowledge of music and the next generation learns and later modifies and masters the singing. This has been the traditional mode of learning since ancient times.

Good points

2. Gharana System ~~has~~ contains rigorous training and education which occurs at the 'ghar' of the teacher, i.e., student stays with the teacher and learns the art of singing.

Thus, Gharana system of Hindustani music helps in sustaining diversity of style and singing while preserving the traditional mode of musical training and education.

largely good, but in describing diverse aspects mention few relevant examples

6 1/2

Remarks

Q5. While classical dance in India is linked to its 'divine origins', the origin of Indian folk theatre lies with the people. Illustrate with examples. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

Classical dance in India have evolved in different regions, each with their own specific nuances. However, all classical dances are governed by the basic rules and guidelines laid down in the Natya Shashtra by Bharata.

DIVINE ORIGINS of classical Dance in India

Ministry of culture has recognized 9 classical dances in India. Each classical dance propagates the divine importance associated with it.

1. Tandava and lasya: Shiva's Tandava dance, signifies the cycle of creation, preservation and destruction. This is symbolic to male aspects of dance and has more emphasis on rhythm and movement. Parvati's lasya dance denotes grace, bhava, rasa and abhinaya. It is symbolic to feminine.

Remarks

Good, But you should have focused mainly on classical dance types.

features of Indian Classical Dance according to Natya Shashtra.

2. Natya Shashtra and Natya Veda → Natya Shashtra narrates the story of how Lord Brahma was requested by Gods to create a pastime and he combined aspects of 4 Vedas into Natya Veda.

Thus, Indian classical dances are linked to its 'divine origins'.

Indian Folk Theatre: India boasts of a rich tradition of folk theatre in various parts of India. Traditional folk theatre reflects various aspects of local lifestyle including social norms, beliefs and customs.

Indian folk theatre: origin lies with the people

1. Representative of local lifestyle - norms, beliefs, culture & customs

Could have been done better - Bring various examples of classical dance and then relate those with religion.

Remarks

2. Rural roots and rustic flavours.
3. Devotional Themes from the masses in 15th - 16th Century AD.
4. Popular method of dissimination of social wisdom rather than mere social entertainment.
5. Regional diversity observed in Indian folk theatre is a testimony of its origins that lie with the diverse people all over India.
6. Representative of various socio-cultural traditions, eg → Daskathia Maach, Ojapali, etc.

Rambhola
can be
mentioned
here -

Thus, classical dance in India have 'divine origins' while Indian folk theatre has its origins with the diverse cultural and traditional popular of India.

6

Remarks

In both the part, you have not quoted relevant examples - In such question, include more examples to add more value to your ans.

Q6. Elaborate on the concept of Sufism in India and its relevance in present context.
Highlight the influence of Indian tradition on Sufism. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

SUFISM : is the mystical arm of Islam and is better known as TASAWWUF. It stresses on self-realisation, tolerance, righteousness and love for all. The word finds its roots in Arabic word 'safa' meaning purity. Sufism strictly follow the concept of pir-nurshidi. Ultimate Goal of Sufism is Union with God or 'Fana'. Sufism rejects elaborate rituals and believes in equality of all human beings and universal brotherhood of man.

Try to provide a shorter intro and its features

Sufism in India

1. Sufis came to be organised into orders or 'silsilas' in India. Ain-i-Akbari by Abul Fazl mentions a dozen silsilas. They were divided into be-shara (against sharia) and

Remarks

Ba-shara (in favour of sharia).

2. Ba-'shara Sufis followed law of Islam → eg: chishti, Suhrawardi, etc.
3. Be-shara Sufis did not believe in Sharia law → eg: Kalandars, Malangs, etc.

Good

Relevance of Sufism in Present Context

1. The humane spirit of Sufism is highly relevant in today's context.
2. Today, divisive forces and their separatist tendencies can be countered by the attributes of Sufism like Universal Brotherhood and Universal love and devotion.
3. Highly materialistic and anthropo-genic approach towards environment in particular calls for a more humane and spiritual understanding as is propagated by Sufism.
4. Sufism also propagates the idea of equality which is the need of the well.

Going well.

Remarks

hour.

5. World Peace and love are ~~central~~ to Sufism and highly relevant in present context.

Influence of Indian Tradition on Sufism

1. Meditative Exercises by Sufis are said to be adopted by Yogic and tantric traditions of India.
2. Mutual Toleration and Understanding are found at the intersection of Sufi and Bhakti Movements.
3. Various Buddhist Philosophies and Vedantic Ideas were also a source of Influence for the Sufis.

These ideas were propagated through contact with Central Asia since ancient times. Sufism and Indian Tradition can not be separated and influence can be felt of both on each other.

