

<i>Udit Kadian</i>		 @
<b>NAME</b>	<b>Mobile No.</b>	<b>Email ID</b>

Start Time:

End Time:

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**ANSWER SHEET**  
**(FULL TEST II- MEDIEVAL INDIA)**

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Time Allowed: 180 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 250

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There are EIGHT questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.

Question No. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE 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**

**Marks:**

**Comments for improvement:**

Q.1  
Q.1(a)

## SECTION A

Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10x5=50

How Akbar and Tansen contributed towards the development of music in Mughal India? Discuss with examples. [10 Marks]

In Mughal India, the music developed either took the route of Bhakti or through the syncretism of Persian and Indian tunes which came to be called the Hindustani Classical Music.

Tansen was one of the greatest musicians of this era who was attached to the court of Emperor Akbar.

Akbar himself, acc. to Abul Fazl, was a learned musician and fond of music. His fort at fatehpur sikri had a pond built for musical performances, and he helped in mingle of Hindu and Muslim music.

## Tansen's Contributions:

- invention of Raga Deepak;
- influenced upon the shrunged style of sargiy.
- creator of famous ragas like -  
Miyar ki Malkhar, Miyar ki Todi, Darbari, etc.
- he authored Sangeeta Sam and Lajmala two of the standard text on classical music.

Tansen and Akber thus laid a strong foundation for Hindustani Classical music as we know today.

At his death, his son composed the famous Bilaskhani RagTodi.

Q.1 (b)

What observations did Ibn Battuta make on Indian cities? Explain with examples. (10 Marks)

Ibn Battuta was a Moroccan traveller who came to India during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.

His observations about the country with specific emphasis on cities like Delhi and Daulatabad are written in his book Beharal.

Observations:

- Delhi was one of the largest cities in the world; Daulatabad was comparable in size.
- Delhi was covered by ramparts all along its edge which were patrolled by soldiers who manned the various gates.
- Most cities were prosperous and densely populated.

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- o He mentions the various markets in the city as very colourful with streets on both sides stacked with wide variety of goods.
- o Markets even had places for street performance and even temples and mosques.
- o Cities were well connected by a system of roads to Asian trade routes.
- o He referred to port cities like Calicut and how they were hub of merchants and ships trading with oceans on both sides.
- o Furthermore, he gives a detailed description of life in these cities as he stayed in Delhi as chief 'Pazi' for a long time.

Q.1 (c)

What was 'Chehelgani'? What relation they had with the Sultans? [10 Marks]

Chehelgani or Chahisā was a Corps of 40 slaves (Bardas) created by Sultan Iltutmish.

It was a body of slaves loyal to the sultan who acted as a strong and powerful safeguard for him.

The members of the group were usually appointed to the highest ranks of administration.

Through this the group served as a check on the growing power of nobility.

Relation with the Sultans:

Iltutmish

is used them as a bulwark against the divisive tendencies of nobles.

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### Sons of Ulugh Khan

↳ emerged as kingmakers and power behind the throne as they changed various sultans.

### Razia

↳ the group was one of the biggest challenges to her authority & led to her fall.

### Balban

↳ finally, one of the Chelgani himself became the Sultan.  
↳ knowing their challenge, he initiated harsh and brutal measures to crush them.

Thus, by Balban's time the group was destroyed and lost its relevance in the politics of Delhi.

Q.1 (d)

Give an account of the Khalsa Panth and its various principles. [10 Marks]

Khalsa Panth was founded by the 10<sup>th</sup> Gurus of the Sikh (i.e. Guru Gobind Singh).

On Baisakhi day, Guru asked his followers that he needed someone's head as a sacrifice and the 5 men who came forward were called panj Pyare and appointed by the Guru into Khalsa (or Pure).

They then appointed Guru into the Panth and thus Guruship came into the Adignants.

Over time, Sikhs came to be initiated into this Panth which had few basic Principles:

- ① 5 K's namely - Kara, Kesh, Kanga, Kripan and Kachcha.
- ② Khalsa to be the defendes

of truth, fighters of unjust and priest  
of all.

