

# CUET 2026 May 21 Shift 2 Fine Arts

## Question Paper (Memory-Based) with Solutions

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



### General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. The famous painting “Bani Thani” is associated with which school of painting?

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

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

### Solution:

**Concept:** “Bani Thani” is one of the most famous paintings of the **Kishangarh School of Painting**, which belongs to the Rajput style of miniature paintings.

The painting is known for:

- Graceful facial features
- Arched eyebrows
- Lotus-like eyes
- Artistic elegance

It is often referred to as the “**Mona Lisa of India**”.

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

The painting “Bani Thani” was created under the patronage of the rulers of:

Kishangarh

Hence, it belongs to the **Kishangarh School of Painting**.

**Step 2: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Kangra School** is famous for nature and Krishna-themed paintings.
- **Mughal School** focused on royal court scenes and realism.
- **Bundi School** is known for vibrant colors and hunting scenes.

These are not associated with “Bani Thani”.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Kishangarh School

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Bani Thani** → Kishangarh School
- Known as the “**Mona Lisa of India**”
- Famous example of Rajput miniature painting

**2. Who was the ruler-patron closely associated with the development of Kishangarh paintings?**

- (A) Raja Sansar Chand
- (B) Raja Sawant Singh
- (C) Raja Man Singh
- (D) Raja Jai Singh

**Correct Answer:** (B) Raja Sawant Singh

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Kishangarh School of Painting** flourished under the patronage of **Raja Sawant Singh**, who was a great supporter of art and literature.

He was also known by his poetic name:

Nagari Das

The famous painting “**Bani Thani**” became an iconic example of the Kishangarh style during his rule.

**Step 1:** Identify the ruler associated with Kishangarh paintings.

The development and popularity of Kishangarh paintings are mainly linked with:

Raja Sawant Singh

He encouraged artists and promoted miniature painting traditions in Kishangarh.

**Step 2:** Eliminate the incorrect options.

- **Raja Sansar Chand** was associated with the Kangra School of painting.
- **Raja Man Singh** was related to Mughal administration and warfare.
- **Raja Jai Singh** is mainly known for astronomy and city planning.

These rulers were not directly connected with the development of Kishangarh paintings.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Raja Sawant Singh

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Kishangarh School** → Raja Sawant Singh
- Raja Sawant Singh was also known as **Nagari Das**
- **Bani Thani** became famous during his patronage

**3. The painting series based on musical modes is known as:**

- (A) Nayika Bheda
- (B) Baramasa
- (C) Ragamala
- (D) Rasikapriya

**Correct Answer:** (C) Ragamala

**Solution:**

**Concept: Ragamala paintings** are a series of Indian miniature paintings based on musical modes called **Ragas** and **Raginis**.

The word:

Ragamala = Garland of Ragas

These paintings visually represent different moods, emotions, seasons, and musical expressions associated with classical Indian music.

**Step 1: Understand the meaning of musical modes in Indian art.**

In Indian classical music:

- A **Raga** represents a musical mode or melodic framework.
- Artists painted visual representations of these ragas.

Such painting collections are known as:

Ragamala Paintings

**Step 2: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Nayika Bheda** describes different types of heroines.
- **Baramasa** depicts the twelve months and seasons.
- **Rasikapriya** is based on poetic themes of love and devotion.

These are not directly based on musical modes.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Ragamala

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Ragamala** → Series of paintings based on musical ragas
- Means “**Garland of Ragas**”
- Combines music, mood, and visual art

4. Which Rajasthani school is considered one of the earliest and most indigenous styles?

- (A) Jaipur
- (B) Mewar
- (C) Bikaner
- (D) Kishangarh

**Correct Answer:** (B) Mewar

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Mewar School of Painting** is regarded as one of the earliest and most indigenous schools of Rajasthani miniature painting.

It developed in the region of Mewar (present-day Rajasthan) and is known for:

- Bold colors
- Simple compositions
- Indigenous artistic traditions

- Religious and courtly themes

**Step 1: Identify the earliest indigenous Rajasthani style.**

Among the various Rajasthani schools:

Mewar School

is considered the oldest and most traditional indigenous style.

