

<i>Shikhar Hazarika</i> NAME	 Mobile No.	 Email ID
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Start Time: *7:00 pm*

End Time: *8:30 pm*

## ANSWER SHEET SECTIONAL TEST- IV (MEDIEVAL INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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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:  $10 \times 3 = 30$

Q.1 (a) "Religious policies of Akbar was inspired by his political considerations." Comment. [10 Marks]

Ans:- Akbar is considered as one of the most liberal rulers that ruled India during the medieval age.

The political considerations played a significant role in his policy because:-

- Rajputs were one of the most powerful political groups in India at that time who were Hindus. To garner their support, it was necessary to follow a liberal religious policy.
- To widen the mass base of Mughals:- as the population was largely Hindus
- To counterbalance the orthodox nobility comprising of Iranis, Turanis etc. at his court.

At the same time, there were several other factors as well :-

- Religious outlook of Akbar at personal level. He was largely secular which was due to

→ liberal upbringing → Shia mother  
→ Abdul Latif - teacher

- influence of brothers Abul Fazl, Faizi  
and Sheikh Mubarak

→ The illdoings of the ulamas

ex:- Sheikh Abdur Nabi tried to hit  
him during Ibadat Khana discussions

Some manifestations include

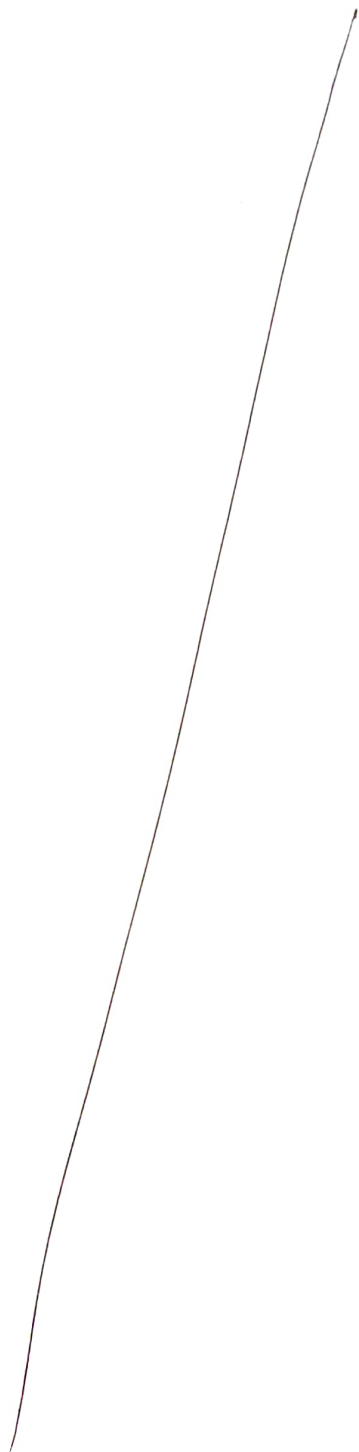
→ doctrine of Sulh-i-kul

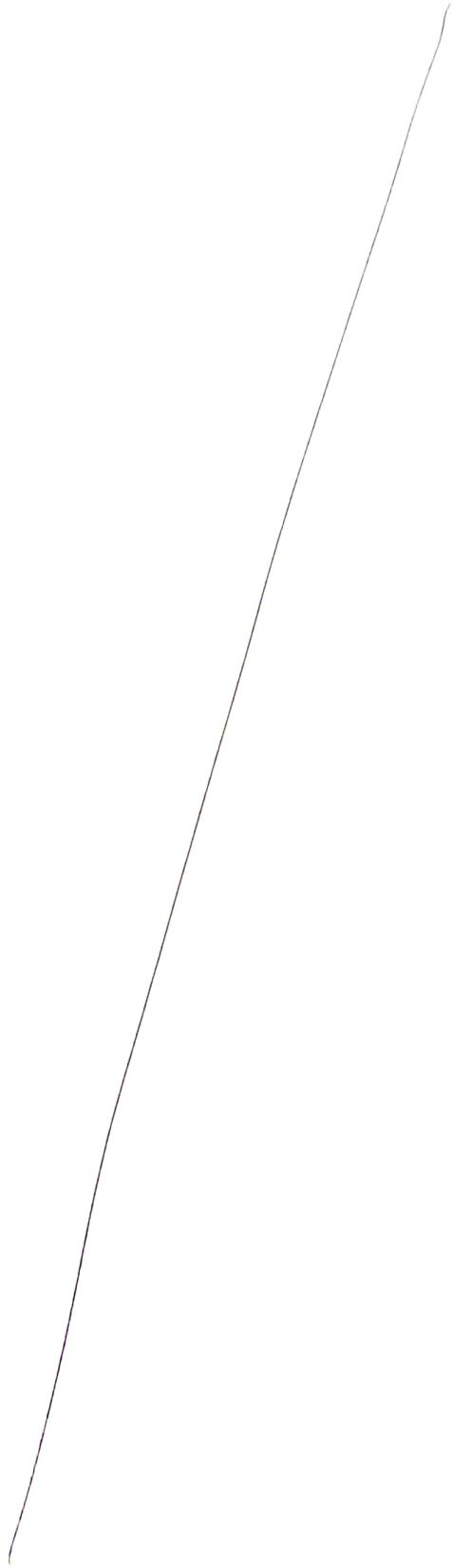
→ propagation of Din-i-Ilahi which had  
a distinct monotheistic flavour