(3) No caste systems.

(4) Live a pious life, avoid tobacco  
and alcohol.

(5) Believe in one god who is  
formless.

(6) Accept Adigranth as the true  
guru.

Through their principles and their aim  
of fighting, Khalsa turned the Sikhs  
into a martial sect.

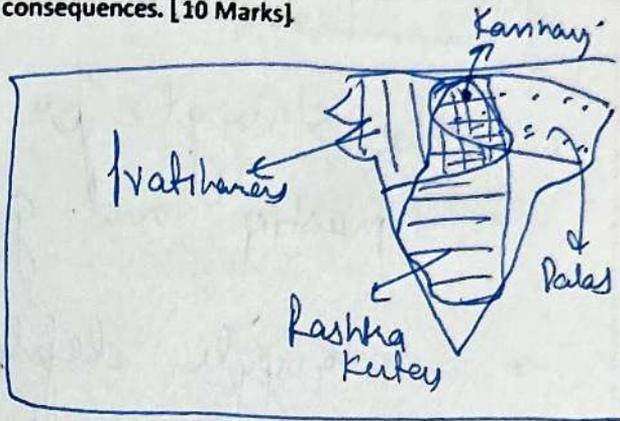
Over time, these sects  
gave rise to misls who later under  
Ranjit Singh formed the Sikh  
empire.

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Q.1 (e)

Briefly mention the tripartite struggle between the Gurjar Pratiharas, Palas and the Rashtrakutas with their causes and consequences. [10 Marks]

The tri-partite struggle was the struggle for Kannauj between the India during the early medieval era - Palas, Pratiharas & Rashtrakutas.



Three leading powers of the early medieval era - Palas, Pratiharas & Rashtrakutas.

Causes

- Kannauj → ~~was~~ Capital of Harsha
  - ↳ importance in controlling trade in the Ganga region
  - ↳ connection to silk route.
- Conflict began with Vatsaraja and Shashanpala over Kannauj.
- Over time, Rashtrakuta ruler Dabhira too got involved.

## Consequences

- the struggle for Kannauj encompassed dynasty and generations.
- struggle depleted the resources of all three dynasties.
- by 9th century both Palas and Rashtrakutas declined.
- Pratiharas emerged victorious and for a time established themselves in central India.
- But over time, they too disintegrated leaving behind a fragmented polity.
- This was to the benefit of Islamic invaders who set up their Sultanate over time.

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Q.2 (a)

Discuss the Balban's theory of kingship which was based on prestige, power and justice.

What was the governmental expressions of his theory of kingship. [20 Marks]

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Ghiyasuddin Balban, a former slave of sultan, took over the throne from the last dependent of Iltutmish in 1266 and began the rule of a strong Sultan.

Balban's theory of kingship was based on a number of factors, namely:

① Prestige

- King was the representative of god on earth.
- He focused on the idea of 'birth' as giving strength to nobility and thus claimed himself to be a descendant of Afrasiyab (the Iranian hero).
- He ~~to~~ reinstated the dignity

of Sultan by introducing new court rituals and etiquettes like - Sijdah and Paikes.

## ② Power

He believed king as the fountainhead of power. His word was the law. Thus he preferred despotism as a tool for strong rule.

## ③ Justice

• Acc. to Barni, he laid great emphasis on justice and used it to temper his despotism. 'Kinship knows no justice' allowed him to administer justice without favouritism.

- He set up spies in all cities to keep him apprised of all goings on, of citizens and nobles alike.

Governmental expression of his theory of kingship was visible in :

- ① His policy of Blood and Iron
  - this represented a strong hand characterised by elements of brutality
  - he believed in severe punishment even while suppressing nobility.
- ② He had the governor who killed his servant in drunken rage be flogged to death and also killed the barid ~~who~~ who had failed to inform him.

- (2) His system of espionage allowed him to keep a check on nobles (esp. the Corp of Forty) and allowed him to break their power.
- (3) Political stability was maintained and Sultanate consolidated geographically as well as administratively.
- (4) A check on divisive forces was put while he tackled marginal menace from a place of strength.

