

FAQs

1. What is cross-cultural influence?

Cross-cultural influence is defined as a style that is relating to or involving two or more different cultures or countries. One of the main reasons for the establishment of cross-cultural influence across the world, was trade. These were not simply trade relations. Along the trade routes went on exchange of ideas, cultures and lifestyles.

2. Name any four princely states

- Mysore
- Travancore
- Hyderabad
- Kashmir

3. Explain the architectural features found in princely states

- When the British replaced the Mughals as the controlling group, the inspiration for much of Indian architecture became English in origin, closely tied with what was happening in Britain. As for the princes, they were educated along British lines, taken on tours of Europe and introduced to Western manners and norms. This change in lifestyle began to be reflected in their architecture as well.
- **In their palaces, old reception rooms gave way to durbar halls, rooms for European guests were built and ways to entertain guests were provided. Dining and drawing rooms were introduced; fireplaces, marble fountains and statues, oil paintings and stuffed animals began to be displayed in the halls and drawing rooms.**
- The princes were expected to be both traditional and modern – to retain traditional feudal powers but to create a new India.
- The new princely towns of Jaipur, Bikaner and Mysore showed themselves amongst the most successful in negotiating this divide. Their towns were modelled along British examples – clock towers, railway stations, public offices, assembly halls, water systems and public hospitals were built. Buildings were European classical, or if constructed later, Indo-Saracenic, or again an eclectic mix.

4. Briefly explain the salient features of Rajput architecture

- The lavish palaces and forts built by the Rajput kings bear testimony to their aesthetic sense. The majestic forts in Rajasthan comprise Chittorgarh, Gwalior, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Amber and Ranthambor speak volumes about their architecture.

- One of the excellent specimens of Rajput architecture is the Jaya Sthamba or Victory Tower in Chittor. It is a 9 storeyed structure that has been elaborately decorated with sculpted statues of Hindu deities. It is a square structure with balcony, windows and mouldings on its four sides.
- Elaborate architecture, impressive mosaic works, carved balconies, jharokhas, inlaid mirror works, and miniature paintings have been heavily used by the kings to build their palaces in Rajasthan. These royal abodes were often built by the lakeside or were accompanied by gardens. The palace at Jodhpur is a fine instance.