



# IAS MAINS 2019-GS1

## Q1- Answer

- By

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# Gandhara Arts

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- **Highlight the Central Asian and Greco Bactrian elements in Gandhara Art**



# Introduction

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- **What is Gandhara Art?**
- **When it started and where is it present?**

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- **Gandhara art represents the art form that developed and spread in north-western part of India from 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The major centres of activity were cities including Jalalabad, Bamiyan, Taxila and Peshawar.**

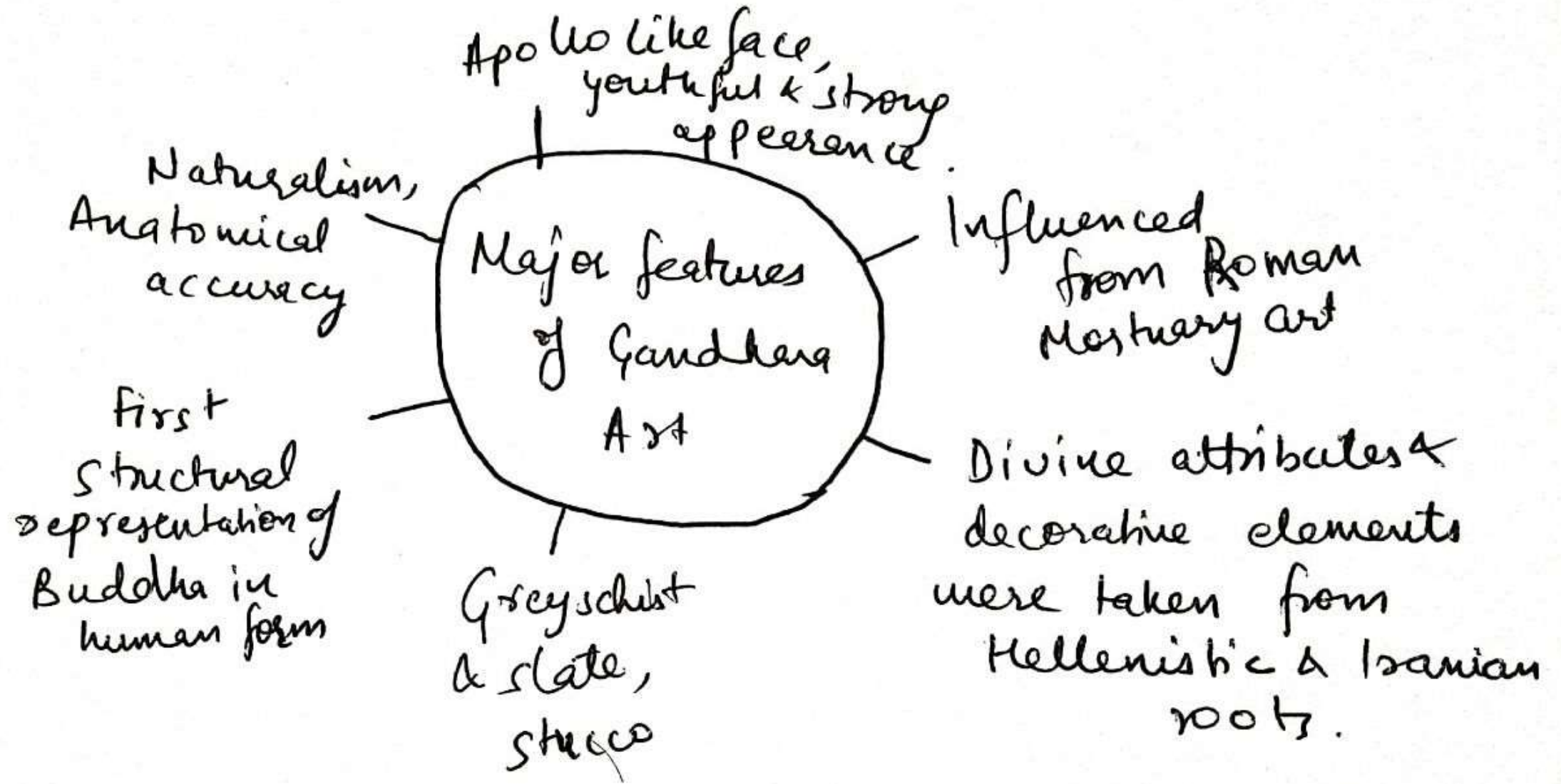
- **The Gandhara School of art had developed in first century AD along with Mathura School during reign of Kushana emperor Kanishka. It is an amalgam of Hellenistic- Roman, Iranian and indigenous art.**