Despite all these positives, his theory had some severe limitations, like: it led to even more rebellions, talent was refuted for birth status and his successors couldn't maintain the same and were replaced by the Khaljis.

Q.2 (b)

Give various estimates of population of Mughal India given by historians. [15 Marks]

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Historians world over are divided over the actual population estimate of Mughal India.

Initially 100 mn. was accepted but over time different historians have tried to fine tune and revise this estimate.

Since no census was ever done in the empire, we can only look through ancillary data from texts like - Ain-i-Akbari.

Morland's estimation

- ↳ made the 1<sup>st</sup> such attempt.
- ↳ used the revenue data (measured) for north and military strength in south (arbitrary ratio 1:30)
- ↳ he gave ~~60~~ mn. for Akbar's empire.

Various objections were cited on this, such as:

① measurement wasn't complete and included not just cultivable area.

② arbitrary 1:30 (army: civilian) ratio was compared to pre WWI modern states.

In this context, other historians have presented their estimates:

Kingsley Davis

He increased Moreland's whole India estimate from 100 to 125 mn. by increasing weight to outside areas.

He didn't really address the major flaws mentioned in Moreland's estimates.

Mishok Desai

↳ tried to use different data i.e. using purchasing power of urban wages with the prices given in Ain-i-Akbari.

Shireen Moesvi

↳ used similar method to Moreland but improved somewhat by assuming larger landholding in 1600.

↳ ∴ she arrived at 100 mn. for Akbar's Empire and 140-150 mn for whole of India.

Despite all their attempts, these still remain as 'estimates' <sup>due</sup> to paucity of any contemporary data.

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Q.2 (c)

Give an estimate of Krishnadevaraya as a ruler. [15 Marks]

Krishna dev Raya was the <sup>greatest</sup> ruler of Vijaynagara Empire and he belonged to the Tuluva Dynasty

- He re-established law and order internally which had fractured after collapse of last dynasty.

Military exploits

- He contended with rivals (Bahmani successor states, Orissa and Portugese) some of whom had captured vijaynagar territory.

- He first beat Orissa and then renewed the struggle for Tungbhadra doab with Bahmani successors, in which he was victorious.



• as a builder

- ↳ built new town near Vijayanagar
- ↳ built tanks for irrigation
- ↳ Hazaramaswamy and Virupaksha temple were built by him.

• as a scholar

- ↳ he was gifted in Telugu and Sanskrit and wrote books like Anukramanysada, Tabwari Kalyana.
- ↳ he patronised scholars from all backgrounds.
- ↳ Ashtadiggajas graced his court, of which Tenali was one.

- as per foreign accounts of traveller like Domingo Paer and Duarte Barbosa → Krishna Dev Raya was

praised for allowing all religions to exist freely.

↳ he was tributed for his sense of justice

↳ Hampi was praised as the greatest city on earth.

↳ they also talk of Brick trade with outside world through ports like Bhatkal and the Portuguese

While Krishnadevaraya was a magnificent ruler, his failure to build a navy and assessing the Portuguese threat while at the same time not leaving a successor weakened his empire in the long term.

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"Shivaji was a capable general, great organizer, institution builder, able administrator and successful statesman." Elaborate. [20 Marks]

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Shivaji emerged as the leader of the Marathas in the 17th century who not only united them but also put them on the path to be a great power.

He was able to do so because of his formidable qualities, namely:



① Capable general

- ↳ understood terrain battles and focussed on Guerrilla Warfare.
- ↳ constructed a chain of forts to tackle the hilly region and lack of soldier vis-a-vis merghals.
- ↳ his fights with Afzal Khan and Shaichfa Khan are nothing

short of legendary.

↳ he was able to set up a base of operations for Mehathas from which they expanded later.

