

ENDEAVOUR

B.A/BSW II- SEM BASIC ENGLISH TEXT BOOK

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UNIT – I

ART AND SOCIETY

1. Ancient Indian Arts
2. Modern Women Artists

As the saying goes, “Literature is the mirror of life”, so also it holds equally good for Art, whether it is ancient or modern. The Art reflects the society that creates them and is true for all times. To the Greeks, art meant excellence and reaching one’s full potential. The ancient Greek art emphasized the important accomplishments of human beings. Even though much Greek art was meant to honour the Gods, those very Gods were created in the image of humans.

The first essay exemplifies the ancient Indian Art emphasizing on rock art – the dancing girls, Harappan seals, Rock caves, and temple architecture. The second lesson is about the life stories of some of the modern artists, who have tried to portray the sophisticated forms of art like Painting, Dancing, Photography, etc.

1. Ancient Indian Arts

Each era is unique in its distinctive culture. In the same way Indian art forms have continuously evolved over thousands of years. In ancient India, various art forms like paintings, architecture and sculpture evolved. The history of art in ancient India begins with prehistoric rock paintings. Such rock paintings can be seen in the Bhimbetaka paintings (located in the Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh) belonging to the prehistoric age. Thereafter, an advanced town planning is seen in Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro which is now in Pakistan, with their centrally planned cities indicating a highly developed architecture. Another remarkable example of sculpture from Harappan civilization comes in the form of the dancing girl from Mohenjo-Daro.

The use of symbolic forms in India is as old as the Harappan seals. The fire altars of the Vedic period, with their astronomical and mathematical significance also play an important role in the evolution of the later temples. It was followed by a period in the history of Indian art that is important for rock-cut caves and temple architecture. The Buddhists initiated the rock-cut caves, Hindus and Jains started to imitate them at Badami, Aihole, Ellora, Salsette (an island in Maharashtra), Elephanta caves, Aurangabad and Mahabalipuram. The rock-cut art has continuously evolved, since the first rock cut caves, to suit different purposes, social and religious contexts, and regional differences.

Along with the art forms like architecture, painting and sculpture there have been changing folk and tribal art traditions in India. These art forms are expressions of people belonging to different cultural and social groups of India. It is the expression of people whose life is tuned to the rhythms of nature and its laws of cyclic change and whose life is knotted with natural energy. It's been a tradition in India that Gods and legends are transformed into contemporary forms and familiar images. Fairs, festivals and local deities play a vital role in the development of these art forms.

It is in art where life and creativity are inseparable. The tribal arts have unique sensitivity, as the tribal people possess an intense awareness which is very different from the settled and urbanized people. Their minds are supple and intense with myth, legends, snippets from epic, multitudinous Gods born out of dream and fantasy. Their art is an expression of their life and holds their passion and mystery.

Sources: <https://googlewebbight.com>

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Glossary:

Unique	: having no equal or like
Distinctive	: of a feature that helps to distinguish a person or thing.
Sculpture	: a three dimensional work of plastic art.
Prehistoric	: belonging to or existing in times before recorded history
Altars	: a raised structure on which gifts or sacrifices to a god are made.
Astronomical	: Big, Huge
Deities	: Gods
Supple	: bending readily without breaking
Snippets	: small or insignificant
Multitudinous	: numerous, abundant

Comprehension:

I. Answer the following in a sentence or two.

1. Where can we see the prehistoric rock paintings?
2. Who initiated the rock cut caves?
3. Who imitated them?
4. Where do we see the rock cut caves?
5. Identify the **Synonyms** for the Nouns (Except Proper nouns) used in the first and second paragraphs.
6. Find out **Antonyms** for the synonyms identified in question No. 5.

II. Answer the following in three or four sentences.

1. What are the various forms of art that evolved in Ancient India?
2. What do the tribal art traditions focus on?
3. What is inseparable from art?
4. Identify the **Sentence Pattern** of the following:
 1. Buddhists' initiated the rock cut caves.
 2. Fairs play a vital role in the development of arts.
5. Identify the **Parts of Speech of the words** in the given sentences:
 1. The use of symbolic forms in India is as old as the Harappan seals.
 2. It is in art where life and creativity are inseparable.

Pattern - 1

Subject + Verb (S.V)

- E.g.: 1.The bird flies.
2. The dog barked.
3. The flowers blossom.

Pattern – 2

Subject + Verb+ Object (SVO)

- E.g.:1. Galileo invented the telescope.
2. The children make kites.

Pattern – 3

Subject + verb+ Direct object + Indirect object (SVDIO)

- E.g.: 1.The postman brought her a letter.
2. My uncle gave me a gift.