→ abolition of jizya, pilgrimage tax etc.

In 1503, Akbar allowed Jesuit  
missionaries to convert royal people to Christ-  
ianity which was the climax of his secularism

**Q.1 (b) How Mughal paintings reflect harmony in the then society during Mughal period? [10 Marks]**





Q.1 (c) Discuss Tuzuk-i-Babari as a source of history of Medieval India. [10 Marks]

Ans:- Babur conquered the throne of Delhi in 1526 and ruled briefly till 1530. His observations are compiled in his autobiography Tuzuk-i-Babari.

It is a mirror to the life of his times.

He mentions :-

### Social life

- Khichdi was the main food of the people
- People were so poor that they used to live in small houses and hardly had any furniture in their houses
- They used to wear minimal clothes. Men used to wrap a loincloth around their waist

### Political life

- He mentions about Deccan that there were six Muslim states - Khandesh, Bidar, Behar, Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda and one

Hindu state i.e. Vijaynagara

→ He mentions that Vijaynagara was the most powerful kingdom during that time

Cultural life

→ From Tuzuk-i-Babari, we also come to know about the Charbagh style of gardens introduced by Babur in India.

→ Provides glimpse into Islamic traditions and customs.

Thus, in the context of the Mughals, Tuzuk-i-Babari is a rich source of information and hence was later translated to Persian as Baburnama by Abdul-Latif-Khan-i-Khanan at the behest of Akbar.



Q.2 (a) "Shivaji was a capable general, great organizer, able administrator and successful statesman." Discuss. [20 Marks]

Ans:- The Maratha identity created by the unique geography and the work of the saints of the Mahavaktra dharma was transformed into a Marath state by the visionary Shivaji when he coronated himself at Raigad in 1674.

Shivaji was a man of great capabilities as is illustrated below:-

As a general

1st major fort - Torna - 1646

↓

35 major forts upto 1665  
including Sinhagad etc.

- mastered the art of guerrilla warfare
- raided Mughal bastions at Poona, Surat several times including killing Afzal Gure
- large chunk of territories of Ahmadnagar and Bijapur were captured.

## As an organizer

- united all the scattered Maratha forces under one roof to fight the enemy
- also created a naval force as early as 1656

## As an administrator

He introduced several reforms

### Revenue reforms

- survey and measurement of land introduced
- land revenue survey under Amaji Datto
- system of 'chauth' and sardeshmukhi
- land revenue collected twice a year.

### Administrative reforms

- the formation of 'Ashtapradhan' to run administration
- forts were captured and strengthened
- the area divided into swrajya and land under deshmukhs
- naval forces, military forces strengthened

## As a statesman

He was an able statesman to understand the nuances of maratha administration and in dealing with different powers:-

→ He was able to subjugate the hereditary deshmukhs to a large extent

→ The institution of 'Ashtapradhan' largely taken from the Bahmanis gave concrete shape to the administration

→ On dealing with the Mughals

- He accepted the Treaty of Purandar, 1665 imposed by Jai Singh and agreed to give  $23/35$  forts to the Mughals

- Bambhaji was given a mansab of 5000 in the Mughal court which was agreed to.

- He was just sensing the opportunity to escape and on getting it, came back to the Marath land and reestablished his power.

Thus, the foundation of Maratha empire was laid.

Q.2 (b) Evaluate the accounts of the foreign travellers on the Pattern of foreign trade of India in the 17th Century. [15 Marks]

Ans:- In the 17th century, India was at the height of economic prosperity with the Indian subcontinent controlling about 50% of the world trade.