(2) Great organiser, Institution builder

↳ he created a centralized system of state characterized by:

(a) Centralized Administration

↳ council of ministers - Ashrafud Din

↳ provincial administration

which was further divided into districts & villages

(b) Revenue Administration

↳ based on Malik Ambaris, where land was measured.

↳ abolished jagirdaris and revenue was directly collected

↳ used Chauth & Sardeshmukhi to not only tackle poverty of revenues but also took a cut on all Sardeshmukhi of the region (neighbouring ones).

### ② Military administration

↳ regular standing army with fixed salaries

↳ strict discipline (no women or children allowed)

↳ maintained a navy that contacted with Portugal.

### ③ As able administrator

↳ ensured equal representation of different castes, religion, tribes, etc.

↳ maintained a good system of checks & balance

↳ reg 3 officials of equal rank in the fort to prevent treachery.

↳ tolerant of all religions

(4) As a successful statesman

↳ he was able to raise the status of his family by marrying into deshmukhs.

↳ his coronation as 'Haindohomo-dharmak' and 'Khetrajy & Kuvacharya' allowed him to not only rise above all heretics but also a protector of Hinduism & Kshatriya.

↳ he used his diplomacy to tackle Bijapur & Raja Jai Singh.

Finally, his success could be measured in the longevity of his empire after him but also how even in his absence the administrative system functioned efficiently.

(b) With the help of contemporary sources, give an account of agricultural production and irrigation system in Sultanate India. [15 marks]

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During the era of Delhi Sultanate (1206 - 1526) while a radical change in agricultural production was not witnessed, introduction of new crops and new techniques and technology did help agriculture & irrigation.

Contemporary sources of the time that throw a light on these issues are

- ① Afij in ~~Shams~~ Tareekh-i-Firoz-Shahi
- ② Ibn Batutua in Rehala
- ③ Thakur Phera (Mint master)
- ④ Other chronicles by writers like Barani.

### Agricultural Production

- Large no of crops grown <sup>around</sup> 25
- twice a year (mainly) → Rabi  
↑  
Kharif
- sometimes rice three times

- crop rotation was known.
- food crops - rice, wheat, barley, ~~corn~~ millets, pulses, etc.
- cash crops - indigo, cotton, sugarcane, sesame, etc.
- fruits → Sultans were famous for building gardens & orchards.  
 eg) Firuz Tughlaq estd. 1200  
Gardens of grapes and other fruits around Delhi.
- Henna and opium were introduced from Persia.
- Ibn Batuta himself praises Coconut and Palm.
- Practice of Sandhan.

### Irrigation System

- ① Introduction of Sagya or Persian water wheel.

- ② improved use of water lifts.
- ③ Sultans like Firoz-Shah involved in building Canals, called Kajwahs or repairing old ones.
- ④ Construction of a number of wells and tanks by Sultans
- ⑤ Muhammad bin Tughlaq gave loans for digging wells in doab region.

Beyond these, Muhammad bin Tughlaq under his reforms, focussed on:

- improving quality of crops by moving from barley to wheat and from wheat to sugarcane in regions.

- he tried to improve cultivation by changing the cropping pattern.

Despite all these the high revenue and lack of change in implements meant that farmers

were one of the worst exploited class in Sultanate era.

Q.3 (c)

"Dravidian style was developed and perfected under the Cholas." Discuss the evolution and development of Chola temple architecture in the light of the above statement. [15 Marks]

Cholans or Imperial Cholas ruled South India during the golden age of Tamil culture. It was during this time that their emense spread to over Sri Lanka, Maldives and ever parts of South-east Asia.

Temple building reached its zenith during the Chola era.



① The Dravidian style of architecture, which had begun under Pallavas and later Pandyas was perfected by the Cholas.

