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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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Comments after evaluation

ANSWER SHEET
2020 NATIONAL TEST-1
(MEDICAL INDIA)

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

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

Religious policies of Akbar ⁽¹⁵⁵⁶⁻¹⁶⁰⁵⁾, which promoted mutual tolerance, universal brotherhood (sul-hi-kul) and curbed the power of conservative sections marked a new era for the Mughal empire.

Historians like R.S. Sharma argue that Akbar's religious policies were inspired by his political considerations.

Religious Policies - Inspired from Political Considerations

- Having been in conflict with other Muslims in Ferghana, Babur didn't hold any discriminatory views and so was Humayun, who was advised by Shah Tahmasp of Persia to make friendship with the "Zamindars"
- Akbar carried above principles by forging alliances with the Rajputs - through matrimonial relations, granting of high mansabs, etc
- Given the majority population was of Hindus, a theological Islamic state was difficult to maintain

- His religious policy helped establish "Pax Mughalica"
- peace throughout the large empire with only a few occasional rebellions
- By ensuring communal peace, Akbar was able to consolidate aspects such as currency and fiscal policy, promote arts (music, painting), trade and commerce, architecture and the military strength (though mixed contingents of Rajputs, Mughals, Afghans, etc)

But Other Factors also influenced Religious Policy

- Akbar was deeply inspired by liberal views of his tutor Sheikh Mubarak and his sons Faizi and Abul Fazal
- Personally, Akbar was deeply spiritual and had an urge to learn about and appreciate all religions (as seen in discussions at Ibadat Khana)
- Often Akbar had to adopt conservative practices such as re-imposition of jaziya in 1574 (before Mewar conflict) for political support

Both political considerations as well as personal convictions were at the heart of Akbar's religious policies.

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

The atmosphere of religious harmony and universal brotherhood (sulhi-kul), espoused by emperors like Akbar, that pervaded the Mughal society is keenly reflected by the Mughal paintings.

Societal Trends during Mughal Rule

- Reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims, largely with growth of bhakti and sufi movements
- Era of an enlightened despotism without any attachment to narrow sectarian interests - as seen from policies of Akbar, Jahangir
- Official encouragement to artistic pursuits - painting, literature, music, etc - through grants, patronage, 'karkhanas', etc.

Mughal Paintings as a reflection of Societal Harmony

- As per SP Verma's analysis of Ain-i-Akbari, majority of painters in Akbar's 'tasveer khana' were Hindus

- Abul Fazl records in the Ain that the Hindus had achieved excellence in painting and their skill can hardly be found anywhere else in the world
- Persons from lower classes found encouragement and were not discriminated - for eg. Daswant, a great painter, was earlier a 'palkhi'-bearer
- Subjects of paintings depict the eclecticism of rulers such as illustrations in Al Razmanama - the Persian version of Mahabharata
- During end of 16th century, distinctive Indian forms were adopted in paintings - such as naturalism, rhythm, Indian clothing, foliage, action along with traditional Persian forms

The art of painting went hand in hand with the broad social atmosphere of brotherhood and tolerance, until Aurangzeb's reign, when both suffered serious setbacks.

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

A.L. Beriridge, who translated the Tuzuk-i-Baburi into English, describes the book as having a "sensuous and lively picturesque description of India", that was "brief, yet exhaustive".

Tuzuk-i-Baburi as Source of Medieval India

It was written by Babur in Chahgatai-Turki language and contains his memoirs from twelfth year of his life. It contains invaluable information about India:

1) Landscape and Geography

- Babur mentions "Hindustan's frontiers - Himalayas in the north, the Shivalik mountains and the east, west and southern portion flanked by ocean
- India's seasons are mentioned - three in number and totally different from Central Asia
- Babur narrates uniqueness of India in all aspects - animals, forests, rivers, mountains all were different than what he had seen outside of India

2) Concept of Indian nationhood

- Babur calls inhabitants as "Hindis" - all were considered citizens irrespective of religious differences
- Depicts that Hindus and Muslims had reconciled differences and integrated as a single nation

