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Start Time:

End Time:

ANSWER SHEET

SECTIONAL TEST- III

(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: 10x3=30

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

Alauddin Khalji is known for his imperialist policies who tried to establish his control not only in north but also in south.

His Deccan campaigns were carried out by military commander Malik Kafur.

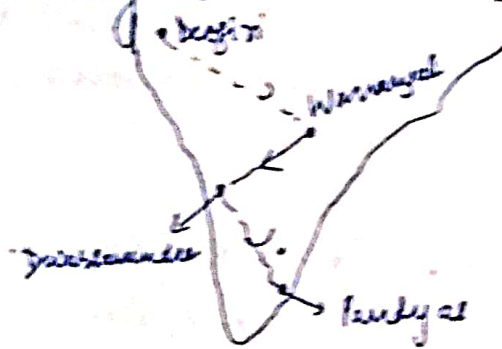


fig. Deccan campaign
by Malik Kafur.

DEOGIRI

- It had to bear the brunt of Alauddin's plunder campaign when he was the governor of Kara.
- Failure to send tributes to the Sultan was used as a pretext to capture Jaquir from Rai Rasm Surlabh Singh.

- The Raja lost the battle and agreed to send tributes.

2. Warangal

- On his way to south, he made a surprise attack on fort of Sirpur, the king there went to king of Warangal for refuge.
- Again, Malik Kafur declared his victory over it.

3. Swarsamudra

- Similarly Swarsamudra was captured for elephants, golds and millions.

4. Pandyas

- defeated Sundar Pandya, who already fled from his kingdom

Importance

- It provided tributes and gold from south to the kings of north which helped Alauddin strengthen his position.
- There was no rebellion in the south for 2 decades after the campaign.
- It helped in cultural intermingling of north and south; helped transfer of Sufi ideas.
For e.g. Malik Kafur established a temple at Ramaswaram.
- paved for the military campaigns in south of later rulers like Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

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]

1(b). The system of Caliphate began after the death of Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam. The Caliph used to be the religious head of the Muslim world and also the political head.

No ruler in Muslims was independent and legitimised until they seek sanction in the forms of letter of investiture from him.

Other methods used by Delhi Sultans were:-

- ① Inscribing his name on coins being circulated in the kingdom.
- ② Grant of robe.
- ③ Reading his name on khutba during Friday prayers.

For e.g.

□ Alauddin inscribed the name of Caliph on his coins.

However, this was considered more of a nominal allegiance to seek legitimacy to the rule of Sultans.

This is clear from the facts that:-

① No Sultan was removed from his position upon failing to seek sanction / letter of investiture.

② Sultans who had stronghold over their kingdom did not even seek such nominal legitimacy.

For e.g. . .

① Alauddin Khalji - did not receive 'manshur' - letter of investiture and called himself deputy of Caliph.

② Mubarak Khalji - called himself the Caliph.

However, when rulers were weak in their authority they sought Caliph recognition to save themselves from revolt / opposition.

For e.g. . . Mohammad bin Tughlaq → to deal with his waning prestige.

• Firuz Tughlaq.

Thus, it was not compulsory for Delhi Sultans to seek sanction from Caliph and thus, ^{the State} was not a theocratic state.

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

Sher Shah Suri is regarded as the forerunner of Akbar. Many of the policies that he initiated during his rule was either entirely borrowed by Akbar or it provided a base to be built upon. These policies were :-

① Political and Administrative

1.1. Imperialism : Sher Shah was the greatest imperialist of his times. This was seen in Akbar's policies too who brought Kabul, Kashmir, Kandahar in north and areas of south under his rule.

1.2. Levels of Administration

1.2.1. The system of sarkar and paragana was made in the kingdom by both Akbar and Sher Shah.

1.2.2. Village was the basic unit of administration headed by khuts and Muqaddams.

1.3. Revenue System

1.3.1. The Zabti system of Sher Shah was continued by Akbar too.

1.3.2. The 'rai' (per bigha yield of crops) of paraoti (rarely left fallow land) and polaj (under regular cultivation) was used by Akbar in his Ain-i-Dahsala system.