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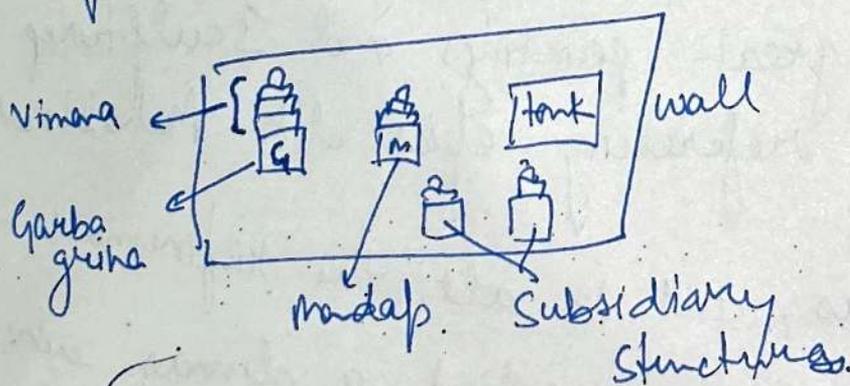
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② Their temples, reflecting their imperial attitude were monumental in size and style.

③ The tallest vimanas were built during this time.  
For instance:

- Brihadeshwar — 200 ft. temple
- Gangaikondacholapuram — 186 ft. temple

④ Basic construction of temple followed the earlier pattern, :



but the ornamentation changed as it became even more ornate.

⑤ New features added:

- Gopurams (arch-pyramid combination)
- new subsidiary Mahamandap
- Nandi mandap in the Tanjore temple
- 1000 pillar mandap @ Gangaikonda
- chariot shaped mandap with wheels at Chidambaram

⑥ Beyond this, statues of kings were installed in temples.

⑦ Also, walls of temples had great paintings and sculptures representing epics like Mahabharata.

Thus, all in all the refinement in techniques reached a climax which was accepted even later during the Vijayanagara times.

## SECTION B

Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10x5=50

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Q.5(a)

Discuss the advancement made in building construction technology under the Delhi Sultans. [10 Marks]

The various sources of the era, including architectural ascertain the fact that Sultans of Delhi were great builders.

This was possible partly because of the advancement in building technology:

- ① Use of headers and stretchers  
i.e. English bond.
- ② Use of Gypsum and limestone as mortar.
- ③ style of architecture that changed from triforate to arcuate.
- ④ moving from lintel and beam, corbelled towards true

arch and dome technology. This allowed for grander buildings.

(5) new methods of stone masonry that started from the Khilji era.

(6) New techniques like → incorporation of selizing elements; combination of arch-beam or batter walls.

(7) Moreover stylistic decorations too changed ~~from~~ to calligraphy like Arabesque and also mosaic and use of glazed tiles.

All of these were used to create magnificent buildings like Alai Darwaza, Kutub Minar, Tughlaq tombs, etc.

Q.5 (b) "The Hindus believe that there is no science like theirs." In the light of this statement, give a critical analysis of Al Beruni's account of Indian science. (10 Marks)

Al Beruni through his book Kitab-ul-Hind gives an understanding of the Indian science during the 11th century.

Alberuni in his book gives an account of various sciences known in India - Astronomy, Meteorology, Arithmetic, Chemistry, Mathematics, etc.

But at the same time, he is critical of it because:

- He ascribes the downfall in science to the growing arrogance of Indian Brahmins.
- He calls them hypocrites for knowing the true reasons for natural phenomena but still hiding behind superstitions.
- He criticises the insular ~~nature~~ nature of the learned class.

- Moreover he is critical of the alchemy (Kasayana) which he equates to witchcraft.

But beyond the criticism, he is also appreciative of:

- ① Indian advances in astronomy  
 (eg) Indians knew cause behind eclipses or planetary motion.
  - ② He compares greek astronomy to Indian astronomy.
  - ③ He mentions Indian order of numbers, zero and even quotes Brahmagupta.
  - ④ He appreciates the construction of ponds and holy bathing sites.
- Thus, he concludes with - Indians are good mathematicians and astrologers and excellent philosophers but he puts his knowledge above them.

Q.5 (c)

Evaluate the chief features of the Bhakti Movement in Medieval India. [10 Marks]

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Bhakti Movement in medieval India emerged in South and later spread to North and had similarities with the incoming Sufis of Islam.

