

## Frequently Asked Questions

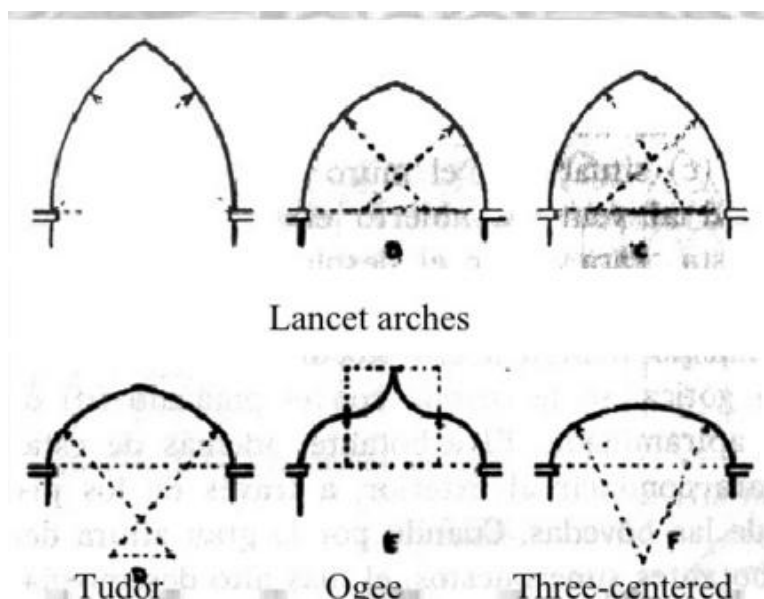
### Question 01:

Elaborate Gothic architecture.

### Answer:

Various people of western Europe, once under the Roman empire, split geographically into different countries. Geographical conditions vary so much in Europe which in turn had a direct influence on Architecture. The conditions of the Christian church and the rise of monastic communities precedent to the Gothic period. Popes made and unmade emperors and kings and disposed their dominions. In England the adoration for the Virgin Mary was responsible for the introduction of the lady chapels.

The term “Gothic” was employed by Sir Christopher Wren in the seventeenth century as a term of reproach for this style of Architecture, which had departed from those Classic styles of Architecture which he was instrumental in reestablishing. This term now is given to the Medieval Architecture of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries of Europe. Gothic Architecture of the 13<sup>th</sup> century throughout Europe was slowly evolved from Romanesque Architecture. Mainly distinguished by the introduction of the pointed arch. The Gothic masons utilized stones to its utmost capacity.



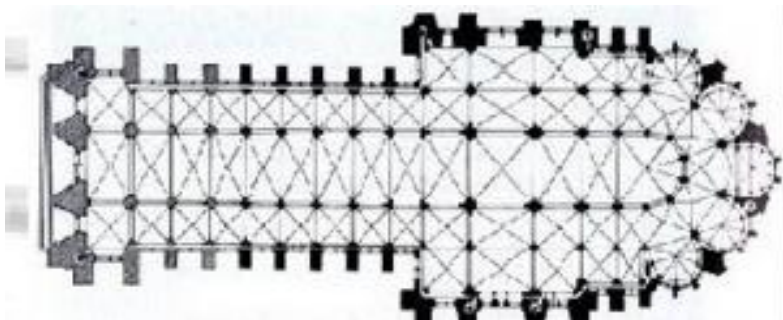
### **Question 02:**

Explain cathedral architecture with French and English cathedral planning concepts

