

AVDHITA GUPTA		 @gmail.com
NAME	Mobile No.	Email ID

Start Time:

End Time:

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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Contact: 9717510106, 8210076034 9718593510

Email ID: selfstudyhistory@gmail.com

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]

Akbar is regarded as one of the greatest monarch of Hindustan because of his liberal outlook for society and vastness of empire.

Akbar gained prominence in the pages of history for many achievement one of which was his broad toleration tolerant policy with respect to religion. Akbar propounded for - "Sul-i-kul" or universal peace for all. He also invented Ibadat khana where debates ~~from~~ took place consisting of people from all beliefs.

Akbar unlike his predecessors and contemporary monarchs, was different in his religious outlook -

- i) He gave his Hindus freedom to worship their gods and build temples.
- ii) Jiziya was removed and tax on pilgrims was abolished to establish equality among subjects.
- iii) Large number of Rajputs, Marathas, Jats etc recruited in administration and military posts.

iv) He popularized the belief of 'wahadat al wajid' which means the divine monotheism.

Many western historians have accused Akbar of carrying out this policy because of political reasons to appease Hindu Rajas and to prevent rebellion and establish peace in the empire.

It has been said that the vastness and success of his empire could be achieved through his broad policy of toleration which was later lost under his bigot successor Aurangzeb.

However, S.R. Sharma and others have contested this claim and stated that the policy carried out by Akbar due to his true belief of 'unity of being' his fascination with mysticism and his discontentment with haughty clerics. Thus he was a genuine innovator and thus a man ahead of his age.

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

Where political strife divides the people,
art and culture binds the people.
Thus painting as an art form has always
binded different groups in one fabric.

The paintings reached their Zenith
in terms of minuteness, perfection and
careful details and colour in the
Mughal period, particularly in the
reign of Jahangir.

Babur and Humayun due to their
short and turbulent reign could not
develop much. Akbar gave a go ahead
to the paintings in Mughal era.
He had his own Tasvir khana. He had
patronized artists from all over India
plus outside. Harmony could be seen as -

- i) Hindu artists were employed unhesitat-
ingly.
- ii) Artists were invited from Persia, Arabia
etc.
- iii) Later on ~~for~~ new forms of painting also
developed evolving Mughal style of its
own.

After Akbar, Jahangir also patronized painting.

Harmony in society can be seen via -

- i) Kind depiction of common market places with cultural amalgamation.
- ii) Not only Hindus, But Persians, Arabic and later even European artists were patronized by Jahangir.
- iii) Different artists from different creeds together used to finish one painting.
- iv) Rewards were given based on talents and not religion. which depicts the attitude of rulers.
- v) Even court art depicted people from all religion comprising nobility, military etc of the emperor.

Shah Jahan The painting reached climax under ~~Jahangir~~ who developed and patronized it. After him under Aurangzeb, the ware of art and culture took a back seat and coincidentally that was end of harmony in society as well.

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

Tuzuk-i-Babari is a small autobiography written by Babur himself, the first Mughal emperor. He gave honest details of his life and conquest of Hindustan.

The details Babur gave about his early life and his pride related to his ancestral glory is of little significance from the historical point of view. It is more read from the literary point perspective.

However other details like the details of how he was invited by Rana Sangha and Afghan ruler to invade Ibrahim Lodi clearly contains historical narrative useful for us.

A medieval autobiography should be read with great caution since it is susceptible to exaggerations and fictional details. However, Historians like Harbans Mukhia have approved Babur's Tuzuk-i-Babari to a large extent as useful for some contemporary

historical facts .

Babur has honestly ~~committed~~ confessed his mistakes, , accepted his flaws and boasted about his success . The description of Battle of Panipat and Battle of Khanua are important .

Also his description of the contemporary North Indian society was very useful as it give insight into lives of local people as well as their hostility towards the foreigners since they had continuously been invaded .

He had also expressed his nostalgia for his land and dream to capture his motherland Samargand back which later he actually did . He was often called lakh Badshah due to his generosity .

