Nidhin D.P	[redacted]	[redacted] expeditions
NAME	Mobile No.	Email ID

Start Time: 9.00 am End Time: 10:50

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

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

Q.1 (a) Describe the evolution of tomb architecture with addition of new features under successive Delhi Sultans. [10 Marks]

Establishment of Delhi Sultanate was also crucial for evolution of Indo-Islamic composite architecture of which tomb architecture achieved significance.

Evolution of tomb architecture – Delhi Sultans

It began under Iltumish

→ Sultan Ghari – tomb of his son Nasiruddin Mahmud

→ Tomb of Iltumish – evolution of squinches

Decorative elements

Sultan	Examples	Features
Balban	Tomb of Balban	→ evidence of first "true arch" → Some historians point attempt for early dome
~~Ghiyasuddin~~ Tughlaq Alauddin Khalji	tomb of Alauddin Khalji	→ horse-shoe arches, dome → influx of Seljuq features - lotus-bud finges

		- use of headers & stretchers
Early Tughlaqs	Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq	→ Domes with visible neck → Battered walls → four-centred arch → Hindu elements eg: Kalasha-like features
Firuz Tughlaq	Tomb of Khan-i-jahan Telangani	→ Octagonal tombs → lime plasters in ~~tombs~~ rubble masonry → Decoration with tiles
Sayyid & Lodi	eg: Tombs in Lodi Gardens	→ Octagonal tombs have verandahs, single storeys and shades → Square tombs have no verandahs, multi-storeyed → onion domes evolution under Sikandar Lodi

Tombs were constructed to show prestige of Sultans and glory of Sultanate. Calligraphy, Arabesque etc. also portrayed Islamic character.

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Q.1 (b) Describe the social changes caused by the foundation of Delhi Sultanate. [10 Marks]

Social impact of Delhi Sultanate is widely debated. Some says there was a social decline while likes of Satish Chandra says rural economy and society was hardly impacted. Muhammad Habib says Sultanate unleashed socio-economic forces that brought progress.

Social changes brought by Sultanate

① Racial character of state had wide impact.

eg: Turks were ruling class under Mamluk

This gradually led to stratification of society.

② Indian society got diversified with immigration of Turks, Afghans, Arabs etc.

eg: Jalaluddin Khalji allowed Mongols to settle

This led to exchange of ideas, formig a composite culture

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③ New languages

→ evolution of Urdu from military camps (Zaban-i-Urdu)

→ Regional languages got influenced by Persian eg: Punjabi

④ Literature

→ Amir Khusrau used Zaban-i-Hind or language of India in works

→ Persian words to India

⑤ Religion

→ Growth of Sufi movement with state patronage. eg: Nizamuddin Auliya

→ Influenced socio-economic growth

eg: Dargah of Ajmer - visited by all

⑥ Women

→ Purdah grew as symbol of status

→ Further subordination of women for political & military gains.

⑦ Third urbanisation of India

led to commerce, growth of urban & court culture etc.

Thus, establishment of Sultanate was far beyond a political change though some elements grew as natural progress of change.

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Q.1 (c) In what way international trade supported urbanisation in North India during the 13-14th century CE? [10 Marks]

According to some historians, 13th & 14th century was a period of re-establishment of urban centres post the period of intense feudalism and closed economy with decline of monetary economy in earlier times.

International trade & urbanisation of North India

13th and 14th century saw greater contact of India with West Asia, especially due to ~~establishment~~ foreign invasions.

(1) Arrival of invaders dismantled existing notion of local self sufficiency. This led to growth of awareness towards regions beyond locality.

(2) Establishment of Delhi Sultanate

Armies and nobles that followed them

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wanted familiarity with their native places.
- They promoted trade to bring luxuries and necessities from West & Central Asia.

(3) This developed trade networks and markets which grew into urban centres.

(4) This further started a cycle where economic prosperity grew, increasing demand of further luxuries from international trade

(5) Establishment of empires stabilised and promoted trade
- Mongol empire, Ottoman empire, ~~Safavid~~ Seljuk etc.

(6) All this led to influx of Islamic tribes.

Urban centres were seen as signs of prosperity in Islam, promoting urbanisation.

However, other factors like political stability, (Delhi Sultanate), growth of local industries, religious pilgrimage (eg: Ajmer) all promoted growth of urban centres in 13th & 14th century.