② Economic Policies

2.1. The silver coin known as Rupiya was continued during Akbar.

③ Social and Cultural Policies

3.1. Sher Shah and Akbar both were great architects.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ↳ Qila-i-Kuhna
mosque | ↳ Panchpur Sikri |
| ↳ Aurang Gila. | ↳ Humayun's Tomb. |

④ Military Policies : The branding of horses and descriptive rolls.

However, there were differences in religious approaches that made Akbar - liberal and Sher Shah - not so liberal. As Crooke noted, Akbar 'the Great' and Sher Shah 'not so great'.

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]

2. (a). Alauddin Khalji tried to strengthen his authority in his kingdom through various means - one of them was to rule out any possibility of revolts. Sources for knowing his policies are :- Khazain ul-Futuh by Amir Khusrau, Fatwa-i-Jahandari by Alauddin Barani, Tarikh-i-Firozshahi by Barani and masnavi texts of the period.

According to Alauddin Khalji, main cause of revolt in the empire is presence of excess wealth in the hands of people.

Attempt was made to take it away through various economic policies.

① Revenue Policies

(1.1) The rate of land revenue was increased to 50%. The taxes such as ghari and charai were also carefully collected.

↓ ↓

(house tax) (cattle tax)

1.2. Landlords like 'khuts' and 'muqaddams' were made to pay revenue at equal rates.

- Also additional taxes charged by them such as haqq-i-khoti and kislat-i-khoti were removed.

1.3. The rate of khums i.e. military share was reduced from $\frac{4}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ to the military men.

1.4. Land under 'khalisa' - i.e. direct control over sultan was increased at the cost of iqta lands.

(2) Market Reforms → food
clothes
slaves, animals, birds.

2.1. Three markets were established.

The prices were fixed by sultan centrally.

2.2. Peasants were made to sell their produce to banjaras at cheap rates that were carried to the markets.

2.3. Similarly, merchants too were made to sell their products at cheap rates.

Strict supervision over quantity was maintained. In case any fault was found, same amount of flesh were cut from the part of merchants.

The impact of these reforms were positive for the sultan for he was able to prevent any revolt in his rule and also raise huge military. However,

- Peasants suffered because there was no surplus in their hands.
- Artisans had to sell their products cheap.
- Similarly, merchants used to sell more fearing punishment of discrepancies.
- Nobles became so poor that Barani says that they could not chew betel nuts, ride horses and nobody wanted their daughters to marry nobles / government officials.

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

2(b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq was the second ruler of Tughlaq dynasty who initiated various reforms that made him 'a man with ideas far beyond his age'. Sources for knowing his experiments and results are :- Tarikh-i-Firozshahi by Barani, Tarikh-i-Firozshahi by Afif.

MAN WITH IDEAS BEYOND HIS AGE

① Agricultural ideas

①.1 The idea of model farms :- 100x100 sq km plot of land was selected and agricultural experiments with new seeds were conducted and transferred to peasants.

①.2 Suggested the idea of planting superior crops :- wheat in place of barley ; ...
sugarcane in place of ~~sugarcane~~ wheat
grapes in place of sugarcane.

(1.3) He was the first sultan to give 'sardhar' loans to farmers after drought.

(2) International Campaigns

2.1. He tried to bring Kandahar under his rule. For this he raised a huge army of 1 lakh and gave them 6 months salary in advance.

(3) Token Currency.

3.1. He issued token currency in place of copper and bronze which was in use only in some places of Persia and China.

3.2. This was an idea ahead of time to arrest the decline of precious metals in kingdom.

(4) Transfer of Capital

4.1. Rulers like Alauddin Khalji brought Deccan under his control for some time but no attempt was made to establish

direct control over it.

4.2. This was done by Muhammad bin Tughlaq by transferring capital from Delhi to Deogarh.

4.3. It led to the cultural intermingling of two areas and growth of Sufism in south.

According to Barani, all his experiments "failed miserably" but certainly left an indelible impact on the policies of upcoming sultans and were "ahead of his times".