The accounts of foreign travellers have given us insights into the pattern of foreign trade during that time.

Francis Bernier

- mentions about existence of a large merchant community in India
- mentions about the large amount of trade and prosperity of India
- At the same time, he was critical about land ownership pattern and lack of incentive for growth of arts and crafts in India

Other travellers like Marucci, Tavernier etc.

→ Balance of trade :-

It was in favour of India as large amount of gold and other precious materials

flowed into India

→ Items of export :- Spices, pepper, cotton, indigo, saltpetre, ivory, other textiles etc.

Musli dabad, Benaras etc. were emerging as important centres of textile manufacturing

→ Route :- Both overland and sea routes were taken.

- The sea routes were in the hands of the Europeans like Portuguese and later English, Dutch etc.

- The Arabs also used to trade with India

→ Progress in industries

- Trade contributed to progress in ship-building industry, textile industry etc.

→ Royal karkhanas of Mughal empire

- Bernier gives detailed description about the involvement of state run karkhanas in India

→ Establishment of forts all across Indian coasts

by the Europeans to practise their trade.

Under a flourishing foreign trade, India reached the zenith under Shah Jahan in various fields before eventually being economically bankrupted largely by the British.

Q.2 (c) "Aurangzeb's policy and administrative measures contributed to a large extent to the downfall of the Mughal empire." Explain the statement. [15 Marks]

Ans:- Sir Jadunath Sarkar is of the opinion that Aurangzeb's policies were responsible for the downfall of the Mughal empire.

It is largely based on:-

i) Rajput policy of Aurangzeb

↳ Post the death of Jaswant Singh in 1668, he antagonised the Mewars by interfering in their succession struggle

↳ Also, hostility with the Mewars

ii) Religious policy

↳ He reinforced jizya, destroyed many new and old temples

↳ The mass base of the Mughals narrowed

iii) Deccan policy

↳ Annexation of Golconda and Bijapur during 1686-87

↳ Murder of Bambhaji in 1689

This led to great resentment among Marathas and a non-central army which led

the Mughals from all sides

#### iv) Jagirdari crisis

→ Gave large number of jagirs particularly in Deccan to Marathas and Deccani Muslims

→ Gave faujdar powers to large jagirdars

In first case, non-availability of good jagirs led to alliances harmful to Mughals. The faujdar powers made them powerful

#### v) Neglect of northern India

- due to preoccupations in Deccan

#### vi) Hostility with Sikhs, Satnavhis, Ahoms etc.

These policies of Aurangzeb played a significant role in downfall of the Mughal empire, but at the same time there were several other causes:-

#### i) Inherent limitations of Mughal administration

→ centralised

→ military state etc.

→ despotic

#### ii) Weak rulers after Aurangzeb



iii) Economic crisis due to shortage of cashing  
in the price of silver

- stressed by Shivvers Moosvi

iv) Agrarian crisis

- droughts

- rise in prices of goods

v) lack of scientific advancements during late  
17<sup>th</sup> cent and 18<sup>th</sup> cent

- stressed by M Athar Ali

vi) lack of understanding of intentions of British

Thus, many factors combined resulted  
in the downfall of the Mughal empire.

Q.4 (a) How the art of building reached to the zenith under Shahjahan? Discuss with examples and by giving architectural details of any two of his buildings. [20 Marks]

Ans:- The economic prosperity of the Mughal empire during Shahjahan's reign led to the zenith of the art of building during his age.

### Characteristic features

- Use of white marbles in large scale. Ex:-  
Taj Mahal
- The technique of foreshortening was used.  
Ex:- in Taj Mahal
- Large scale use of pietra dura
- No of gardens were made. ~~in Shahjahan~~
- Large scale use of techniques of arabesque, calligraphy, floral and geometrical designs etc.
- Constructed in a raised platform.

