

Music and Paintings of the Mughal Period

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Music and Paintings of Mughal Period history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Mughal Painting



Origins & Founders

- **Founder:** Emperor Humayun laid the foundation.
- **Key Artists:** During his exile, Humayun met and later brought Persian painters **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Khwaja Abdus Samad** to India.
- **Establishment:** He established a royal painting studio (atelier).
- **First Major Project:** Illustrating the "Dastan-e-Amir Hamza," a project that:
 - Took 15 years to complete.
 - Involved over 50 artists.

Characteristics & Styles

- **Style:** A unique blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic artistic styles.
- **Subjects:** Depicted a wide range of subjects, including:
 - Battle scenes.
 - Animals, birds, and natural scenes.

- Court scenes and courtiers.
- **Evolution:** Under Emperor Jahangir, the focus shifted from illustrated manuscripts to albums and individual portraits.

Prominent Artists

- **Ustad Mansur:** A famous court artist for Jahangir, renowned for his detailed paintings of plants, birds, and animals.
- **Khwaja Abdus Samad & Mir Sayyid Ali:** The founding artists who began their work under Humayun.
- **Jahangir's Court Painters:** Included Abul Hasan, Aqa Riza, Ustad Mansur, Bishan Das, Manohar, and Govardhan.

Patronage & Evolution

- **Akbar:** Established formal Karkhanas/Tasvir Khana (painting workshops) and had a great personal interest in painting.
- **Jahangir:** Under his passionate patronage, Mughal painting flourished and reached its zenith. He loved portraits, scenes from his own life, and depictions of nature.
- **Influence:** The Mughal style became highly influential, forming the "spinal cord" for other Indian schools like Pahari, Rajasthani, and Kangra.
- **Exception:** The Kalighata school of painting was **not** influenced by the Mughal style.

Indian Classical Music

Ragas & Styles

- **Todi Raga:** A Hindustani classical raga meant to be sung early in the morning.
- **Dhrupad:** A prominent vocal style during the Mughal era.

Prominent Musicians & Patrons

- **Mian Tansen:**
 - Original name: Ramtanu Pandey.
 - Titles: 'Tansen' was given by Raja Vikramjit of Gwalior; 'Mian' was given by Akbar.
 - Expertise: A master Dhrupad singer who composed songs on Hindu gods and invented many ragas.
 - Patronage: First worked for Raja Ramchandra Singh of Rewa (Bhata) before joining Akbar's court.
 - Tomb: Located in Gwalior.
- **Swami Haridas:**
 - A spiritual master, poet, and classical musician who specialized in Dhrupad.
 - Teacher of legendary musicians Tansen and Baiju Bawra.
 - His followers established five music worship centers (ashrams).
- **Akbar:** A great patron of music; learned Hindu music from Lala Kalawant and included Tansen among his Navratnas (nine jewels).
- **Aurangzeb:** Officially opposed to music for religious reasons but was a skilled Veena player himself.

Literary Works

- Amir Khusro is credited with composing "Ashiq".
- Mulla Daud wrote "Chandayan".
- Damodar Kavi wrote "Padmavati Katha".
- Somnath wrote "Rag Vibodh".

Other Painting Schools

- The **Pahari, Rajput (Rajasthani), Mughal, and Kangra** schools are all famous styles of Indian miniature painting.
- The **Kishangarh school** (from Rajasthan) is famous for its depiction of **Bani Thani**.
 - It was patronized by the highly educated King **Sawant Singh**.

Know More About Music and Paintings of the Mughal Period:

- [Music and Paintings of Mughal Period– Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Music and Paintings of the Mughal Period: One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