**BODY**

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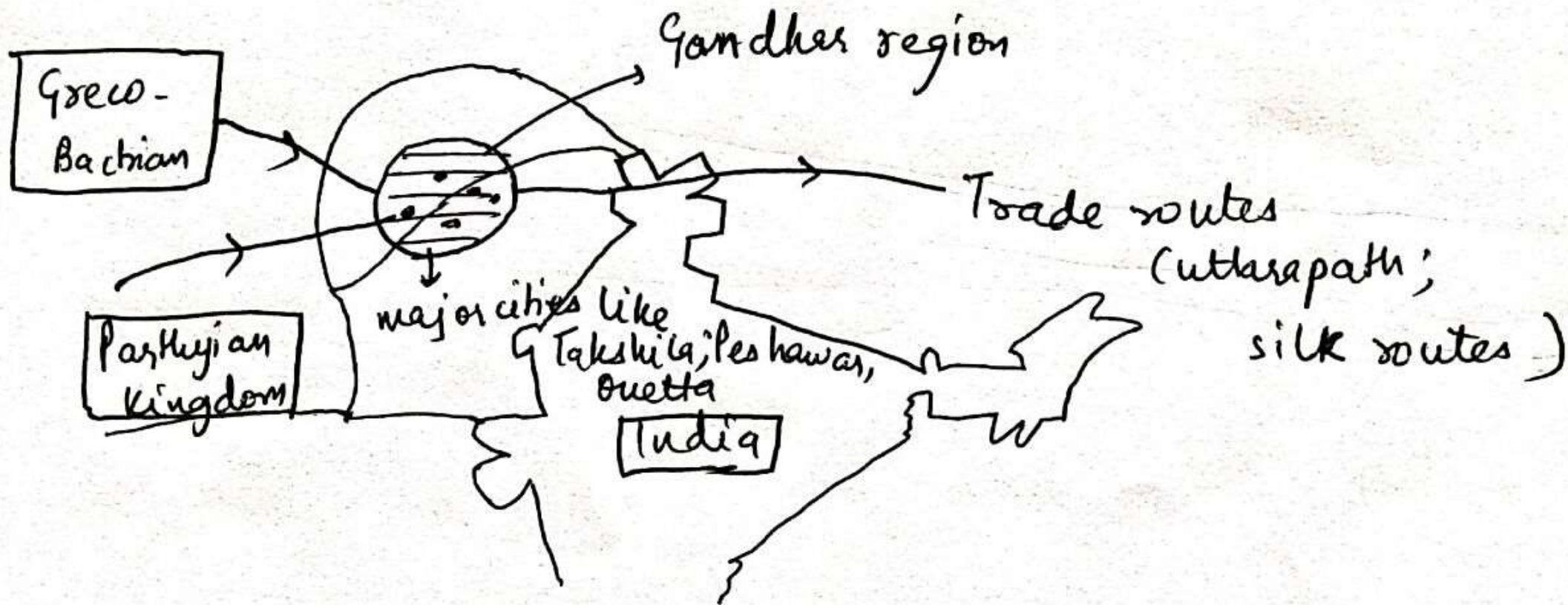


Fig: Cultural cross roads and influences on Gandhara due to trade routes and foreign political powers

- Ideology
- Themes and Material
- Style

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# Ideology

- Representation of Buddha in Human Form unlike indigenous version of Buddha's representation by symbols.
- Acceptance of Mahayana form and concept of Bodddhisatva



# Themes and Material

- Despite most sculptures being Buddhist, some Hellenistic sculptures of Greek Deities like Apollo, Zeus, Athena also survives
- Many images of Buddha seen under protection of Greek God- Hercules

- **Intellectual imbibition of Buddha from Greek- Halo behind head, Abhaya Mudra, Top knot on head.**
- **Bacchanalian Scenes- Grape Wine making and drinking.**

- **Stucco plaster, which was commonly observed in Greek Art, was widely used in Gandharan art work for decoration of monastic and cult building.**