Arabic music and dance in India are inspired by Indian tradition, Iqbal's poetry is inspired by Buddhist Monasteries etc.

but include more points in this part - otherwise, you attempted it good.

Remarks

7

Q7. It is said that Gupta Empire was the golden age for India in history particularly for the advancements in the field of science and technology it achieved. Substantiate with relevant examples. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

Emergence of Gupta Empire in 4th Century AD is often hailed as the "Golden Age of India". This is because, India ~~exacted~~ witnessed advancements in architecture, trade, science and technology. This is also because of the ministry of Gupta Age and very high prevalence of Gold coins.

you introduced it very well.

Gupta Empire: Golden Age for India

1. Architectural Brilliance in Rock-cut Caves of Ajanta, Ellora, ~~an~~ Bagh Caves and various Sculptural Innovations.
2. High prevalence of Gold coins.
3. Vast empire of Gupta Dynasty.
4. Literary advancement: Kalidasa, Sudraka, Varahmihira's literary works.
5. Science and Technology advancements.

Good! that you covered these in brief.

Remarks

Gupta Age: achievements in Science and Technology

1. Aryabhata : wrote ARYABHATEYA in around 499 AD in which concepts of mathematics and astronomy were explicitly mentioned. Aryabhata was the first person in the world to point out that Earth is round and rotates on its own axis.

He also determined the true position of planets, movement of sun and moon and calculation of eclipses.

He also formulated area of a triangle and discovered algebra. His calculation of value of π was much more accurate than Greeks.

2. Varahamihira's contribution in field of ecology, geology and hydrology.

He claimed that plants could indicate presence of water. Brihat samhita propounded Earth Cloud Theory.

Remarks

Wrong head

He related earthquake to ~~theory~~ influence of planets, behaviour of animals, underground water, etc.

3. Metallurgic Advancement: Iron Pillar at Mehrauli ~~at Prayag~~ with Harisena's 'Prayag Prashasti' has still not corroded. This shows the metallurgic advancement of the Gupta age.

4. Distillation of perfumes.

5. Rock-cut Architecture and associated art of engraving and construction.

6. Ayurveda: reached greater heights in Gupta age with Charakayurveda.

Thus, Golden Age of India during the Gupta period, ~~reached~~ helped India achieve further advancements in Science and Technology.

Development in medicine needs more elaboration.

You missed to mention Varah Mihir, Brahmagupta, Dhanvantari, Charak.
Contribution in field of science and tech.

6 1/2

Remarks

Q8. Painting is one of the most delicate forms of art giving expression to human thoughts and feelings through the media of line and colour. In this light trace the origin, evolution and significance of wall paintings in India. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

Painting and drawing were the oldest art forms practised by human beings to express themselves and their emotions and feelings.

Evolution and significance of wall paintings in India

1. Upper Palaeolithic Age: Wall / Cave Paintings of Upper Palaeolithic age are linear representations of huge animal figures are also painted, such as bison, elephants, tigers, etc. Stick-like human figures and geometrical patterns are present. Green colour is used to depict dancers and red colour for hunters.
2. Mesolithic Age: Has largest number of Cave Paintings in Pre-historic times. Hunting scenes predominate and other themes are present too. Paintings get

Can simply put these under Prehistoric paintings and of note
Bhimbetka Caves

Remarks

smaller in size than Upper Palaeolithic Age. There are several depictions of community dances. These paintings are a testament to the intrinsic passion for storytelling by early humans, eg: Blimbetka Caves

3. Chalcolithic Age: There is an increase in yellow and green colour. Most paintings depict battle scenes. There are also depictions of musical instruments like harp and paintings have complex geometrical shapes like spiral, rhomboid, etc, eg: Jaginara Caves

4. Mural Paintings: between 10th Century BC to 10th Century AD. These paintings are either in rock-cut caves or in natural chambers. These follow a theme, most common being Hindu, Buddhist & Jain. Paintings at Ajanta predominantly propagate philosophy of Buddhism while Elephanta Caves are dominated by paintings of Shraivite faith. Jain ~~art~~ Paintings at Sittanavasal

It is good that you adhered to chronological structure

Remarks

Bring examples from certain Southern regions as well.

Caves show samvasarana of Tirthankaras. Buddhist paintings are largely Jataka stories and later Buddha and his students & guardians (Padmapani, Vajrapani & Manjusri) are also painted. Hindu Paintings consists of tales of Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Significance of Wall Paintings:

1. Pre-historic rock paintings provide important information regarding social practices of those times.
2. Paintings at Bhimbetka have all 3 periods of paintings - Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic & Chalcolithic. Thus, evolution of ~~the~~ Indian society from 10000 BC - 1000 BC are shown at one place.
3. Mural Paintings of the 3 religions provide important socio-economic information of the settled community.