3) Society

- Babur identifies the caste system and its features - living in separate quarters, hereditary occupation, etc.
- He is amazed by time reckoning system - using "gharis" and "ghanials"
- The numbering system is also mentioned
- Babur disapproves of the 'unsymmetric' arts and buildings, lack of flowing waters in buildings, good fruits, lack of social intercourse among Indians

4) Economy

- Babur describes India as full of people and full of produce
- Presence of terms like "lakh", "crore", "arb" denote the wealth of India

Tuzuk-i-Baburi is a rich source of medieval Indian history given to us directly by the observer, Babur.

Q.3 (a) How would you explain the crisis in the working of the Jagirdari System? To what extent did it influence the composition of the ruling class in the second half of the 17th Century? [20 Marks]

According to Satish Chandra, the crisis in the working of the jagirdari system was one of the major reasons for the decline of Mughal empire.

The Jagirdari Crisis

- From around 2000 jagirdars during accession of Jahangir, the number of jagirdars reached more than 11,000 during Aurangzeb's reign
- On the other hand, agricultural produce broadly stagnated, as shown by Irfan Habib, hence revenue realised by Jagirdars declined
- Hence jagirdars attempted to realise illegal exactions and often put pressure on zamindars and the peasants
- The oppressed peasantry often took to flight to neighbouring areas as shown from records of travellers like Bernier, St. Xavier, etc.

- Often zamindars provided leadership to peasants in rebellion against the jagirdars such as during Jat revolts
- This led to lower revenue realisation by jagirdars, which led to dissatisfaction and factionalism among the nobles
- Hence they reduced the number of armed retainers that was needed to be maintained
- There was rise of corruption and bribes to acquire jagirs at profitable areas while in areas like Deccan, jagirdars entered into agreement with Marathas to pay chauth since they were unable to realise anything from their assigned jagirs
- Aurangzeb also accommodated the erstwhile officials of Deccan empires and Marathas and put a ban on recruitment - which incensed sons of old nobles
- Ultimately, there was gradual breakdown of the administrative and military might of the state -

which rested on efficient functioning of the jagirdari system

Its impact on Composition of Ruling Class

- With annexation of Deccan, erstwhile Irani nobles from Bijapur, Ahmednagar and Marathas were accepted into the nobility
- The dominance of Persians however continued
- The number of Hindus in nobility reached the highest point - about 33%
- About half of the Hindus were Marathas
- The ban on new recruitment by Aurangzeb dissatisfied the earlier nobility

Hence, the jagirdari crisis was a blow to the efficiency of administration, cohesion of the nobility and aggravated the pores of decline of the Mughal empire.

Q.3 (b) Discuss critically the role of European trading companies in the economy of Mughal Empire.
[15 Marks]

The coming of the European trading companies brought about a significant change in India's trade and commerce and played a key role in the Mughal economy.

Major Players of the Mughal Period

- The Dutch East India Company, established in 1602, with bases in Masulipatnam, Coromandel, Qasimbazar, Surat, etc.
- The British East India Company, established in 1600, with bases at Surat, Patna, Dacca, Balasore, etc.
- The French East India Company, which was last to arrive, with bases at Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam, etc.
- Others like Danes, Swedes and Portuguese also were involved.

Role in Mughal Economy

1) Primary carriers of International Trade

- Since early 16th century, Europeans displaced the Arabs in the Indo-European foreign trade.

- Better naval technology, navigation and power of army enabled them to establish supremacy at sea
- Majority of exports and imports came to be happening by the European companies from Indian ports like Thatta, Broach, Goa, Cochin, Masulipatnam, Balasore, etc

2) Foreign exchange

- Europeans exported textiles of cotton (bayta, zardazi, tayta, muslin), silk, indigo, spices (cardamom, pepper, ginger) in large quantities
- In return they brought mostly silver and thus strengthened Mughal finances

3) Luxury goods

- Wines, carpets, woolens textiles were brought by Europeans
- Other items include cut glass, watches, guns for the elite classes

