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Start Time: *7:00 pm* End Time: *8:30 pm*

ANSWER SHEET SECTIONAL TEST- III (MEDIEVAL INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

There are FOUR questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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Comments after evaluation

Q.1 Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10x3=30

Q.1 (a) Briefly discuss the Deccan campaign of Alauddin Khalji and evaluate its importance. [10 Marks]

Ans:- Alauddin Khalji was the first ruler of Delhi Sultanate who carried the flag of the Turkish rule beyond the Vindhyas.

The campaign was:-

i) Based on indirect rule after subjugating the territories of the rulers.

ii) The kingdoms included

Yadavas of Deogiri

↓
Kakatiyas of Warangal

↓
Hoyasalas of Dwarasamudra.

He reached upto Rameswaram

iii) The campaign was led by Malik Kafur

The importance can be evaluated as:-

i) Cultural influence:- Islamic elements reached Deccan in a large way

ii) Paved way for future conquests under

Mohammad Bin Tughlaq

- (iii) Political significance :- The powers of the Deccan kingdoms was reduced substantially which helped in future conquests.
- (iv) The economic conditions of the Deccan states was ruined.

Alauddin Khalji was an imperialist of the highest order and the Deccan campaign was a reflection of this.

Q.1 (b) How far do you agree with the statement that the Caliphate was the source and sanction of the legal authority of the Delhi Sultans. [10 Marks]

Ans: - The historians who consider the Delhi Sultanate as a theocratic state argue that Caliphate was the source of legal authority of the Delhi sultans.

Evidences in support

- Iltutmish sent his people to the Caliph to seek his authority. It was continued by various other sultans
- They used to wear the robe sent by Caliph while sitting on throne
- Coins were issued in the name of the Caliph
- They called themselves as commanders of the faith of the Caliph.

This seems to suggest that the sultans were subordinate of Caliph

But on the contrary, evidences against

- Iltutmish asked Caliph only in 1229

- many years after sitting on throne
- No Sultan got the throne because the Caliph wanted it or no one was summoned on that pretext
 - Not all Sultans sought investiture from the Caliph.

Thus, seeking the Caliph's sanction can be called to be just a political move to increase the acceptance rather than having any legal significance.

Q.1 (c) "Sher Shah Suri was a precursor of Akbar." Comment critically. [10 Marks]

Ans:- Sher Shah Suri sat on the throne of Delhi in 1540, reigned for a brief period of five years but left a lasting impact.

He can be said to be a precursor of Akbar because:-

i) Revenue reforms:- The zabti system was introduced by him

- ↳ based on survey and measurement
- ↳ fertility of soil considered
- ↳ land revenue reduced to $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of produce

These reforms were further carried forward by Akbar

ii) Coinage:- High quality silver rupiya and opper den were issued.

These were issued by Akbar also

iii) Military reforms:-

- Regular inspection of army
- 'Daghi' and chakra system etc.

These were further carried ahead by Akbar

iv) largely secular religious policy of state both by Akbar and Sher Shah Suri.

At the same time, there were diff-
erences between the two: -

i) Sher Shah Suri used fair and foul means to win power

↳ used forged letters to defeat Maldeo

↳ treacherously killed family of
Raisen's Pawan Mal

Such instances not seen under Akbar

ii) Degree of secularism less in case of Sher Shah Suri: - Jizya was there and his nobility was largely Afghan

Although there were differences,
Sher Shah Suri can be said to be a precursor
of Akbar in a large way.

Q.2 (a) "Prosperity breeds sedition and revolt, poverty was the guarantee of stability and peace."
In the light of this statement, analyse the economic policy of Alauddin Khalji. [20 Marks]

Ans:- After sitting on the throne of Delhi in 1296, Alauddin Khalji first tried to gauge the reasons for recurring revolts in the empire.

According to Ziauddin Barani in Ta'rikh-i-Firoz Shahi, he founded four reasons

- Availability of surplus money with people
- Consumption of wine
- Interpersonal relations among the nobles
- Inefficient spy system.

So, he tried to rectify them.