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

2. (1). The early medieval period (c. 700 - 1200) was period in which many political, economic, social, cultural, technological changes were taking place in the history. Sources of the period are :-

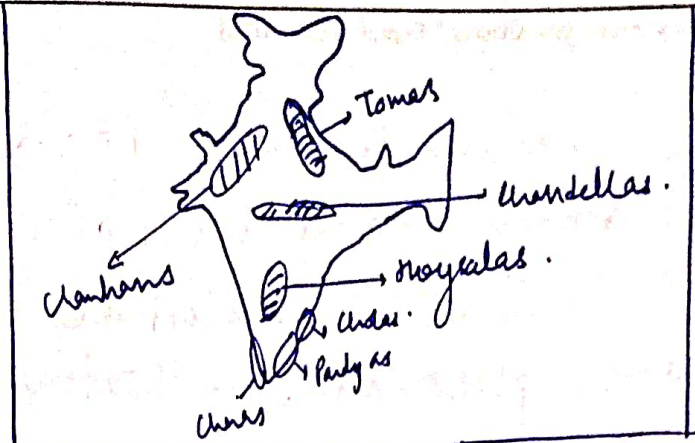
- ① Sharmashastra and sutra literature.
- ② Hagiographical literature such as Banabhatta's Harshacharita ; Vikrammanakadevacharita of Bithana ; Ramacharita of Sandhyakar Nandi
- ③ Foreign literature → Chinese Travelogue (Huan Tsang, I-tsing)
- ④ Puranas such as → Arab Travellers (Al-Beruni, Al-Masudi)
Kalika Purana

Archaeological sources include → coins
→ Inscriptions
→ monuments

MANY TRANSITIONS

① Political Transitions

1.1 The period saw moving away from centralised kingdoms to decentralisation of powers.



Early Med. Politics

1.2. Titles such as parambhattaraka, maharajadhiraja reflected the multiplicity of rulers and seeking the superior position amongst them.

② Economic Transitions

2.1. According to Huan Tsang, earlier places of urbanisation were deserted and new urban regions emerged. For e.g. $\swarrow$ Śrāvastī, Aśvīkhatra
 $\searrow$ declined
 $\searrow$ Varanasi
 $\searrow$ emerged.

2.2. Use of cowry shells at many places.
 - Marxist historians such as JN Jha argue it to be a sign of demonetisation of economy due to deurbanisation.

- This proposition has been rejected by Chakrabarti

on the account that cowry shell was used as token currency and thus is reflective of growing monetisation.

- Dharmashastri texts of the times are replete with money-lending laws.

③ Socio-cultural changes

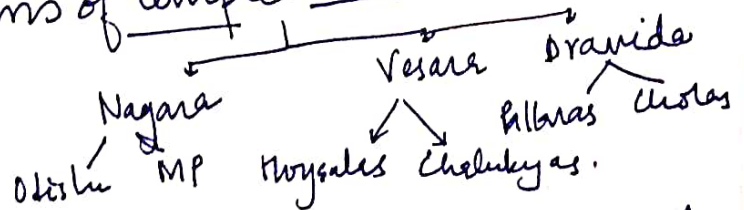
3.1 The prominence of Brahmans increased due to increase in number of vratas, prayaschitas and seeking of political legitimacy by local kings.

3.2 Peasantisation of Sudras took place as the new areas were brought into Brahmanical fold.

3.3 Inclusion of foreigners and Rajputs in Brahmanical fold. These Rajputs came to be seen as ^{Kshatriyas} ~~Rajputs~~ who deviated from their duties.

3.4. Emergence of new class of Kayasthas as scribes, outside of varna fold.

3.5. Increase in forms of temple architecture



Thus, early medieval period cannot be considered as "Dark Age" due to multiplicity of changes being taken place.

Q.4 (a) "Firoz Shah Tughluq was an enlightened and humane ruler and his administration is noted for the humanitarian measures that conducted to the prosperity and happiness of his people." Justify. [20 Marks]

Firoz Shah Tughlaq, who came to rule after his uncle Muhammad bin Tughlaq, is known for his humanitarian measures. However, this is generally overshadowed because of religious conservatism and policies that led to the downfall of Sultanate.

Sources to know about his policies are :-

- 1) Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi → Barani
- 2) Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi → Shams-i-Shiraj Afif
- 3) Tuhfat-i-Firuzshahi → Firoz Tughlaq.