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Q.2 (a) "With the best intentions, excellent ideas, but no balance or patience, no sense of proportion, Muhammad Tughluq was a transcendent failure". Elaborate. [20 Marks]

Reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq (1324-51) had been one of controversies. The lives of IBn Battuta calls him as "ill-starred idealist" and Barani criticises him for his projects. But, accounts of Barani shows that his reign started with hope of a golden future under a stable economy and learned ruler.

Muhammad Tughlaq as a transcendent failure

① Best intentions

He was well learned and literate person and genuinely worked to do good for the kingdom.

eg: Appointing officers based on merit

He hoped for best outcomes via his experiments.

eg: Token currency to address shortage

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of silver (J L Mehta)

② Excellent ideas

His ideas were far beyond his time

→ Idea of token currency was similar to modern fiat currency. Likes of Tughlaq Khan had already experimented with it successfully.

→ Capital change to Daulatabad.

As empire grew, he wanted to have a central capital (Ferishta). He also considered Delhi as too close to North western boundary to defend.

→ Bold plan to invade Khorasan, only Mongol menace.

③ Bit, no balance or perfection

His policies were implemented in haste or without properly thinking through.

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eg: Historians point out that some rebels suggested Ujjain as a much better location for capital.

④ No sense of proportion

He never did a pros. and cons. analysis of his policies. or brought out proportionate checks and balances.

→ Take case of token currency

- No check measures brought on to prevent counterfeiting
- No agreement with foreign governments for trade exchge.

Thus, one cannot blame him for his intentions or ideas, but his failures were transcendental as many later historians pointed out, this began process of disintegration of empire. 16 major rebellions propped up since 1335 and within half century, his empire shrunk to only

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around death.

Was he a failure in reality?

One cannot judge him based on contemporary histories alone.

① Likes of Barani were biased being a noble (eg: criticising merit-based appointments). He focuses only on failure of Muhammad.

② Ibn Battuta in 1334 notes economy as prosperous - no trace of token currency experiment or capital chge.

③ Circumstances also played a role - Khorasan expedition did not materialise as situation in Central Asia chged. eg: Tarmashirin (his ally) deposed.

④ Corruption of administration led to higher tax incidence, causing distress and rebellions

Thus, his failures where not his alone. He was bold enough to admit his failures and move along. Further, it is safe to conclude that he was far beyond his time.

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Q.2 (b) How did various irrigation works facilitate expansion of agriculture in early medieval India? [15 Marks]

Early medieval India was a period of transformation for Indian society. It saw emergence of Feudal dominance and some historians claim existence of closed economy. However, agriculture seems to be expanding owing to multiple factors as seen from accounts of travellers and inscriptions.

Irrigation works facilitated agriculture

Land grants grew as prominent institutions in early medieval India. For agriculture to prosper, irrigation had to be expanded. State and prosperous donors stepped in.

① Traveller Sulaiman notes Bengal agriculture to be prosperous with efficient irrigation.

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Various feudal lords became centre of these irrigation works also in Gurjara-Pratiharas and Rashtrakuta empire.

④ Technological innovation eg: Persian wheel got introduced

⑤ In Chola empire too, state promoted irrigation and constructed dams.

eg: in Kaveri river ; repairing Kallanai

⑥ Uttaramerur inscription points out that village assemblies (eg: sabha) took active care in irrigation.

eg: Eriyariyam – Special committee for irrigation.

⑦ Prosperous trade guilds, rich nobles etc. also took care of creating irrigation.

⑧ Analysing copper plates, which give account of land grants, we can analyse geography of the land donated, which often had sources of irrigation – dams, ponds, rivers etc. If not,

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state often took interest in creating them.

With active investments, agriculture began prospering. Often times, land grants under this framework ~~became~~ were intended to bring uncultivated ~~tag~~ land to plough.

Other factors played a role in agricultural expansion

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① Theory of closed economy: As villages became inward looking, all necessities had to be domestically produced.

② Surplus of land and existence of labour led to expension of agriculture by bringing virgin land under plough.

~~③ With few~~

Thus, spread of irrigation had to be natural progression, which inaugurated a cycle of agricultural expansion and further spread of irrigational facilities.

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Q.2 (c) "The social life under the Vijayanagar Empire was well developed." Elaborate. [15 Marks]

Accounts of travellers like Barbosa, Nicolo Conti, Nikitin etc. points out that Vijayanagara empire had a diverse society with prosperous social life.