**Step 2: Understand the characteristics of Mewar paintings.**

The Mewar style is famous for:

- Bright and contrasting colors
- Folk-style influence
- Depictions of Hindu religious themes
- Strong regional artistic identity

**Step 3: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Jaipur School** developed later with Mughal influence.
- **Bikaner School** showed strong Persian and Mughal impact.
- **Kishangarh School** became famous for elegant romantic paintings like Bani Thani.

These are not considered the earliest indigenous style.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Mewar

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Mewar School** → Earliest indigenous Rajasthani style
- Known for bold colors and traditional themes
- One of the oldest Rajput painting schools

5. Which Pahari sub-school is most celebrated for delicate romantic depictions of Radha and Krishna?

- (A) Basohli
- (B) Guler
- (C) Kangra
- (D) Chamba

**Correct Answer:** (C) Kangra

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Kangra School of Painting** is one of the most famous schools of Pahari miniature painting. It is especially known for its delicate and romantic depictions of:

- Radha and Krishna
- Love themes
- Nature and landscapes
- Bhakti and emotional expressions

The paintings are characterized by soft colors, graceful figures, and lyrical beauty.

**Step 1:** Identify the Pahari school associated with Radha-Krishna themes.

Among the Pahari schools:

Kangra School

became most famous for romantic representations of Radha and Krishna.

**Step 2:** Understand the artistic features of Kangra paintings.

Kangra paintings are known for:

- Delicate brushwork
- Natural scenery
- Emotional expressions
- Devotional romantic themes

These features made the school highly celebrated.

**Step 3:** Eliminate the incorrect options.

- **Basohli School** is known for bold colors and strong expressions.
- **Guler School** influenced the development of Kangra style.
- **Chamba School** had local folk influences.

These are not as celebrated for delicate Radha-Krishna depictions as Kangra.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Kangra

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Kangra School** → Romantic Radha-Krishna paintings
- Famous for delicate beauty and natural landscapes
- Major Pahari miniature painting style

## 6. Who was the important patron of Kangra painting?

- (A) Raja Sawant Singh
- (B) Raja Sansar Chand
- (C) Akbar
- (D) Ibrahim Adil Shah II

**Correct Answer:** (B) Raja Sansar Chand

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Kangra School of Painting** flourished under the patronage of **Raja Sansar Chand**, one of the greatest rulers and art patrons of the Kangra region.

He greatly encouraged:

- Pahari miniature painting

- Artistic development
- Krishna devotional themes

During his reign, Kangra painting reached its golden age.

**Step 1: Identify the ruler associated with Kangra paintings.**

The most important patron of Kangra painting was:

Raja Sansar Chand

He supported painters and helped the Kangra style gain popularity.

**Step 2: Understand the contribution of Raja Sansar Chand.**

Under his patronage:

- Kangra paintings became highly refined
- Themes of Radha-Krishna became popular
- Artistic excellence increased significantly

**Step 3: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Raja Sawant Singh** was associated with Kishangarh paintings.
- **Akbar** patronized Mughal paintings.
- **Ibrahim Adil Shah II** supported Deccan art and music.

These rulers were not the chief patrons of Kangra painting.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Raja Sansar Chand

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Kangra Painting** → Patronized by Raja Sansar Chand
- Famous for Radha-Krishna themes
- Golden age during Sansar Chand's rule

7. The bold colours and expressive faces of early Pahari painting are especially seen in:

- (A) Kangra School
- (B) Basohli School
- (C) Jaipur School
- (D) Bikaner School

**Correct Answer:** (B) Basohli School

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Basohli School** is one of the earliest schools of Pahari painting and is known for:

- Bold and vibrant colours
- Strong facial expressions
- Stylized features
- Energetic compositions

It laid the foundation for later Pahari styles such as Guler and Kangra.

**Step 1:** Identify the characteristics mentioned in the question.

The question highlights:

- Bold colours
- Expressive faces
- Early Pahari style

These are distinctive features of:

Basohli School

**Step 2: Understand the artistic style of Basohli paintings.**

Basohli paintings generally contain:

- Bright primary colours
- Dramatic emotional expressions
- Strong outlines
- Decorative patterns

These features make the style visually powerful.

**Step 3: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Kangra School** is known for soft and romantic themes.
- **Jaipur School** belongs to the Rajasthani tradition.
- **Bikaner School** shows Mughal influence.