Good understanding
Also, provide a suitable conclusion

6 1/2

Remarks

Q9. "Protecting ancient monuments and other archaeological sites is an important step in preserving India's heritage and culture, and everybody can play a part". Critically examine the present institutional mechanism in place to protect our architecture. Also, suggest innovative measures that can be employed to address the issue.

(15 Marks) (250 Words)

India is the country of the largest and most diverse mixture of traditions and cultures. It is a cradle of finest cultural symbols of the world including architecture, performing arts, sculptures, paintings, etc. India had achieved architectural brilliance even before the beginning of Christ Era with construction of stupas and IVC's architecture even before that. The story of Indian architecture is that of an evolution of Indian art and culture and the Indian traditions.

try to keep these shorter

Need to Preserve ancient monuments

1. Increasing pollutants in atmosphere have drastic impact on heritage sites of India.

Remarks

2. Protecting and preserving architecture has become need of the hour given the challenges brought in by globalization and industrialization.

Can also have the need with suggesting of ancient monuments

3. The attached sentimental value and the idea of evolution make it a ~~not~~ case for preservation and protection.

Present Institutional Mechanism in place to protect architecture:

1. Article 49 of Indian Constitution: Protection of Monuments and Places & objects of National Value. (DPSP) Good
2. Article 51 A (1): Value and preserve the rich Heritage ~~an~~ of Indian Culture (Fundamental Duty).
3. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Site & Remains Act, 1958
4. Antiquities (Expert Control) Act, 1947
5. Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972

Can also mention the role given to ASI.

Remarks

Present institutional mechanisms ~~are~~ have worked till now in physically preserving architecture and archaeological sites. However, the environmental aspect has not been addressed by these mechanisms. UNESCO World Heritage sites are protected environmentally, however, there are many sites which are not covered by it.

Limited understanding
↓
lack about
failure on
the part of
ASI, limited
fund allocation
etc.

Innovative Measures

1. Economic: Incentivising local community for preservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites. Providing subsidies to local governments in vicinity of such sites.
2. Political: legislating acts to formalise action on environmental ~~are~~ threat to such sites.
3. Social: civic society organisations and local communities can ~~deal~~ generate funds & volunteers to help preserve such ~~sites~~ sites.

Remarks

last two parts need to be improved. $\frac{5}{2}$

Suggest the need to strengthen them with fund, teacher ASI, equipped

Q10. 'Indian architecture is a synthesis of indigenous styles and external influences which has lent it a unique characteristic of its own'. Elaborate with a particular reference to Mughal & British architecture.
 (15 Marks) (250 Words)

The story of Indian Art and Architecture is a story of evolution. From ancient Indus Valley civilisation to the British rule, the buildings and sculptures have a narrative of their own. The emergence and decay of great empires, invasion of foreign rulers who gradually became indigenous, confluence of different cultures and styles, etc. are all reflected in evolution of Indian Architecture and Sculpture.

Good!

Mughal Architecture : Indigenous styles and external influences

Mughals were great patron of architecture.

They introduced:

1. Charbagh style
2. Tudor arch
3. Pietra-dura work
4. Foreshortening technique

mention relevant examples or refer!

Remarks

5. Use of calligraphy
6. Jaali work
7. Arabesque decorations

Indian influence on Mughal architecture:

1. Use of white marble
2. Bangla roof
3. Hindu Motifs → bells and flowers
4. Upraised platforms
5. Heavy decorative works.

Thus, Mughal architecture was a synthesis of indigenous and external elements which lent it its unique characteristics.

Good, but examples are lacking -

British architecture: Indigenous styles & External influences

British brought with them GOTHIC STYLE of architecture. It merged with Indian architecture to form Indo-Gothic style of Architecture. Post 1911, a new style of architecture known as Neo-Roman Architecture emerged.

Remarks

Gothic elements :

1. Large windows
2. ~~the~~ crucified ground plan
3. Thinner walls
4. British engineering standards.

Indian elements :

1. Large and elaborate construction
eg: Victoria Memorial
2. Arches and domes.
3. Congested buildings
4. ~~presence of~~ Oriental motifs in Neo-Roman architecture.

Good, But again you should quote some examples

Neo-Roman Elements:

1. Hybrid nature compromised simplicity.
2. Upturned Domes
3. Circular Buildings

Thus, British architecture was also a synthesis of indigenous elements & external elements.

you addressed this answer well - but try to include few relevant examples as well

7

Remarks