The ~~the~~ autobiography if not perfectly written still acts as a precious corroborating source of history .

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

Rise of Marathas in the seventeenth century is one of the remarkable events of the history of early modern India and the history of Deccan in particular. The success can be attributed largely to one man, great in capabilities and possessor of extraordinary genius, Shivaji.

Shivaji had been described as a capable general and great organizer because $\Rightarrow$

- i) It was through his military genius that he gained hold over entire Deccan and could gain confidence of all socio economic classes.
- ii) He organized his military, his army in such a way that Marathas as whole, who were earlier divided into many clans, became a unified warrior class.
- iii) He perceived himself as 'Hindudharma Rakshaka' or the protector of Hinduism which was seen as a reaction to Deccani nawabs' attacks on Marathas.

- iv) He organized army under Peshwa. Then ~~the~~ cavalry was both formally recruited - Borgis and informally recruited also who were called when needed.
- v) He gained among people consciousness of 'Marasthadesa'.
- vi) Satish Chandra has pointed out that Shivaji's achievements lies in the fact that he mobilized the lower caste peasants, Kunbis who were exploited by zamindars and had been insecure under Mughals. Thus he could gain a committed mass support base.
- vii) His ~~str~~ capabilities are evident from the fact that he conquered entire huge part of deccan as well as constantly kept challenging Mughal emperor Aurangzeb till his own death.

He was the first ruler (after crowning as Chhatrapati) who taught people not to wage war for chivalry but to win it.

He was a good administrator and excellent statesman as $\Rightarrow$

- i) He organized administration on the lines of Astapradhan.
- ii) legitimized his position by tracing him from Kstoirya dynasty.
- iii) In his empire, punishments were mild, taxes were not too harsh, death penalty was non-existent. He also gave interest free loans to needy peasants. Thus ashwari Prasad had called him an "Enlightened ruler".
- iv) Steward Gordon had stated that he allied with leading families like ~~Deshmukhs~~, Nimbalkars, Bhosleys, Moras etc, Sherkes etc, formed matrimonial alliance to increase prestige. He also on the other hand curbed the powerful 'deshmukhs'. Thus he was tactical in policies. Gordon was first historian to see rise of Maratha as independent event and not connected to decline of Mughals.

This made RC Majumdar JN - Sarkar and others to call Shivaji one of the greatest rulers India produced.

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

India since time immemorial had been visited by many foreign travellers from all across the world ~~both~~ for the purposes of patronage, pilgrimage as well as ~~to~~ just like free lance observers.

Seventeenth century had seen many foreign travellers who had given vivid account of Indian trade and commerce with rest of the world

Italian traveller Varthemia had stayed for some time in western India and observed the trade in goods from Cambay port. He had pointed out that Cambay catered nearly 300 ships or more on an annual basis coming and going to from and to different destination. A range of items went to Greece, Rome, France and other parts of Europe like spices, silk, perfumes and precious stones.

India imported items like Horses from Arabia, Persia and Central Asia as pointed out by French traveller Francois Bernier. Bernier also gives account of various ships that came and go from both eastern and western ports. Bernier remained attached to Dara Shukoh till his death and after him, in Aurangzeb's court.

Bernier gave account of range of fruits and vegetables that were introduced to India from new world e.g. Pineapples, maize, tapioca, chillies etc. There was imported from France with Mughal empire being a customer. Tamluk in ~~the~~ Bengal also flourished and traded with China and South East Asia.

~~Trade in~~ India exported salt-petre to west. Trade in slaves was very common and infant emperors exchanged slaves and precious jewellery and other gifts with each other.

Traveller Tom Pires had given extensive account of trade. He stated that Cambay port stretched one hand towards Aden and other hand towards Malacca. Thus entire Indian ocean trade flourished.

In fact even Portuguese tried to control this Indian ocean trade through their infamous Cartaz system which could not last long.

Travellers who came to deccan like Marco Polo, Abdul Razzak and others like Domenico Paes, Fernando Nuniz also gave accounts on contemporary trade and thus form important source of medieval economic history of India.