The economic reforms that he undertook in this context were:-

i) Introduced new land revenue system called Masahat system

The features were

- Survey and measurement of land
- Sample cutting after harvest was ready

- land revenue was increased to 50% of produce
- no provision of any state help in case of natural calamities or emergency
- provision to pay in cash or kind
- in Doab region, 50% of payment should be in cash

ii) Curtailing powers of intermediaries

- All the powers of khuts were taken away
- Acc to Barni, they became so poor that they had to send their wives to work in the house of the Muslims

iii) Collection of surplus

- They could keep only 20 Maunds with themselves
- The rest had to be sold directly to Benjars from the field itself

iv) Taxes of Tair and Bagiri on drugs and wine were removed

v) Taxes of Ghori and Chauri were imposed

vi) Banjars were settled in the Doab region so that availability of goods could be ensured

vii) All states grants cancelled

- to Brahmins, temples, mosques etc.
given at any earlier point of time

viii) Market reforms :-

→ Market prices of all goods were fixed by the sultan himself as per Khuras

→ Three markets made :-

- Sarai Adh

- Mandi

- Market for slaves

→ Administrative mechanism :-

Sadr-i-Riyasat → for supervision and other subordinate posts

Alauddin Khalji was very successful in his economic reforms.

Q.2 (b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq was "a man with ideas far beyond his age." - elucidate. [15 Marks]

Ans:- Stanley Lane Poole claims that Alauddin Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was a man with ideas far beyond his age.

This claim is based on the various reforms that he took:-

i) Tokenisation of currency :- Tughlaq introduced token currency of copper in lieu of gold and silver currencies in 1330s.

Although not successful, it was a bold step

ii) Heterogeneous nobility :- All kinds of people including Hindus were appointed.

The degree of xenobility was very high

iii) Transfer of capital to Daulatabad :- was carried out for better control of whole territory

iv) First to set up Department of agriculture (Diwan-i-Amia-Kahi) in Delhi sultanate

v) Model agricultural farm project - for expansion of agri.

Also, only Sultanate to issue Sandhar loans to peasants for buying seeds, implements, digging wells etc.

At the same time, it has to be said that this assessment is not entirely correct as:-

→ Tokenisation of coins was earlier also done by Guy Khata of Persia and Kublai Khan in China in the 13th Century A.D.

Thus, he was not the first ruler.

→ There are evidences that Delhi and Daulatabad were two capitals for the same time.

Such instances can be found in India even in ancient times

- Satrahans → Pratihans and Amravati (Dhanyabot)

- Manjors → Ujjain acted as second capital

→ Agriculture reforms as introduced by Mohmd.

Bin Tughlay were introduced earlier also in other parts of the world.

Thus, to some extent, it can be said that the ideas of Mohand. Tughlay were very progressive, bold and noble novel in its own ways but not completely a man with ideas beyond his age.

Q.2 (c) "The early medieval India saw many transitions." Explain [15 marks]

Ans: - The early medieval India was a bridge between the ancient and medieval India and as such many changes were witnessed.

Some of them are: -

i) Social changes: -

→ Age of feudalism: - New landlord-tenant relationships emerged and people having land became very powerful in society

→ Proliferation of caste: -

As per Mitakshara, 20 sub-castes existed even among the Brahmins

→ Status of women declined further: -

- child marriage was common

- sati existed

- widow remarriage was prohibited

Only among the Rajputs, the women had control over resources

ii) Religious changes: -

- Tantricism emerged as the main religious form and it entered into all major religions of that age
- Brahmanism consolidated themselves with the help of Rajputs and other ruling classes
- Tamil Bhakti emerged
 - Nayanars and Alvars became popular
 - fought against social prejudices like caste system etc.
- Philosophical advancements
 - Adi Shankara
 - Ramanujacharya etc.

iii) Economic changes

- The society became largely agrarian as industries and crafts, trade and commerce etc. declined
- Gradually, from ^{late} 10th century onwards, economy started reviving
- Flourishing ship ~~the~~ building industry

→ level of monetisation was very less

ii) Political changes

- Large states during Gupta age and then Harsha's empire gave way to smaller states
- Rajput kingdoms like Gujara-Pratiharas, Chahamanas, Paramaras, Solankis etc. gained power
- In South India, the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas etc. held sway
- In North West frontiers, gradually Islamic states started emerging.

Thus, many changes were witnessed in India in the early medieval age which continued into the future decades.

Q.3 (a) What are the main social and religious ideas of the Bhakti Saints. How far and in what respects did they influence the contemporary North Indian Society? [20 Marks]

Ans:- The traces of Bhakti can be found in the hymns dedicated to Vaana in Rig Veda and subsequently in Bhagwat Gita and other holy scriptures of the larger Hindu fold.

The main ideas are:-

Social ideas

i) The Bhakti saints were against the evils of the caste system and untouchability

The disciples of Ramananda included Kabir (weaver), Ravidas (leather-worker), Prema (cobbler) etc.

ii) They advocated upliftment of the women in the society.

Many saints like Mirabai, Karaikal Ammaiyar, Andal etc. were women.

iii) Some saints tried to create an identity of the people in the region:-

ex:- Mahavastu Dharma by the saints

like Ekamath, Tukaram, Jnandev etc.