Chief features:

• two fundamental facets

↳ Bhakti → i.e. devotion to god

↳ Equality of religious practices.

• was not a single movement but a lot of parallel trends.

↳ Kabir, Nanak, Ramanuj, Nimbark, etc.

• two big trends

↳ Saguna — believe in character of god.

↳ Chaitanya, Shukander.

↳ Nirguna → formless god, without attributes

eg Kabir, Nanak, etc

- many of the trends represent a reformist character i.e. attack on caste, gender prejudices.

eg Mirabai, Kabir, etc.

- many of the trends were non-sectarian  
eg Kabir, Surdas, etc

- some sectarian character  
eg Shankaradev in Assam.

- while in South India the bhakti had more philosophical character  
eg Vishista Advaita of Ramanuja  
in North it was more simple & personal.

Beyond all these Bhakti represented a way for directly community with god and allowed for reformation and renewance in Hinduism.

Q.5 (a)

"Kabir's teaching was to preach love for unification of all castes and creeds." Explain. [10 Marks]

Kabir was one of the greatest figures of monotheistic bhakti tradition in North India.

He was born into a caste of weavers and tried to preach his idea of god and its devotion through his dohas.

### Teachings:

- preached for a single, nirguna god.
- abolition of varnashrama
- against authority of Vedas.
- against caste discrimination.
- believed in salvation by devotion rather than action or knowledge.
- tried to unify creeds of Hindus and Muslims.

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According to Kabir, God could be found only in the love of one and all and was thus against the strife and the dogmas perpetrated by various sects.

Bijak is compilation of all his sayings and is treated as holy book of the sect that formed after his death.

His ideas are encapsulated by the doha - "Bhakti kare koī soomā,  
Jaati Baram kul khaye"

i.e. only a warrior who ignores jati, varna and kul can do true bhakti.

Q.5 (e)

Give an account of the development of Hindi literature during reign of Akbar. [10 Marks]

Hindi language developed from a number of dialects like Braj Bhasha, Awadhi, Kheri-boli, Maithili, etc.

In Mughal era, Akbar's tolerant policy allowed for the development of the language.

- Mainly Hindi poetry that developed in the era was devotional poetry that was under the influence of Bhakti movement.

For eg: • Tulsidas began writing Ramcharitmanas

• Surdas who was one of the poets in Akbar's court (Acc. to Abul Fajal) wrote Sursagar.

- Not just bhakti, Sufi poets like Malik Muhammad Jaisi (Padmavat) and Maulana Dard excelled in the Awadhi language.

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- Literature in Braj bhasha flourished in the court with Tansen and Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana composing songs and couplets.
- Moreover Bhagwan Das and Man Singh wrote poetry in Hindi.

Moreover, Mughal empire with its centralising tendency allowed for Hindi language to develop a distinct form along with the various dialects it was based upon.

It was further experimented on and patronised till Aurangzeb who stepped this practice.

2.8 (a)

Bring out the salient features of the polity & social structure of the Rajputs. How were they responsible for the weakness of the Rajputs to the foreign invaders? [20 Marks]

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While historians hold different views regarding the origin of Rajputs, one thing they all concur upon is that they were of mixed origin - some of foreign origin and some from aboriginal tribes of the region.

### Salient features of Rajputs

#### ① Polity

- Ruling chiefs - a supreme authority
- A feudal political setup with king/chief with his vassal lieutenants who paid tributes.
- In the village regions there was existence of panchayats.
- Political power was a realisation of Brahmin-Rajput nexus.

- lack of any written law of land and minimum administrative machinery focussed on —
  - collecting & distributing revenue
  - martial defence of the land.
    - internal between clans.
    - external foreign invaders

2) Society

- clan based society → some source claims 36 clans (Prithviraj Raso)
- presence of social conflict among clans.
- society based on land and land rights.
- presence of institutions like
  - ↳ slavery
  - ↳ untouchability
  - ↳ jaimani
- Position of women
  - ↳ while well-respected

↳ women had to contend with  
 'sati', early marriage,  
 polygamy, dowry, etc.