Well developed Social life in Vijayanagara

With political unity, agriculture and commerce prospered, paving way to social growth.

① Wide sense of tolerance and acceptance

eg: Multiple caste people and muslims lived within Hampi, though in separate sections.

② Social prosperity

Trade and commerce were well developed.

Travellers note how all kinds of produce from all parts of world were sold in markets.

(3) Improved position of women

- they took up economic activities and even took into physical activities like wrestling.

eg: Tirumalamba Devi — literary works

(4) Rural society

People could afford two foods daily and peasants were respected

(5) Religious sphere.

Bhakti movement spread further on backs of which music, dance etc. developed

eg: Purandaradasa's works

- there were intermingling of ideas and people.

eg: Abdur Razzak notes cosmopolitan nature of Calicut port.

- Thus on analysis, we can see that social growth was progressive in Vijayanagara empire.

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Social development was not complete

① Caste system: continued to be dominant and brahmins occupied high positions.

② Travellers note the stark inequality present in society.

③ Sati, devadasi system etc. were oppressive and women suffered.

④ Division of society into valankai (right handed) and idankai (left handed) created social tensions at times.

⑤ Urban prosperity seen was at the back of rural backwardness.

eg: local lords exploited them under nayaka and ~~and~~ ayakar system

Thus, Vijayanagara was a complex society of multi dimensional proportions. However, comparing to standards of time, social life developed on back of economic and political stability.

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Q.3 (a) "Zain ul Abedin was a great king of Medieval India." In the light of the given statement, discuss the contributions of Zain ul Abedin as a ruler of Kashmir. [20 Marks]

Zainul Abidin ruled Kashmir between 1420 and 1470 and is often regarded as the 'Akbar of Kashmir' for his achievements.

Great king of medieval India

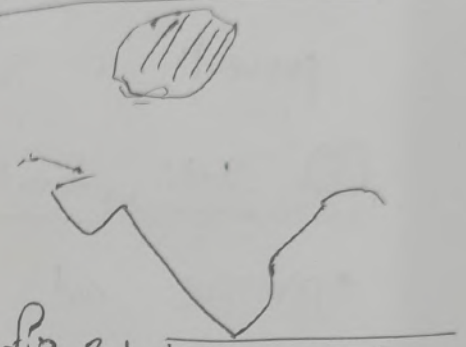

fig 3.1 : Empire of Zainul Abidin

Background Zainul Abidin succeeded his father Sikandar Shah to throne. Sikandar persecuted non-muslims, who were ordered either to leave volley or convert.

Contributions of Zainul Abidin

(1) Zainul Abidin organised his army and led conquest of Western Tibet and Parts of Punjab after uniting Kashmir. He was also a great fighter.

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② Administrative reforms

- He brought out a code of law and displayed it as engravings
- Justice department: was re-organised based on code to give proper justice delivery. He limited use of torture.
- He aimed at ending corruption and took strict measures.

③ Patronage to art and culture.

→ Literature: He promoted Sanskrit literature

eg: Jaina Charitas by courtesan

Dvitiya Rajatarangini got composed by Jonaraja at his patronage. and Kalhana's Rajatarangini was ~~convert~~ translated to Persian.

→ He was a great builder of bridges, canals, towns etc. eg: Jaina Lanka island in Wular lake

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(A) Wide sense of tolerance and acceptance

He allowed all brahmins who left valley under his father to come back and allowed them in high posts.

He even participated in Hindu festivals.

(B) Economic prosperity

With irrigation projects and proper law and order, agriculture developed. He also reduced revenue demand to one-fourth and brought measurement of land.

Value of currency became stabilised and prices were fixed so that everyone could access them.

On back of all these, artisans and immigrants arrived from deals and weak Asia, resulting in a shared culture. With

Commerce improving.

Thus, the reign of Zainul Abidin seems to be one of prosperity and stability with welfare and justice as paramount policies. However, most details of his reign comes from court historians like Jonaraja and works like Zaina charita. Thus, we are not sure how far this can be trusted as there are chances of inherent bias of viewing from point of view of upper sections of society.

However, with existing records we have to conclude that Zainul Abidin was a great king of medieval era who made Kashmir land of prosperity.

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Q.3 (b) "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." Examine. [15 Marks]

Firuz Shah Tughluq was the third ruler of Tughluq dynasty who ascended throne in 1351 post the turbulent periods of the later reign of Muhammad Tughluq.