Religious ideas

- i) They mainly focused on
 - directly relationship between God and man
 - deep devotion
 - unity of being with supreme soul
- ii) They popularised worship of Vishnu and his various forms:-
 - Krishna - Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
 - Vithala at Pandharpur - Namdev etc.
- iii) Others popularised worship of Shiva
Lingayats and Nayanars
- iv) Ideas of 'mathas' and 'acharyas' emerged
They influenced North Indian society as:-
 - i) The evils of the caste system were reduced
 - ii) The conditions of women gradually improved
 - iii) An environment of tolerance was created

in society

- iv) Regional languages like Bengali, Assamese, Gujarati etc. gained prominence
- v) A syncretic culture emerged by assimilation of various ideas of the Bhakti and the Sufi saints.

Although, various positives were there but the issue was

- Untouchability and casteism couldn't be eliminated
- The exploitation of women continued

Thus, they were successful in their pursuit only upto certain extent.

Q.3 (b) What factors contributed to the expansion and consolidation of the Delhi Sultanate upto 1286? [15 Marks]

Ans: - Ghiyathuddin Balban ruled in the throne of Delhi from 1265-86 before being succeeded by his grandson Kaiqubad.

Some factors that contributed to its expansion and consolidation upto 1286 include:-

i) Strong rulers:-

Efficient rulers like Iltutmish, Laziza Sultana, Balban sat on the throne of Delhi

ii) Diplomatic success:-

ex:- Iltutmish rejecting the proposal of Talaluddin Mangbari's asylum in Delhi when Changiz Khan was chasing him

iii) Lack of strong empires in India:- There was no strong ruler of empire particularly in North India during that time

iv) Feudal system:- It had many benefits

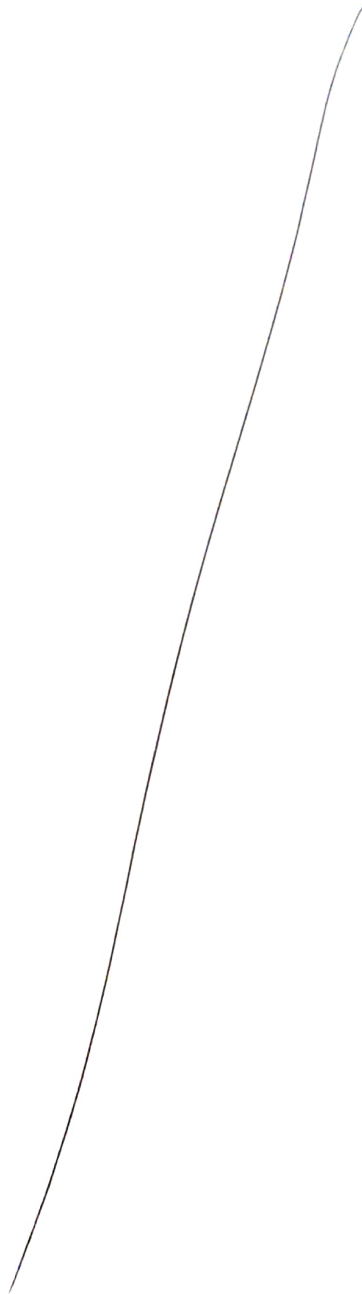
- Powerful generals got sufficient autonomy to undertake military campaigns
- Non-hereditary
- Transfers were there

v) Institutional character of Sultanate :-
Various departments like Diwan-i-Aiz, Diwan-i-Rasalat etc. were established

vi) Strong and powerful army
- maintained by rulers

vii) Imperialism
- of highest order seen

Thus, many factors contributed to lasting success of Delhi Sultanate



Q.3 (c) Delineate the development of architecture of the Tombs during different Sultans of Delhi.
[15 Marks]

Ans:- Tomb architecture was one of the principal form of construction activity during the reign of the Delhi Sultans.

A brief development is given below:-

→ Ghiyas-ud-din Balban

- Tomb was made of red sandstone
- True arch was used for the first time

→ Khaljis

- Red sandstone was used
- Quadrangular tombs were constructed as earlier

→ Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq

- Large scale use of white marble done for the first time
- Battering walls were made
- Quadrangular tomb in a pentagonal walled surroundings

→ Feroz Shah Tughlaq

- Octagonal tombs constructed for the first time. ex:- Tomb of the Wazir Khan-i-Jahan Telengani

→ Lodis

- high raised platforms used
- construction of double domes for the first time:- tomb of Sikandar Lodi
- constructed in the middle of the gardens

Thus, the architecture of the tombs evolved over the period of time during reign of Delhi Sultors.