⇒ The architectural details of two buildings are provided below:-

#### 1) Taj Mahal

- bubbous dome or onion shaped dome

is a unique feature

- completely made of white marble
- inlay work of pietra dura with different precious gemstones brought from Persia
- intricate jali work
- created on a raised platform
- on banks of Yamuna, to increase the beauty
- arabesque use and calligraphy in Kufi
- Change from earlier design

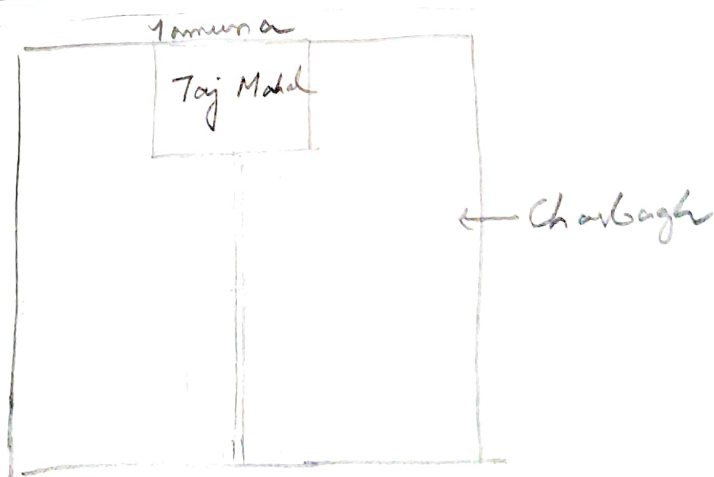


Fig:- layout

Charbagh style was modified where monument was shifted from centre as in Humayun's tomb to the back to give a clearer view

## 2) Red Fort, Delhi

- was made in new capital of Shahjahanabad
- red sandstone stone was used
- use of Chhatra (canopy) inherited from the Rajputs earlier can be seen
- Use of arches, gateways and other forms of Indo-Islamic architecture

Thus, under Shah Jahan, in the field of art and architecture, classical age can be witnessed.

Q.4 (b) How far do you agree that the Mughal State was centralized State? Discuss. [15 Marks]

Ans:- The Mughal empire was established in 1526 by Babur and it continued upto 1857 when Bahadur Shah Zafar was deposed by the British.

The centralised elements of the Mughal empire can be seen as:-

- i) Officials :- All officials whether at provincial (suba), sarkar or pargana level were directly appointed by the emperor and directly accountable to him
- ii) Regular transfers :- The officials were regularly transferred by the centre
- iii) Mansabdar system
  - non-hereditary
  - regular transfers
  - law of escheat
  - balance of power - e.g. - subedars and jagirdars in some province etc.
  - all revenue was to be given to emperor and salaries will be paid by state

iv) Extremely superior status of emperor from rest of his nobles and officials

- During reign of Akbar, he assumed titles of 'Zillulch' → shadow of God on earth  
'Fan-i-zadi' → repository of divine light etc

This imposed his despotic and centralised nature of rule.

At the same time, some elements of decentralisation can be seen:-

→ Provinces (subas) under subedar

- far fetches provinces largely autonomous

→ Zamindars were retained

- used to collect revenue for state

→ During rulers like Shah Jahan's reign, the 3rd rank of princes was so large that they had huge armies at their disposal, creating different centres of power.

After the death of Aurangzeb, the decentralisation increased largely:-

→ the subedars became rajas

- ex: - Hyderabad → Nizam-ul-Mulk  
Asaf Jah

Awadh → Burhan-ul-Mulk etc.

→ Ijaradai system was introduced

- Zamindars became very powerful

Thus, during its peak, Mughal empire  
was largely centralised while decentralised  
elements predominated during the later stages.

Q.4 (c) Trace the development of the industrial economy in Mughal India. [15 Marks]

Ans:- Under the Mughals, an industrial economy developed in India due to various advancements in various fields of science and technology and political stability throughout the empire.

### Flourishing industries

i) Metal plating industry:-

As per Faiz, the utensils used by Akbar were plated every 15 days and the others every 30 days.

It gave a boost to metal plating industry

ii) Weaponry

- detachable guns were discovered which were of great help in Akbar's Rajput campaigns

iii) Oil industry

- with the discovery of gear mechanism, it was used to crush the oil seeds which gave a boost to oil manufacturing

iv) Textile industry

- with increasing use of pilllooms, block



printing etc., the demand for textiles increased

#### v) Irrigation production

- increased due to use of gear mechanism in irrigation
- state help during during emergencies and encouragement to cultivate superior crops also helped.

The state run karakhana gave a huge boost to the industries

- large appointments to artists and craftsmen
- centres of innovation
- products for exports also made

The industrial economy largely became stagnant during later half of 17<sup>th</sup> century and early 18<sup>th</sup> century as

- stagnation in advancement in science and technology
- lack of safety of land routes
- political disintegration was witnessed

→ exploitation of local artists and craftsmen by Europeans etc.

The gradual economic decline along with other factors resulted in the downfall of the Mughal empire in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.