

Asian Collection Quiz

Part I: Object Identification

1. Title: ***Seated Lohan***



Country of origin: *Chinese*

Date or period: *Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368)*

Medium: *Wood, gesso and polychrome*

2. Title: ***Balarama as the 8th Avatar of Vishnu***



Country of origin: *Mathura Area, India*

Date or period: *11th Century*

Medium: *Sandstone Sculpture*

3. Title: ***Horse Head***



Country of origin: *Japanese*

Date or period: *late Kofun period, 6th century*

Medium: *Haniwa earthenware*

4. Title: ***Zodiac Figures***



Country of origin: *China*

Date or period: *6th century*

Medium: *Earthenware*

5. Title: ***Buddhist Stele***



Country of origin: *China*

Date or period: *Tang Dynasty c. 697 CE*

Medium: *Limestone*

6. Title: ***Heads of Ni-O (Buddhist Gate Guardians)***



Country of Origin: *Japan*

Date or Period: *Muromachi Period (1334-1573)*

Medium: *Wood*

7. Title: ***Bodhisattva Guanyin***



Country of Origin: *China*

Date or Period: *Jin Dynasty, 12th-13th Century*

Medium: *Wood with polychrome*

8. Title: *Dancing Krishna*



Country of Origin: *South Indian*

Date or Period: *late Chola period, c. 1200*

Medium: *Bronze*

9. Title: *Armor with Helmet and Facemask*



Country of Origin: *Japanese*

Date or Period: *19th century*

Medium: *Lacquered iron helmet, mask and plates; iron chain-mail, arm and leg guards; patterned silk sleeves with stencil-dyed leather trim; silk cords throughout, metal and gilt wood horns*

12: Title: *Han Dancer and Musician* (Female Dancer and Musician Playing "quin zither"): *Eastern*



Country of Origin: *Chinese*

Date or Period: *Han Dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE)*

Medium: *Earthenware*

13: Title: *Buddha as the 9th Avatar of Vishnu*



Country of Origin: *Mathura Area, India*

Date or Period: *11th Century*

Medium: *Sandstone*

Part II: Short Essay Questions

1. Define Bodhisattva: *Divine helpers, beings who have reached enlightenment, but who delay entry into parinirvana in order to help others attain nirvana.*
2. Define avatar: *The incarnation of a Hindu deity.*
3. List the three main Hindu Gods:
Brahma, the creator
Vishnu, the protector and preserver
Shiva, the destroyer
4. Define the following Buddha attributes:
Urna: *A raised circle or jewel on the center of the forehead that signifies the power of concentrated thought and the Buddha's divine status.*

Ushnisha: *The large bump found only on the Buddha's head, signifies transcendent wisdom and the power of enlightenment.*

Elongated earlobes: *When prince Siddhartha left his family's palace to become a wandering ascetic, he renounced all the trappings of royalty. He removed the heavy earrings fashionable for men and women at the time, and his elongated earlobes remind the worshipper of his sacrifice.*

Folds around the neck: *Three folds depicted in the throat area originally as marks of beauty, but came to signify the importance of expression and teaching in the Buddha's life.*

Monk's robes: *The Buddha wears the traditional monk's robe rather than the fine clothing and jewelry worn by royalty.*

Mudra: *A symbolic hand gesture, indicating a specific teaching of Buddhism. For seated Buddhas, the most common mudras are the Meditation Gesture, the Earth-Touching Gesture, and the Turning the Wheel of Truth Gesture.*

Lotus throne: *Signifies that the Buddha has risen above the turbid waters of the world in the pure light of enlightenment.*

5. What information would you share with visitors about Japanese woodblock prints?

- *Prints are from the Edo Period in Japan when Edo (now Tokyo) became the capital*
- *They are printed from individually carved wooden blocks (one block for each color)*
- *They are hand printed individually on mulberry paper*
- *They are called Ukiyo-e or “pictures of the floating world” which depicted scenes of everyday life, landscapes, Kabuki theater, myths, and courtesan life*
- *There are 1500 of these prints in our museum’s collection*

6. How is lacquer ware made?

The value of the highly toxic sap of the lacquer tree (Urushi) has been known in Japan since prehistoric times. The value of a piece of lacquer ware begins with the materials used to make it. A high quality piece of lacquer ware requires the skills of several different artists and up to ten years to complete.

1. *Create a core, usually wood that is shaped and seasoned so it will be a stable base.*
2. *The core is impregnated with raw lacquer to make it waterproof and ready to accept subsequent coats of increasingly refined lacquer.*
3. *Each coat must harden before it is polished and the next coat is applied. The object is placed in a specially controlled environment of high temperature and humidity.*
4. *Polishing uses abrasives ranging from powdered stone to crushed flower petals.*
5. *When the object has a silken smoothness and high luster it is ready to be decorated.*
6. *Once decorated the final step is to apply and polish the top clear lacquer coats. There is a Japanese saying, "Urushi should be applied in a boat at sea," which refers to this last step. It is crucial that not a speck of dust should be allowed to touch the surface as the last coats of lacquer are applied and hardened.*