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

J.N. Sarkar had been the proponent of the idea that it was largely because of Aurangzeb's policy and administrative measures that Mughal empire declined.

Aurangzeb was an orthodox Muslim who was bigoted and had reversed the liberal policies of his predecessors. In order to keep the administration, law and polity as per sharia, he had taken certain policy decision that proved disastrous for empire in long run $\Rightarrow$

- i) He reimposed jizya and pilgrim tax on hindus which embittered them and made them disgruntled with Mughal empire.
- ii) He had razed many hindu temples to the ground which had isolated them from mass subjects.
- iii) His launch of expedition against Maratha and some Rajputs in the name of 'jihad' had also depicted his bigotry.

- iv) The policy of predecessors to see emperor as a cult figure, Jharokha darshan and been given 'shasht' by emperor to subjects were all stopped by Aurangzeb which ~~lead~~ led to loss of personal connection of people ~~from~~ with ruler.
- v) Due to being a realist in some aspects like Rajput policy and also attacks on other Muslim rulers, he at times angered the ~~st~~ ulemas and thus could keep no one happy.

Thus his religious policy made his subjects embittered and later accepted Maratha invasions on him readily.

However, it would ~~be~~ not be enough to call his religious policy as the sole of his deccan policy was equally disastrous.

- i) JN Sarkar has used the "term Deccan Ulcer" to describe the havoc on Mughal army and resources as a result of long deccan campaigns.

- ii) His arrogance and lack of ~~alt~~ conciliatory attitude defeated him at every point.
- iii) His policy decisions of remaining embroiled in deccan for twenty five years and leaving north west ~~so~~ buffer frontiers open for invaders proved disastrous.
- iv) Cultural amalgamation in the Mughal court that flourished during his predecessors also got stopped leading to flee of artists and laureates to provinces.
- v) His handling of Jats, Sikhs and Satnamis by brutal force proved heavy on Mughal empire after his death leading to carry out of independent kingdoms and revolts in deccan and Delhi.

Thus Aurangzeb tried to control all but could effectively do none which has made historians hold him responsible for the decline of vast empire. Later other theories against this too emerged making 'Jagirdari crisis' as responsible for decline.

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]

It is often said that the Mughal emperors built like Titans and embellished like jewellers. Where Jahangir's era saw climax in paintings, Shahjahan's reign witnessed highest watermark in the magnificent architecture.

Right from the time of Akbar, Mughals had evolved a style of their own fusing Persian and Indian elements. Art of building reached its zenith under Shahjahan which can be observed as $\Rightarrow$

- i) The earlier strong and powerful buildings that depicted strength turned into sensuousness in the architecture.
- ii) Red sandstone was replaced by beautiful white marble. Use of marble was made liberal. Marbles were brought from Rajasthan.
- iii) Pietra dura work that gained prominence during Jahangir was used widely by Shahjahan.

- iv) Symmetry was paid immense attention.
- v) Garden tomb came into vogue.
- vi) Dome became more bulbous and finer.

Few of Shahjahan's most famous and celebrated architecture $\Rightarrow$

i) Taj Mahal, Agra.

It is the finest example of Garden tomb of Shahjahan.

- ① Liberal use of marble all over
- ② Big bulbous dome built with inverted lotus shaped top at the top of dome.
- ③ Pietra dura work, colorful, beautifully cut stones, lapis lazuli, emeralds etc were used to decorate buildings.
- ④ Thin golden screen was used to in the entrance hall which encircled the hall.
- ⑤ Slender minarets topped by chattri used on four sides. Mosques on both side maintaining symmetry.