4) Creation of Factories

- Europeans created the factory system headed by 'factors'

- Craftsmen and artisans were gathered under one roof, provided with raw materials and worked under guidance
- Such factories existed at port cities like ^{Goa} ~~Surat~~, Broach, Masulipatnam, Hugli and also at commercial centers like Surat, Patna, Dacca, etc.,

5) Introduction of new crops

- Portuguese introduced chillies, tomato, potato, pineapple, guavas, cashew nuts, etc
- Tobacco and coffee were also introduced
- Gradually such items were produced in large scale by peasants and boosted agro-economy

6) Rise of Indian mercantile classes

- European traders also promoted activities of local merchants like baniyas, banjaras, etc through trade promotion
- Money-lenders and bankers (sarrays) felt secure to give credit to trustworthy European traders

While the European trading companies played a key role, there was very little technological exchange with the Mughal empire which later led to the latter's economic decline.

Q.3 (c) Analyse the nature and consequences of the revolts against Aurangzeb. [15 Marks]

During the second half of the 17th century, Aurangzeb had to face a series of revolts spanning across the sub-continent - from rebellions Afghans in the north-west to Marathas in the Deccan.

Nature of Revolts

1) Socio-economic character

- The Jat rebellions in Mathura and Satnamis rebellions in Narnaul come under this
- These groups, consisting mainly of peasants and artisans were connected by caste (Jats) and sectarian (Satnamis) networks
- There was dissatisfaction due to heavy land revenue demands and oppression by the Mughal jagirdars and zajidars - triggering these communities into rebellion

2) Religious character

- The execution of Guru Teg Bahadur and subsequent Sikh rebellion against Aurangzeb falls under this

- Even during Jat rebellion, Aurangzeb had broken Bir Singh Deo Bundela's temple at Mathura

37) Question of succession

- This was case of Rajput rebellion
- Aurangzeb brought Mewar Marwar under Khalisa and tried to solve the succession dispute
- This brought in Marwar into the conflict, whose ruler supported claims of Ajit Singh for 'gaddi' of Marwar

4) Regional autonomy and independence

- This was in case of Maratha rebellions
- Under leadership of Sivaji Maharaj, Marathas fought Guerilla warfare, plundering the neighbouring Mughal territories to take control of the Deccan
- Even the Afghan rebellion under Ahmad Khan was of a nature of tribal independence

Consequences

1) Decline of Mughal rule

- These rebellions set the stage for decline of Mughal empire
- Weakening of administrative and military system is apparent for eg. in Deccan, many jagirdars agreed to pay Chauth to Marathas

2) Rise of regional principalities such as Jat principalities under Chahamanas, Maratha empire, Ahom kingdom, etc.

3) Loss of long-term allies such as Rajputs due to interference in Marwar and Mewar

4) The plunder due to rebellions caused hindrance to trade, commerce, agriculture, affecting the Mughal economy negatively

Despite the revolts, Aurangzeb handled the empire skillfully but under weak successors, these forces of decline rose again bringing an end to the glory 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]

Shah Jahan was a lover of architecture and under him, art of building reached its climax under the Mughal empire.

Features of Buildings under Shah Jahan

- Along with red sandstone, marble was adopted as a chief building material
- Pietra Dura was liberally used - i.e. the art of fixation of precious stones like onyx, lapis lazuli, coral, etc in engraved patterns
- Arabesque designs - use of continuous foliated branches was used
- Lintel and beams (trabeate) method was used to give structure, while archs were only used for design
- Bulbous domes became a regular feature
- Indian elements such as use of 'jali' (screens),

'chhatris' were used

Examples of Buildings

1) Taj Mahal

- Was built as mausoleum for Mumtaz Mahal, his wife
- Made entirely of marble, with patterns made using

Pietra Dura technique

- Consists of a massive dome and four minarets on the main platform corners
- 'Jali' (screens) and chhatris are adopted into the design
- Arabesque designs consisting of patterns like honeysuckle design, lotus
- The concept channel of Yamuna is made to flow along the front garden at the centre, giving it

Overall symmetry

2) Jami Masjid, Delhi

- Built on a raised platform surrounded by arcades
- Eastern gate flanked with flight of steps

giving it an effect of lightness

- Three bulbous domes in white marble crown the building
- Main building material is red sandstone, with marble used for decorations
- Consists of an open courtyard within the main building and colonnades running along three sides

Apart from the above, other buildings of Shah Jahan such as Lal Qila (Red Fort), Moti Masjid stand as a testament to his great building abilities.