These are not characterized by bold expressive early Pahari features.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Basohli School

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Basohli School** → Bold colours and expressive faces
- One of the earliest Pahari painting schools
- Influenced later Guler and Kangra styles

**8. “Nainsukh” is especially associated with which school?**

- (A) Bundi
- (B) Basohli
- (C) Guler
- (D) Pala

**Correct Answer:** (C) Guler

**Solution:**

**Concept:** Nainsukh was one of the greatest painters of the Pahari tradition and is especially associated with the **Guler School** of painting.

He became famous for:

- Naturalistic portraits
- Fine detailing
- Delicate brushwork
- Realistic human expressions

**Step 1:** Identify the school associated with Nainsukh.

The famous painter:

Nainsukh

is particularly connected with the:

Guler School

**Step 2:** Understand the importance of Nainsukh.

Nainsukh introduced:

- Greater realism
- Mughal-inspired refinement
- Sophisticated portraiture

His works greatly influenced later Pahari painting styles.

**Step 3:** Eliminate the incorrect options.

- **Bundi** belongs to the Rajasthani painting tradition.
- **Basohli** is known for bold early Pahari style.
- **Pala** painting belongs to eastern India and Buddhist manuscript art.

These are not especially associated with Nainsukh.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Guler

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Nainsukh** → Guler School
- Famous for realistic portrait painting
- Important painter of the Pahari tradition

**9. The Deccan School of painting developed mainly under the patronage of:**

- (A) Rajput rulers
- (B) Sultanates of the Deccan
- (C) British officials
- (D) Jain monks

**Correct Answer:** (B) Sultanates of the Deccan

**Solution:**

**Concept:** The **Deccan School of Painting** developed in the Deccan region of India under the patronage of the Deccan Sultanates such as:

- Ahmadnagar
- Bijapur
- Golconda

This school combined:

- Persian artistic influence
- Indigenous Indian styles
- Rich decorative elements

**Step 1: Identify the patrons of Deccan painting.**

The Deccan style flourished mainly under the support of:

Deccan Sultanates

These rulers encouraged painting, music, literature, and architecture.

**Step 2: Understand the features of Deccan paintings.**

Deccan paintings are famous for:

- Brilliant colours
- Luxurious costumes
- Elongated human figures
- Decorative backgrounds

The style shows both Persian and Indian influences.

**Step 3: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Rajput rulers** mainly patronized Rajput schools of painting.
- **British officials** are associated with Company paintings.
- **Jain monks** supported manuscript traditions, not Deccan painting.

Hence, these options are incorrect.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Sultanates of the Deccan

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Deccan School** → Patronized by Deccan Sultanates
- Major centres → Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar
- Strong Persian influence with Indian elements

## 10. Who painted “Bharat Mata”?

- (A) Nandalal Bose
- (B) Abanindranath Tagore
- (C) Rabindranath Tagore
- (D) Gaganendranath Tagore

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

### Solution:

**Concept:** The famous painting “**Bharat Mata**” was painted by **Abanindranath Tagore**, one of the leading artists of the Bengal School of Art.

The painting symbolized:

- Indian nationalism
- Spiritual strength
- Cultural identity

In the painting, Bharat Mata is depicted as a saffron-clad woman holding:

- A book
- Sheaves of paddy
- White cloth
- A rosary

**Step 1:** Identify the artist associated with Bharat Mata.

The painting:

“Bharat Mata”

was created by:

Abanindranath Tagore

**Step 2: Understand the importance of the painting.**

The painting became an important symbol during the:

- Swadeshi Movement
- Indian nationalist movement

It reflected the idea of India as a divine mother figure.

**Step 3: Eliminate the incorrect options.**

- **Nandalal Bose** was another important Bengal School artist but did not paint Bharat Mata.
- **Rabindranath Tagore** was mainly known as a poet and writer.
- **Gaganendranath Tagore** was known for caricatures and modernist paintings.

Hence, these options are incorrect.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Abanindranath Tagore

**Quick Tip:** Remember:

- **Bharat Mata** → Painted by Abanindranath Tagore
- Associated with the **Bengal School of Art**
- Symbol of Indian nationalism and Swadeshi movement