- ⑥ Octagonal platform laid down
- ⑦ Charbagh with Yamuna water flowing across the building.
- ⑧ It is one of the 7 wonders of the world.

ii) Red Fort, Agra

- ① Beautiful building with red sandstone - one used widely.
- ② The dome is made of marble on top of red sandstone structure.
- ③ Slender minarets - Gujarati influence.
- ④ Beautiful kiosks reveal influence of Rajasthani architecture.
- ⑤ wide use of animals, birds, lotus and swastika on the walls of the building.
- ⑥ Nearby Chandni Chowk bazaar, street architecture has been developed by Jahanara herself.

Therefore the majestic buildings of Shahjahan still enthrall tourists from across the world, an attribute that his successor largely lacked.

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

Western historians like Vincent Smith from the beginning had believed India ~~to be~~ always dominated and ruled by autocratic despots. In fact, many believe Mughal state to a theocratic one. However the reality today seems different.

Prof. Irfan Habib and Satish Chandre believe that Mughal state was not a theocratic state in terms of large scale religious conversions. However they agree that it was a highly centralized state. This centralization is meant in terms of $\Rightarrow$

- i) Centralized bureaucracy.
- ii) centralized and uniform land revenue administration.
- iii) centralized political authority.
- iv) Enlightened despotism.

Thus they believed that the centralization was in terms of

uniformity in empire. This view had been held by Athar Ali.

However revisionist historians like Muzaffar Alam, Sanjay Subramaniam and Chetan Singh has challenged this view citing that on studying in detail the land revenue systems in Awadh and Punjab, it is clear that Mughal state was not a uniformly centralized state. The economy of the empire had been customized according to the local conditions e.g. Todar Mal planned land systems of Bengal as per the provincial needs.

Moreover, local peasantry's state also varied from place to place.

This centralization that was at its peak during Akbar began to weaken during his successors. Many manabdars began to extract

seem independent not in accordance with laid guidelines. This & very phenomenon has roughly been called as 'Tagidari crisis', that began in the reign of Aurangzeb and completed the after him leading to the decline of Mughal empire.

Thus the Mughal empire was centralized politically to a great extent under the leadership of ~~Delhi~~ emperor. However, economy varied from place to place. Also the bureaucracy was different during different emperors. Whereas it was well organized during Akbar, under Jahangir and Shahjahan, the mansabdari system began to weaken with officers failing to bring required contingents.

So Mughal empire ~~was~~ which definitely seemed an homogeneous whole had inherent heterogeneity which was gradually evident.

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

Mughal Empire had a flourishing economy so much so that in many industrial and technological areas, it had been more advanced than the western world.

Industrial economy of Mughal India had wide ranging characteristics $\Rightarrow$

i) Textile Industry

- India had always been famous for its textile. Silk was famous from Bengal, Pai-than and South Indian.
- Cotton textile was exported largely from Bengal as well as Gujarat which was in great demand outside.
- Fine pashmina wool of Kashmir flourished during Mughal empire. Its shawls as well as carpets were made.
- ii) - Equipments like Pot dhumia, charkhi etc were used for fine hand work.

ii) Metal casting and crafts

- Metal industry also flourished.
Bronze casting by lost wax technique was famous and many statues made.
- Copper images and statues also made.
- Precious metals and stones were carved and sculpted were used in building by royal family
E.g. pietre dure work.

iii) Military technology

- Metal stirrups made, Horseshoe.
- Folding and cleaning barrels became easier.
- Handguns became common.

iv) Mining industry

- Smelting of iron, blast furnace used to take place for strength to buildings as well as for wide range of military equipments.

v) Metallurgy was also in vogue. Karkhanas had lot of workers

working for metallurgical ~~work~~ crafts.
Imperial, provincial as well as
individual karkhanas were in vogue
employing large number of people.

vi) Miscellaneous -

- Mughal used salt petre for freezing which was unknown in west
- Agricultural equipments were built in local industries that made cultivation easier.
- Plants species were collected and used to make spices which was in great demand in Europe
- Kanauj was famous for perfumes.
- Dadni system or putting out system was in vogue where small scale house based industrial work was also common apart from royally sanctioned industries.

Thus Mughal economy in seventeenth and eighteenth century was so flourishing that it attracted merchants from all over world primarily Europeans.