All of these features mark Rajputs  
 as a feudal polity and society  
 characterised by tenure of land.

But, at the same time, these  
 were also responsible for their  
weakness against invaders as:

- ① Continuous infighting among  
 clans → led to weakened  
 military prowess  
 & fear of backstabbing led  
 to lack of unified Rajputs.
- ② feudal levies → army dependent  
 on them, rather than having  
 a trained, standing army.
- ③ lack of a strong central  
 government and thus invaders

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faced petty states one by one.  
 (eg) Jaychand didn't come to Prithviraj's aid and later on no one came to his aid against Ghori.

(4) Concept of physical population  
 ↳ hampered military efficiency  
 (division of labour impossible)  
 and military recruitment.

(5) Inward looking character of Rajput society.

Beyond these, their lack of foresight  
 in gauging the incoming invasions,  
poor defense of North-west  
 and poor military tactics resulted  
 in the success of foreign invaders.

2.8 (b)

How did the arrival of Portuguese lead to the trade monopoly in India? Was the trade monopoly of Portuguese very effective? [15 Marks]

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Portuguese arrival to trade in the Indian Ocean and Arabian sea was heralded by Vasco da Gama's arrival at Calicut some years before.

### Trade Monopoly of Portuguese

- Portuguese tried to control the 'Trade in east' by declaring it Royal monopoly.
- This exclusion was placed on:
  - all European and Asian nations
  - all Portuguese private trade
- Even in this - Black pepper, Horses and ammunitions were completely monopolised.

- to enforce this - they introduced a Carlay system (pass)
- under this, ship had to ~~pay~~ <sup>buy</sup> a pass from portugese for trading in the region.
- they further tried to force all traffic to go through Goa.
- they assumed in themselves, a right to search any ship and if they refused they could capture and destroy it and treat its people as slaves.  
⇒ armed trade.

While some rulers like Vijaynagara tried to maintain good relations with them, others like those of Gujarat, Bihar or Mysals too, engaged in trade without their permission.

Thus, the monopoly wasn't very effective, because:

- local and foreign traders carried on their trade!
- only 1/4th of all black pepper was traded by portugese.
- Seapirates were encouraged by rulers and traders to attack portugese.
- huge coasts of Asia were difficult to man.
- portugese failure to capture Aden, led to failure of monopoly in Red sea region.
- even portugese private traders were unhappy with royal monopoly.

Thus, portugese trade wasn't as effective as they had hoped.

Q.8 (c)

"Akbar took many initiatives showing his liberal religious policies which was inspired mainly by his political considerations." Critically examine. [15 Marks]

Akbar (1556-1605) was the greatest emperor of Mughal dynasty and is remembered even today for his liberal and syncretic attitude towards various religions.

Many initiatives of Akbar showing his liberal attitude:

- ① abolished pilgrimage tax and later on abolished zajiyah.
- ② prohibited conversion of prisoners of war.
- ③ Allowed Rajput wives to continue their own religious worship.
- ④ Set up Ibadat Khana to ensue debates between theologians.

of different religions

⑤ Majlis decree allowed him to be the final interpreter of Islam.

⑥ Policy of Sulh-e-kul and Din-i-Ilahi.

Political considerations behind these policies:

① Allowed Akbar to have support of the larger Hindu population  $\Rightarrow$  strengthens empire

② Rajputs were propped up as a counterweight to other Muslim nobility.

③ Muslim theologians and ullemas powers were curtailed.

④ Through Sulh-e-kul he tried to create a tolerant

populace → leading to harmony within the empire!

(very similar to the initiative of Ashoka under Dhammapasha)

Beyond political considerations, these policies were also reflective of Akbar's liberal attitude and his beliefs which were more guided by the sufi side of Islam (as evidenced in his idea of Div-i-Ilahi)

Moreover, Akbar's reformatory attitude was not just present in religious field as he tried to ban slavery, reform education, allow widows remarry, etc, so as to improve the lives of his subjects.

Candidates must not write on this margin