Pattern – 4

Subject + Verb+ Complement (SVC)

- E.g.: 1.The world is wide.
2. The sky grew dark.
3. Milk turns sour.

Pattern – 5

Subject +Verb +Object + Complement (SVOC)

- E.g.: 1. I read a book today.
2. We selected Raju our leader.

Pattern – 6

Subject + Verb + Complement + Adjunct (SVCA)

- E.g.: 1.They reside in Delhi now.
2. We become busy last evening.

Other Patterns

1. Subject + Verb + Infinitive

_____ She wanted to resign.

S V Infinitive

2. Subject + Verb + that clause

She proved that it was a fact.

S V that clause

3. Verb + Object (VO)

1. Change yourself.

V O

2. Match the following.

V

O

2. Modern Women Artists

Introduction:

This chapter gives an outline of the life stories of some women artists, who by following their inner-call for creativity and their dint of hard work have achieved excellence in their chosen fields.

All the artists came from different social strata. Amrita Sher-Gil was bi-racial product and excelled in painting. B.Pratibha, also a painter, came from a Maharashtrian rural background and poverty, portrayed "Life of rural woman" as her main theme. Pratima Devi was born in an illustrious artistic Bengali family- that was an impetus for expressing her artistic talent in painting and other art forms. Sheela Gowda of Karnataka took very bold and innovative steps in creating art forms by making use of ordinary material, commonly neglected as useless, to highlight the nuances of women in a patriarchal society.

Amrita Sher-Gil (1913 – 1941)

Amrita Sher-Gil was an eminent Hungarian-Indian painter. She has been called "one of the greatest avant-garde women artists of the early 20th century" and a "pioneer" in modern Indian art. Drawn to painting at a young age, Sher-Gil started getting formal lessons in art, at the age of eight. Sher-Gil first gained recognition at the age of 19, for her oil painting entitled "Young Girls (1932)". Sher-Gil travelled throughout her life to countries including Turkey, France, and India, deriving heavily from their art styles and cultures. Sher-Gil is considered an important woman painter of 20th-century India, whose legacy stands on a level with that of the pioneers of Bengal Renaissance. She was also an avid reader and a pianist. Sher-Gil's paintings are among the most expensive by Indian women painters.

B. Prabha (1933–2001)

She was a major Indian artist who worked mainly in oil, in an instantly recognizable style. She is best known for graceful elongated figures of pensive rural women, with each canvas in a single dominant colour. During her lifetime she could exhibit her paintings in over 50 exhibitions. Her major collections are exhibited at India's National Gallery of Modern Art. Prabha started working at a time when India had few women artists. Her inspiration was Amrita Sher -Gil. She was moved by the lives of rural women, and over time, they became the main theme of her work.

The expression of pathetic condition of rural women made her to say in an interview with "Youngbuzz India," she said: "I have yet to see one happy woman".

Before moving to Bombay, she studied at the Nagpur School of Art. She was a graduate of the Sir J. J. School of Art - alma mater to many of India's great contemporary artists. In

1956 she married artist and sculptor B. Vithal, who died in 1992. Prabha came to Bombay as a struggling artist, with little money—"Rs 2 and 11 paise." She sold some pieces of jewellery to raise funds. She and her artist husband were aided by friends who gave them a place to stay and by others who stored their art-work. Her first exhibition, while she was still a student, set her on the path to success when three of her paintings were acquired by eminent Indian scientist Homi J. Bhabha.

Pratima Devi (1893-1969)

Pratima was the daughter of Binayini Devi, sister of Gaganendranath and Abanindranath Tagore. Brought up in a family of artists, Pratima developed a keen aesthetic sense. If as a child she imbibed artistic qualities from her family; as the daughter-in-law she developed her mental and spiritual faculties with guidance from Rabindranath Tagore, her father-in-law. He personally looked after her education, recommending books for her to read. His letters to the young bride show how anxious he was that her personality should outgrow the narrow mould in which women were kept. Pratima was one of the first students of the 'Vichitra club' and studio. She learnt painting from Nandalal Bose and this interest in art remained with her till the end. Accompanying Rabindranath Tagore and her husband she had travelled to many distant places. She would try and learn a new craft wherever she went and would incorporate these into the curriculum at 'Silpa Sadan'. She is also associated with Rabindranath Tagore in the production of dance-dramas and plays so much so that she was always consulted when a stage was being designed for a performance.

Sheela Gowda (1957)

Sheela Gowda is born in 1957 at Bhadravati. She is a contemporary artist living and working in Bangalore. Trained as a painter, Gowda expanded her practice and paved way for modern art. She is known for her process oriented work.