### **Answer:**

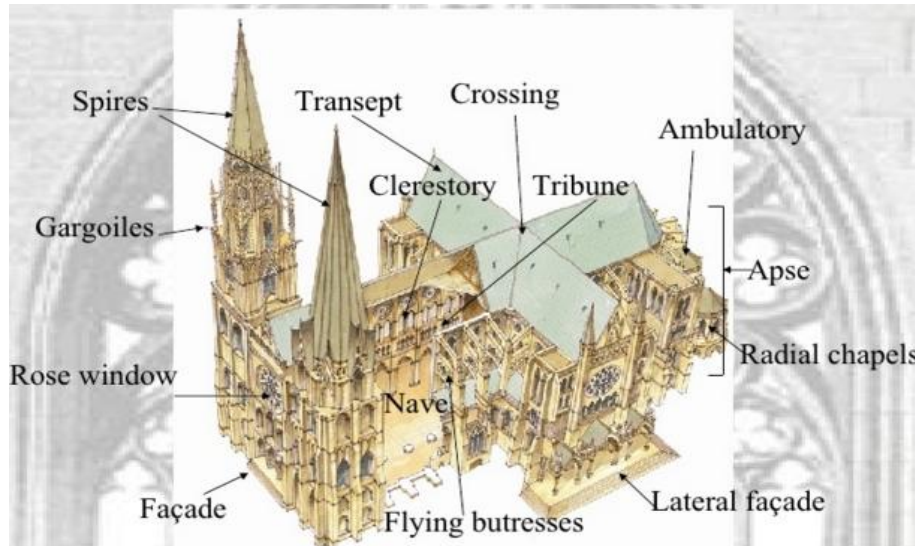
Cathedrals are most representative building. Cathedrals in the Medieval times occupied the place of first importance in national life. Church plans in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Italy are in the form of a Latin cross of which, the short arms form the North and South transepts. Churches had cruciform planning from Basilican churches or from tombs from Constantine's period. Main body of the church generally stretches westwards.

- There can be three or five naves in French cathedrals.
- They have ambulatory and radial chapel.
- Cover is of ribbed vault
- Two towers in the façade



- The principal entrance is generally at the west in France, where it is flanked by towers
- The same is in South or North side in England where it is protected by Porch.
- In England, the normal preference was square end to the sanctuary
- Many cathedrals were enhanced in the later year and then given a square end

- English cathedrals are conspicuous for great length in comparison to the width
- Stand in open space
- French cathedrals are often surrounded by houses and shops
- Cathedrals are of popular origin