Background to Firuz's rule

Delhi Sultanate began process of disintegration with rebellions propping up around country. South India and Bengal became independent. Many nobles were having their independent aspirations.

Firuz as enlightened and humane ruler

Firuz took a conciliatory approach from very beginning.

① He abandoned policy of appointing

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low-born' to higher posts.

(3) All administrative posts were made hereditary. to appease nobles.

(3) He attempted to appease ulemas by bringing Sharia as goal of administration

He also made concessions to ulemas.

(4) Patronage to learning and architecture eg: Learning observatory

All his measures of appeasement were born out of the necessities of administration plaguing him. Through his measures, he ensured that no further disintegration of empire occured. To avoid losing control of crown, he also developed an army of slaves loyal to him. Thus, he was enlightened.

Humanitarian measures

(1) Diwan-i hayukat: Department for welfare was brought.

(2) He gave charity elaborately and to poor girls for marriage.

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③ He wrote-off all peasant loans and all debts due to crown.

④ Vast irrigation network was built for agricultural prosperity and model farms were brought.

Firuz was not an enlightened ruler

An enlightened ruler would have vision for future of empire.

① By making even army roles hereditary, Firuz undermined stability of empire.

② His army of slaves were loyal to him and not his successors.

③ His measures to appease nobles led to corruption and bigotry entering administration and draining of treasury.

All this led to civil wars propping up after his death and final blow came via Timurid invasion. But, credit has to be given to him for extending life of Sultanate post 1350s.

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Q.3 (c) Why Babur was able to defeat Ibrahim Lodi in the first battle of Panipat? [15 Marks]

Babur was a Timurid prince who had his foundations in Afghanistan. After stabilising his hold of Kabul and Kandahar, he invaded India and fist battle of Panipat (1526) ~~ted~~ laid foundations of Mughal rule in India.

Why Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi?

Babur has to be given merit in this.

(1) Babur was visionary and he had plans to build an empire in India.

(2) Babur's character: He inspired his followers in difficulties and always led from front.

(3) Strategies of Babur: Babur analysed his strengths and weaknesses and carefully chose his battle field.

→ He barricaded his left with trenches and to his right was fort of Panipat.

→ Tulughma & Araba strategy: He died carts together with ropes and placed artillery between them. At a crucial point, he ordered his cavalry to charge from both sides, surrounding Lodi army.

However, as Toynbee said, no great civilisation can be declined only with foreign invasions. Internal weakness of Delhi Sultanate was a reason.

① Character of Ibrahim Lodi: He alienated his nobles by humiliating them.
eg: Daulat Khan invited Babur to attack

② Lack of unity among Indian rulers
eg: Rana Sangha promised coalition with Babur

③ Weakness of Sultanate: Running of Sultanate collapsed and Sultanate was in shambles post Timurid invasion.

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(4) Military backwardness

Babur used his cavalry and artillery efficiently.

Lodi armies were not properly organised and use of elephants by a disorganised army was prone to disasters

Thus, socio-economic backwardness and political degradation was crucial in the Sultanate defeat at Panipat. Moreover, Babur's army had a sense of direction, and unity as he was the last Timurid prince at power standing. Timurid tradition ensured that no nobles aspired for authority which bound them together.

Thus, the epoch change happened in Panipat was not accidental.

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Q.4 (a) Evaluating the theory of kingship of the Sultanate, discuss the deviations seen in the reigns of different Sultans. [20 Marks]

Delhi Sultanate was established with military might under Turkish theory of kingship. But, over time, theory of kingship evolved under various Sultans.

Sultanate theory of kingship

A. General features

① Military character. - Delhi Sultanate was established on basis of superior military strength.

eg: Military nobles in administrative role under Qutbuddin Aibak

This continued later as well.

eg: Malik Kafur rising to prominence as military leader and king maker

② ~~Racial~~ Racial theory of kingship

There was a prevalent belief that only

high-born were meant to rule.

Khalji revolution challenged this. eg: Barani says everyone was awestruck by low-born Khaljis occupying throne.

But, Ibn Battuta testifies that racial character continued to hold prominence.

③ King as representative of Caliph - Islamic kingship

→ Quest for legitimacy of rule of Iltumish ended in him getting letter of investiture in 1229. This secured throne for him & his successors.

→ Concept of Zil-i ilahi (shadow of god on earth - the king). Only such a king could claim legitimacy as per Balban.