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

Historians belonging to the 'Aligarh School' such as Iqbal Habib, Atmar Ali among others, have contended that the Mughal state was a centralized state.

Arguments in Support of Centralised State

- The monetary system, with high level of standardisation based on silver rupayah, gold mohr, copper dam across the empire suggests centralised state
- Iqbal Habib considers "Zabt system" (method of revenue assessment based on measurement) as a sign of administrative uniformity
- The bureaucratized nobility based on hierarchy on basis of mansabdari system has been cited as evidence of centralisation
- J.F. Richards considers the flourishing trade and commerce - both intra-regional and international

was possible because of centralised polity

- Based on W.H. Moreland's study of Mughal agrarian system, historians argue that such uniformity in agrarian production was possible only in a centralised empire
- The division of empire into revenue circles (dastur-ul-amals) as given in Ain-i-Akbari gives evidence of centralisation

But some recent works have challenged this traditional view of Mughal state as a centralised state.

Contrary Views

- Historians have pointed out on excessive reliance on Ain-i-Akbari by Aligarh school - which contains only concise information
- Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subramanian have shown that only few select regions were included

in arazi (measured land) and not the entire empire

- Arguments on centralised state mostly base on evidence from Akbar's reign (1556) to Aurangzeb's (1707)
- Chetan Singh has argued that Mughal authority might have been centralised in doab area, but at periphery, it was weak
- Stephen Blake considers Mughal state as a patrimonial bureaucratic state

Given the huge extent of the Mughal empire, there must have been varying degrees of centralising tendencies across the empire.

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

The Mughal empire, with its stable interior, peaceful frontiers, a monetised economy and state patronage, helped industrial economy reach its zenith in the medieval period.

Products of Industrial Economy

1) Textiles

- Cotton textiles such as bayta, tahta, zardozi, muslin and others as mentioned in Ain-i-Akbari
- Broach, Surat, Patna, Varanasi, Murshidabad emerged as major centers
- Silk was also produced of fine quality especially from Bengal and Kashmir
- Woolen textiles carpets, dunnies, blankets from Kashmir were famous

2) Indigo

- Used for dyeing and bleaching.
- Bayana and Sarkhej were important centers

3) Sugar - in the form of gur, khardasari, candy

4) Minerals

- Salt from Sambhar lake (Rajasthan), Himalayan rock salt from Punjab, sea salt in Kutch
- Saltpetre from Patna

5) Metals

- Steel from Golconda used to make Damascus swords
- Iron mining in Bihar - Chotanagpur area
- Copper from Khetri mines (Rajasthan)

6) Other crafts like wood carpentry, stone cutting, etc.

Organisation of Production

- 1) Village artisans produced on a cottage industry basis
- 2) Dadri system was prevalent - where by merchants paid advances and raw materials to artisans
- 3) Factory system was introduced by British and Dutch in centers like Patna
- 4) Mughal Karkhanas - where artisans worked under one roof to produce items for use of emperor and nobles

Agents of Economy

- 1) Merchant groups such as the baniyas of western India, chettis of Karnataka, Karwaris, Multanis, etc
- 2) Bankers, money-lenders such as seths, sarrags who made money available on credit
- 3) Brokers called as 'dallals' who acted as middlemen between producers and long distance merchants
- 4) European corporations such as East India Companies of Britain, Dutch, French, etc.

Such was the resilience and strength of Indian industrial economy that even after rise of regional states, India, along with China, dominated world industrial production. It was only after the British conquest during second half of 18th century that it received a deadly blow.