Enlightened Ruler and Humane

① Gave Patronage to literary men

1.1 Firoz gave patronage to Barani and Afif.

1.2. He was the only ruler of Delhi Sultanate who wrote his own biography.

1.3. He got many books translated from Sanskrit into Persian. For e.g. Rang Darpan, Mahabharata.

3.2. Sondhar loan amount was cancelled.

Humanitarian Measures

- Established 'diwan-i-khairat' to give loan to muslim families to get their daughters married.
 - 'diwan-i-ishtiyag' was established to give money to poor and destitute.
 - dar-ul-harb → a hospital was set up in which treatment and medicines were given.
 - Irrigation canals were built that provided water to agricultural fields.
 - Fruit gardens, 1200 in number were constructed around the city. Barani says that the production got so much high that even poor people could afford fruits.
 - Sarais were also built for benefit of travellers.
- Thus, Firuz provided the despotic state of earlier Delhi sultans ~~was~~ a humanitarian side that was extended into the rule of Mughals as well.

Q.4 (b) "Doubtless it was not a free state; it was any rate a state" (K A N Sastri). Reflect upon the nature of local self government institutions in the Chola kingdom. [15 Marks]

4(b). Local self government in the chola kingdom is cited as an example of early democracy in India by Nationalist historians. Also, an attempt to establish local self govern-ment. However, they were not as independent as they are made to be.

Doubtless it was not a free state.

1. The assemblies (ur, sabha and nagarams) were independent in their functioning but the chola king could direct them for fulfilling certain duties. For e.g. collection of revenue for state.
2. Two inscriptions are reflective of the dependence on the king of these assemblies:-
 - Uttaramerur Inscription tells that selection of officials in committee of sabha was made in the presence of Chola officials.

* Thanjavur Inscription :- They were made to administer Kanchipuram temple at behalf of Chola dynasty.

3. 'Tanijur' status was given to 'sabha assemblies' by the king.

4. The regions of Kaveri river basin was under direct control over the state while far flung areas were granted slight independence.

However, it was any rate a state.

① System of elections to the committee of assemblies.

- 'lot' system
- bundling of 12 streets into wards & the members of committee thus were selected by drawing a vote.

- All members (elders) of the village used to participate in the election process.

② System of qualification and disqualification of members.

③ Constitution of committees in these assemblies.
For e.g. (variyams)

Bank Committee
Garden Committee
Gold Committee] → to look after various aspects
of administration.

④ System of financial scrutiny by 'accountants'
in the villages.

However, there were certain shortcomings
in the nature of state :-

- (i) No system of quorum
- (ii) Qualification of elections such as knowledge
of abrahmanya, 1 veda ensured only brahmins
were granted seats.
- (iii) Property qualifications for summing elections

Thus, local assemblies of Cholas can be
considered "state with its limitations"
but certainly was an attempt of establishing
democracy in the kingdom.

Q.4 (c) "The period of Delhi Sultans saw the emergence of Indo-Persian culture in the field of the language." Comment. [15 Marks]

4.(c) Indo-Persian culture refers to the culture that emerged when Persian language blended with Indian culture. The period of Delhi Sultanate is significant in the emergence of Indo-Persian culture because the urban based ruling elites used Persian - as language of administration and were indianised over a period of time.

Emergence of Indo-Persian culture

① Contributions of Amir Khusrau

- Amir Khusrau began his career during the rule of Balban and served Khaljis.
- He is known for his writings such as :-
 - Shirin Khusrau, Hasht-Behisht on Alauddin Khalji.
 - divans - the collection of ghazals.
 - masnawi - Khazain ul' Futuh.
- His writing Haq'aiq-i-Hind and Hindawi

led to the emergence of Indo-Persian.

- He contributed to Hindustani music by ragas such as aiman and musical instruments such as tabla, sitar which provided Persian blend to Indian musical tests.

② Emergence of Urdu

- Since, Delhi was a urban centre, locals from all over India came there. This led to the blending of languages - Indian with Persian which led to the emergence of Urdu.

- Real beginning of Urdu can be seen in south which came to be known as 'Dakhani' which ^{was} used to converse of by rulers to military soldiers.

③ Contribution to local languages.

- Urdu / Persian had influence over local language - Bengali, Oriya, Punjabi and was in turn influence by it. [by Khari boli].. Thus, emerged Indo-Persian culture on language during the period of Delhi Sultanate.