# Style

- **Depiction of Buddha as Man-God is inspired from Greek Mythology**
- **First structural representation of Buddha in Human Form**



- **Style has naturalism in body form, drapery with emphasis on perfection of human form.**
- **Wavy curled hair, sandals, appolo like face and sharp features**



# Conclusion

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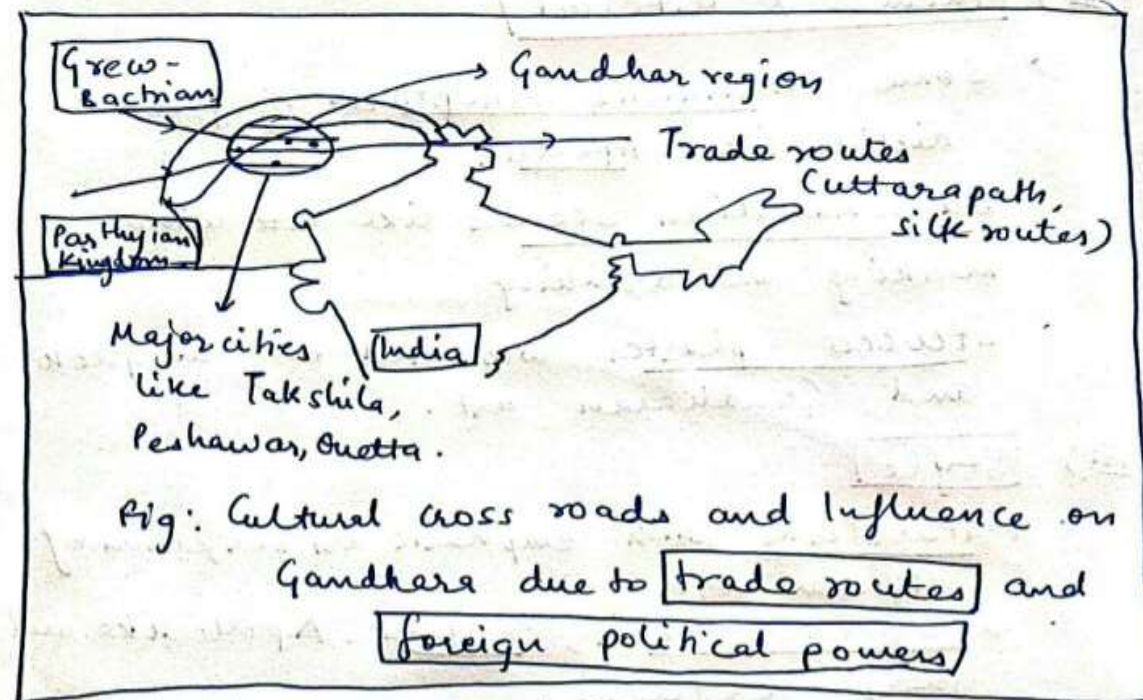
- Importance of Gandhara?
- How it impacts other art form?

- **The times of Indo-Greek, kushan and even Post kushan period can be read through Gandhara Art. It will help us understand what was happening in society, economy and culture of that period.**

- **Gandhara art in turn influenced various indigenous art form Like Mathura, Sarnath School of art and even the Hindu art forms. Thus inspite of all foreign influence, it forms an integral part of Indian Art and Culture.**

Q.1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara Art.

Gandhara art represents the art form that developed and spread in North-Western part of India from 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC to 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD. The major centres of activity were cities including Talashabad, Bamian, Taxila & Peshawar.





# Elements of Central Asia and Greco-Bactrian in Gandhara art →

## I) Ideology.

- Representation of Buddha in Human forms unlike indigenous version of Buddha's representation by symbols
- Acceptance of Mahayana form & concept of Bodhisattva.

## II) Themes & Material

- Some Hellenistic sculptures of Greek deities like Apollo.
- Bacchanelian scenes like ~~was~~ wine making and drinking
- Stucco plaster was used both in Greek and Gandharan art.

## III) Style

- Naturalism with emphasis on perfection of human form
- Wavy curled hair, sandals, Apollo like and sharp features.

Gandharan art influenced Mathura, Sarnath school, thus forms integral part of Indian art and culture.