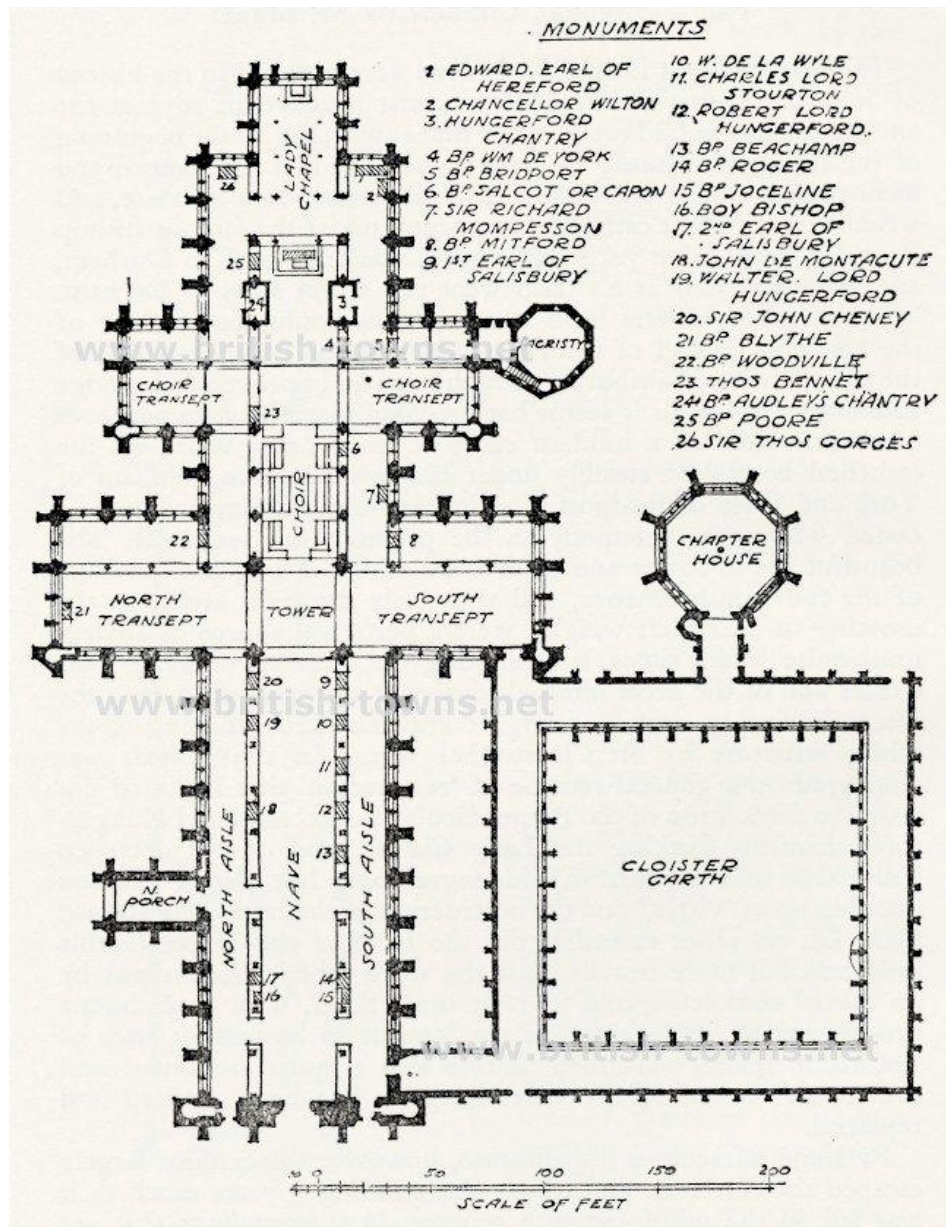


### **Question 03:**

Explain the architecture of Salisbury Cathedral.

### **Answer:**

- The cathedral was built between AD 1220 and 1258
- It was built on a Level site
- Surrounded by green sward of a wide “close”, broken only by elm trees
- It is constructed almost entirely in Early English style
- Characteristic of English Gothic
- Double transepts and Central tower forms the most important feature of the cathedral.



- Decorative spire which is 404 ft high
- This is the loftiest cathedral in England
- Western façade is a little unimpressive, but a fine vaulted north porch projects boldly
- Decorative cloisters forms a major part of the elevation

Note: Add sketches to supplement your answer.

#### **Question 04:**

Explain the architecture of Westminster Abbey

**Answer:**

- It is a Monastic establishment
- The cathedral stands on what was once thorny island
- It is said to be standing on the site of a church built by Sebert in AD 616
- The Benedictine Monastery was found by S Dunsten in AD 960
- It was partly rebuilt by Edward the Confessor just before the Norman Conquest and dedicated to St.Peter. (AD 1055 – 65)
- The abbey exhibited multiple construction styles, from Norman or Romanesque to Medieval or Gothic
- The successive phases of Early English architecture is prominent
- The Monastery is the largest of Benedictine foundations
- It comprised of Abbey Church and a square cloister court, surrounded by open arcades of various dates
- The refectory, dormitory and octagonal chapter house, with a fine vault and bold flying buttresses in the exterior.
- Outer court and Inner court called Dean's yard and Little Dean's yard respectively
- Most of the existing Monastic buildings date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the time of Abbot Litlengton
- The greater part of the Abbey church was rebuilt on a grander scale by Henry III
- The church is main French in character
- Early example in England of the geometric style
- Twisted columns filled with glass mosaics

- The interior of Abbey betrays the French influence in loftiness and tall clearstory
- North transept façade is emphatically French with cavernous porches and rose window
- The nave continued westward by Edward III and others, adhered to the 13<sup>th</sup> century general design
- In the sanctuary and transepts, a cylindrical pier is surrounded by four detached shafts of Purbeck marble, as was usual in the early English periods
- The western towers were added (AD 1735 – 40) BY John James or Nicholas Hawksmoor
- Extreme length – 511 ft. 6 in.
- Unusually spaced Triforium used for coronation ceremonies
- 102 ft high nave vault is the highest Gothic vault in England
- Extreme east has the celebrated chapel of Henry VII (AD 1502 – 12)
- Built in the Tudor period as a mausoleum of the king, on the site of the lady chapel of AD 1220
- The tomb of Henry VII and his queen Elizabeth of York is enclosed in a remarkable gun metal screen of Gothic design
- The buttresses of previous Gothic period have here given place to octagonal piers, between which the windows form a mere screen
- The Abbey is impressive as a triumph of English Gothic Architecture
- It has grown with the English nation grown and has woven itself in the stone of English history
- Represents the growth of centuries
- Built, altered, adorned and repaired

- It is considered as the epitome of Architectural art