Incorporating sculpture, installation art, and photography showcasing urban and rural India, [Sheela Gowda](#) creates works using everyday materials, including ordinary things found in and around recycled objects and materials like cow dung, red *kumkum* (turmeric), incense, human hair, gold-leaf, ceremonial dyes, and domestic materials such as coconut fibres, needles, threads, and cord.

Gowda's practice heavily relies on its process, which makes us to forget the limitations of art and craft, and questions the role of female subjectivity in the context of religion, nationalism and violence that constitutes contemporary India.

Her important work of art entitled "*And Tell Him of My Pain* (2001)" employed over 100 meters of coiled thread dyed with red *kumkum*, suspended and draped across the space to form a three-dimensional drawing. The work gives reference to India's mixed culture and the textile industry – traditionally parts of a woman's lived experience – to highlight the pain of female domestic life in a patriarchal society.

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Glossary:

Elongate : To become longer

Avid : Enthusiastic

Acquire : to get, purchase

Legacy : inheritance, gift

Process : Steps taken in order to achieve something

Critiques : a written estimate of the merits of a performance; a criticism

Reductive : that which lessens, decreases

Installation : Action of putting something

Ethnography : a branch of anthropology that deals with the scientific description and classification of various cultures.

Mould : give shape

Avant-garde : New and modern ideas

Assemblage : collection of things, group of people

Pensive : deep thinking

Aesthetic : understanding of beautiful things

Alma Mater : A term applied by students to the school/college/university where they have been educated

Three dimensional :Having or appearing to have length, breadth and depth

Comprehensions:

- I. Answer the following in a sentence or two.
1. When did Amrita gain recognition and for which painting?
 2. When did she get formal lessons in art?
 3. What is extra ordinary about Prabha's work of art?
 4. Who is the inspiration for B.Prabha's paintings?
 6. Who purchased three paintings of Prabha?
 7. What types of paintings were painted by B.Prabha?
 8. What are the objects that Sheela Gowda used for her paintings?
 9. Identify the **Prepositions** used in the lesson.
 10. Identify the **articles** used in the lesson.
- II. Answer the following in three or four sentences.
1. Name the countries to which Amrita travelled and Why?
 2. Explain the family background of Pratima Devi to become an artist?
 3. Explain the theme of several oil paintings of Prabha.
 4. Explain the theme of Sheela Gowda's work of art?
 5. Identify the **nouns** used in the lesson.
 6. Identify the **adjectives** in the lesson.
- III Write short notes on:
1. Who trained Pratima devi in Art and how?
 2. Which are the art forms which Sheela Gowda is known for?
 3. Write a note on Amrtia Sher-Gils paintings?
 4. Write a note on Prabha's struggle as an artist.
 5. Change the **adjectives** used in the lesson into **adverbs**.

Grammar:

Correction of Sentences:

Correction of sentences refers to the detection of errors in a sentence and correcting them. This is a very common exercise to assess the grammatical knowledge of the students about the correctness of a sentence with reference to the following.

1. Agreement of subject and verb.
2. Correct use of numbers (singular and plural)
3. Time and sense.

4. Correct use of pronouns.
5. Passivization.
6. Degrees of adjectives.
7. Use of articles.
8. Use of prepositions.
9. Use of sentence linkers etc.

These are the some of the exercises which are commonly asked in the examinations.
The students are advised to discuss the errors with their teachers.

1. They bought new furniture.
2. She has curly hairs.
3. We saw beautiful scenaries.
4. His son-in-laws are in abroad.
5. Many villagers cannot write his name.
6. Lata is taller than me.
7. I and my sister went to market.
8. Daily he is going for a walk.
9. She is liking icecream.
10. We are waiting for the bus since morning.
11. I have lost my purse yesterday.
12. The Mumbai is a capital city.
13. Golgumbaj is a historical monument.
14. Kolkata is a largest city in India.
15. He is searching for the job.
16. They always travel in train.
17. We cut apples by a knife.
18. She jumped in the well.
19. I am angry on my friend.
20. She is married with an actor.
21. Shakespeare is greater than any dramatist.
22. One of my friend is an engineer.
23. None of these books are interesting.
24. Five rupees are not a big amount.
25. The teacher and poet are on the stage.
26. Train journey is cheaper than bus journey.
27. Hitler was the most cruelest man of Europe.
28. My shoes are better than you.

29. The two friends love one another.
30. You are going to market?
31. He asked me where was I going?
32. She is very ugly to see.
33. The boy is too intelligent.
34. Though he is poor but he is honest.
35. If you go to Vijaypur then you visit the Golgumbaj.
36. Unless you run fast you can reach soon.
37. You can not learn until you practice well.
38. The class teacher with his fifty students are going for a trip.
39. Bread and butter are my breakfast.
40. If Ravi comes here, we could play tennis.