However, later, Alauddin Khalji denounces Islamic kingship. Later, only under Firuz Tughlaq

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did sharia and role of ulema came back strongly.

(4) Benevolent and just kingship

Early elements of same can be found in Razia's attempts like building schools and giving even handed justice.

Balban's blood & iron policy involved ideal of justice as well. Though benevolence was not given importance, he told his son Bughra Khan to tax only moderately.

Benevolent kingship got boost under Alauddin Khalji - kingship should be in the interest of governed.

Alauddin Khalji, later reverted to strong policy of similar to Balbans.

But, benevolence returned Sultanate via Firuz Tughlaq eg: Diwan-i-khyrat for welfare

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③ ~~Despotism~~ Oriental despotism - close to what Marxist historians proposed

From era of Iltumish, there was attempt to build a despotic state, which culminated in Balbans state.

eg: Sijda & Paibos by Balban in court was symbol of his autocracy.

Under Alauddin and Muhammad Tughlaq, state got centralised and despotism reached apeak

eg: Alauddins measures to crush nobility and Muhammad's attempt to transfer capital despite oppositions.

Thus, in conclusion, the nature of kingship was constantly getting experimented and kings chose their policies based on their personal beliefs and exigencies of time.

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Q.4 (b) "New crafts production and techniques were introduced by the Turks in India." Elaborate. [15 Marks]

Introduction of Turkish rule in India post 1192 and particularly in 1206 under Qutbuddin Aibak was not merely a political change, but involved multiple socio-economic changes like Muhammad Habib pointed. This ~~involved~~ included in craft production.

New crafts & production techniques to India

Trade with Middle Asia improved and new set of immigrants flew to India post 1200s This widened contacts lead to introduction of new crafts.

① Paper industry and book binding got introduced earlier, but got a true impetus under Sultanate and later.

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eg: Zainul Abidin promoted book binding in Kashmir.

(2) New techniques of glass works, chemical industry etc. developed

eg: gunpowder for artillery.

(3) Metallurgy - Military needs for high quality weapons, iron stirrups etc. drove upgradation in metallurgy.

New technique of tin coating of metals got introduced.

(4) Textile industry

Mulla Daud mentions spread of block printing technique.

Charka was introduced, revolutionising production.

eg. ~~Agra~~ centres like Surat, Gujarat, Varanasi etc. rose to prominence.

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⑤ Agricultural production techniques also improved

eg: Persian wheel was introduced

⑥ Pre-existing industries got a boost and technological upgradation post 12th century

eg: leather works - new methods of tanning; wood craft etc.

All this led to Indian handicrafts industry growing to prominence. Under royal patronage and with growth of urban centres, these industries developed further.

Many nobles ~~bought~~ patronized investment in luxuries as well. But, there was a lack of high investments in productive industries like ship building, scientific studies etc. Despite all this, we have to conclude that arrival of Turks was an epoch chge.

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Q.4 (c) Critically examine the account of Alberuni of the Indian society. [15 Marks]

Al Biruni was a Persian scholar in the court of Mahmud Ghazni, who wrote in his Kitab-al Hind, extensive details of the conditions in India. Thus, he is often called as first indologist.

Al Biruni's account of Indian society

Al Biruni notes many features of society and tries to critically analyse them based on his views. He also tries to compare his observations with contemporary west Asia.

① Closed nature of Indian society

He notes that there is no country but India for Indians; no king but theirs; no science but theirs.

This inward looking policy gets criticised.

(2) Caste system and its prevalence with brahmanical domination was noted.

Al Biruni but criticises notions of impurity of people. Like sun purifying air, he says, god purifies people.

(3) He notices sad position of women under brahmanical dominance
eg: Horrific detail of Sati

(4) He also gives extensive details on Indian religions, customs and traditions

(5) Al Biruni learns Sanskrit and praises it as one of the most scientific.

However, his accounts cannot be taken for granted.

(1) Al Biruni, as Persian, lacks comprehensive understanding of Indian society.

(2) Most of his knowledge of society originate from his conversation with Brahmins via sanskrit

This inherently gives a bias to his views.

(3) Al Biruni fails to comprehensively understand the position of shudras in India.

(4) Most of his observations were focused on North and North west India, and thus cannot be extended throughout in a diverse society like India.

(5) Finally like any other foreigner, his views stands firm on his beliefs, thus he fails to bring a balance in judgement.

However, Al-Biruni provides vital information about the society of early medieval period.