

ABHINAYAA
INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH & FINE ARTS (REGD.)
MASTER DIPLOMA II (50 MARKS)

Q. 1. Read the following passage and answer the question given below: (10M)

Hailed as the oldest classical dance form of India. Bharatanatyam is believed to have originated in the Tanjore district of the south Indian State Tamil nadu. It is highly popular classical dance form the roots of Bharatanatyam are related to Bharata muni's Natya shastra. like most of the Classical dance forms of India, Bharatanatyam is also devotional temple dance in ancient time. since it was performed by devadasis it was earlier known as "Daasiyattam". 'sadhir attam' was another name for this dance form.

While it almost lost its significance during the British rule in India, it was revived later when a cultural academy was set up by two dancers. These dancers were Rukmini Devi and E. Krishna Iyer. this beautiful and graceful dance form relies on technique and grammars of body movements. Facial Expression and mudras are also an essential part of Bharatanatyam, like another Indian classical dance form. Bharatanatyam is not simply a popular classical dance form, but is also considered an excellent cardio exercise beneficial for blood circulation in the body and keep the muscles toned.

A Bharatanatyam performance typically consists of six sections they are

- Alarippu
- Jatishwarm
- Shabdham
- Varnam
- Padam
- Thillana

The performance commences with Alarippu, which is an invocation thanking God and the Guru, seeking their blessings. It is also like a warm-up before the actual dance starts. This is followed by Jatishwarm, in which melody is added to the dance. The drums begin the carnatic music rendition and dancer synchronized body movements to the Beats. Shabdham is the third section. It is the addition of expressed words to the dance and is followed by varnam, which is the core of the Bharatanatyam performance.

There are expressions and footwork in this stage. The dancer narrates the story with hand and body movements. Varnam is the main component of the entire dance recital. Next is the Padam, where Abhinaya is added. The music lightens and the dance becomes more engrossed.

The performance then concludes with Thillana, which is the climax section of the dance. There is also an additional seventh section performance, which is called 'shlokam' or 'mangalam' through it is not part of the typical dance routine, it is the part where the dancer seeks the blessings of everyone around. However, there are 3 different Bharatanatyam styles that are commonly known and practiced. The melathur style draws from the devadasi tradition and melathur Bhagavada Mela. In this particular style, feet are not stamped on the floor but anklets are used to match the rhythm. 'Pancha Nadais' and 'Gati Bhedas' makes melatur style different from other styles of Bharatanatyam.

The emphasis in this one is on Shringara more than Bhakti. This principles of Natyadharmi and lokadharmi are applied to it. This style is very expressive and has spontaneous movement. The Kalakshetra style is more like a simplified version of the Pandanalloor style, it has sharp and controlled body movements. There are only a few Shringara movement in this style.

The Kalakshetra or Pandanallur style has its roots in the Pandanallur village of Tamil Nadu. It is Feminine, slow and Rhythmic style with mostly sitting position. The vazhuvoor style is rich in Shringara and makes use of natural expression.

While you might have heard the word 'adavus' you may not know what it exactly means. An adavu is a combination of the legs, standing posture, hand gestures and walking movement. In the language of Bharatanatyam one can define it as blend of mandalam I, Chari, Nritha Hasta and Sthanakam. When these four elements are in complete synchronisation or Taal, it forms an adavu.

Carnatic Classical music is an essential part of performance. Veena, Kanjira, Manjira, Mridangam, Nadaswaram, Nattuvangam, Violin and Flute (also called venu) are the Instrument used by the vocalist in Bharatanatyam performance is called 'Nattuvanar'.

Q.1) Questions:

(5m)

- 1) What is Bharatanatyam Dance?
- 2) What is Bharatanatyam Dance section Name and purpose?
- 3) What are the Different styles of Bharatanatyam? Explain?
- 4) What is meant by Adavus? Describe it. Name Any Five Adavus.
- 5) What are the instruments used in Bharatanatyam?

Q.2) Fill in the blank:

(5m)

- a) The vocalist in a Bharatanatyam Performance is Called _____.
- b) Bharatanatyam is believed to have originated in the _____ district of the _____ state _____.
- c) The roots of Bharatanatyam are related to _____, _____.
- d) _____ and _____ Makes melathur styles of Bharatanatyam.
- e) In the language of Bharatanatyam are can define it as a blend of _____, _____, and _____.

Q.3) Answer the following question in Brief:

(30 M)

- 1) Explain Margam?
- 2) what are the ANGAS of all the Sapta thalas?
- 3) Explain thala and its varieties Formula?

Q.4) Answer the following:

(5m)

- a) What is the Benefit of Dance?
- b) Which are the Sources of Natya Veda?
- c) Name the Tanjavur Brother?
- d) How Many Types of Alarippu are there?
- e) What is Abhinayaa?