India has a rich and varied culture as characterized in the later art of the subcontinent, dating from the 14th through the 19th century. Art and culture is an important topic in the UPSC Exam. A substantial number of questions can be asked from the art and culture segment in UPSC Prelims as well as Mains examination. Here we are giving the major difference between Gandhara School of Art and Mathura school of Art.

GANDHARA SCHOOL OF ARTS
During Kushana rule the Gandhara art prospered in India. Above all, Kanishka, the greatest of the Kushanas was a famous backer of art and architecture. The Gandhara School of art flourished in his reign. Gandhara School was profoundly influenced by Greek methodologies.

The figures of Buddha were more spiritual and carved mainly in grey and bluish-grey color with the finest detailing.

MATHURA SCHOOL OF ARTS
The Mathura School of Art was entirely influenced by Indianism. The stone used in the Mathura school of arts was red sandstone. The sculptures were less spiritual.

They mostly used the spotted red sandstone for making sculptures and statues. The initial images of the Buddha and the Bodhisattva are happy and fleshy figures with little spirituality about them. The Mathura School of arts prided themselves on creating images of Buddha and they also made statues of many gods and goddesses such as Jain Tirthankaras.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GANDHARA AND MATHURA SCHOOL OF ARTS

<table>
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<th>Gandhara School of art</th>
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<td>Outside influences</td>
<td>Greek influence</td>
<td>• Purely indigenous</td>
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| Religious influence | Buddhism  
Hellenistic realism | • Hinduism  
• Buddhism  
• Jainism  
• Secularism |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Material Used       | Bluish- Grey sandstone  
Grey sandstone | Spotted red sandstone |
| Features of Buddha  | Spiritual Buddha  
Sad Buddha  
Bearded Buddha  
Less ornamentation  
Great detailing  
Buddha in Yogi postures  
Greek factors like wavy hair, large forehead, long ears | Delighted Buddha  
Less spiritual  
Shaven head and face  
Muscularity  
Energetic  
Graceful posture of Buddha  
Seated in Padmasana  
Buddha surrounded by two monks: Padmapani (holding Lotus) and Vajrapani (Holding Vajra)  
Halo around the head of Buddha decorated with geometrical motifs  
The Standing Buddhas of the Sravasti, Sarnath, and Kausambhi  
Sarvatobhadrika image of 4 Jain Jinas |
| Buddha in Gandhara  | Abhayamudra- Don’t fear  
Bhumisparshamudra -Touching the earth  
Dhyana mudra- Meditation  
Dharmachakramudra- A preaching mudra | — |
| Art                 | —                   | —                   |