GS SCORE

MAINS TEST SERIES 2015

Mock Test - 01

HISTORY

Time Allowed: 3 hr. *Max. Marks: 250*

Instructions to Candidate

- **There are EIGHT questions divided in Two Sections and printed in ENGLISH.**
- **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 choosing at least ONE from each section.**
- **The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.**
- **Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.**
- **Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.**
- **Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological 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 answer book must be clearly struck off.**

Name BASUKI JHA

Mobile No.

Date 25/11/015

Signature

1. *Invigilator Signature*

2. *Invigilator Signature*

1. Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and writea short note of about 30 words on each of them in your Question-cum" Booklet. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim. (2.5 x 20 = 50 Marks)

1. A Palaeolithic site
2. A Neolithic site
3. A megalithic site
4. An Ancient capital.
5. A Palaeolithic site
6. A historical site
7. A Harappan site
8. An ancient capital
9. A political and cultural centre
10. Megalithic site
11. A Mesolithic site
12. A Chalcolithic site
13. A Buddhist centre
14. A political and cultural centre
15. An ancient capital
16. A port site
17. Rock-cave art centre
18. An ancient capital
19. A political and cultural center
20. An ancient town

1. Chittoor -

(i)- located in present day Andhra Pradesh.

(ii)- evidence in the form of archaeological remains suggest it has been a paleolithic mesolithic as well as a neolithic site.

2.

3. Hallur -

(i)- located in present day Karnataka.

(ii)- evidence of megaliths found in the form of burial covered & surrounded by stones.

4. Vaishali - (i). ancient capital of Lichhavi republic.

(ii). located in present day state of Bihar.

(iii)- It is famous for second Buddhist council organized by Kala Ashoka. He also made Vaishali as his capital for sometime.

5. Manda -

(i): located in present day state of Jammu and Kashmir.

(ii). Later it became as a part of Harappan civilization.

(iii) it was also one of the northern most site of Harappan culture in India.

6. Amravati (i) located in Dharanikota in Andhra Pradesh, along banks of River Godavari
(ii) - capital of Ikshvakus
(iii) - Famous of stupas of Amravati school of art, which has now been destroyed
(iv) - recently, it has been planned as a capital of Andhra Pradesh.

7. Dholavira -
(i) - located in present day state of Gujrat
(ii) - one of the largest known Harappan site in India.
(iii) - famous for 10 lettered inscription of Harappan times - the longest discovered so far.

8. Pragjyotisha - capital of
(i). located in present day Assam.
(ii) - capital of Pragjyotisha kingdom.
(iii) - later occupied by Ahom rulers.
(iv) - It was one of the important point in trade with China & South-east Asia.

9. Purushpur.

(i)- Identified with present day Peshawar.

(ii)- It was a capital of Kushana rulers

(iii)- one of the very important sites of Uttarpatha trade route.

(iv)- Presently, it is one of the most important political centre of Pakistan

10.

11. Adamgarh -

(i)- Located in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh.

(ii)- It is approximately 40 km. from the ancient caves of Bhimbetka.

(iii)- Archaeological evidence have revealed microliths, & stone tools dated 9000 BC.

12. Ahar -

(i)- located along banks of R. Banas in the state of Rajasthan

(ii)- famous as copper site and discovery of Black and Red ware pottery.

(iii)- people of this culture used to live in square or round houses with thatched roof.

(iv)- Other important sites of Mauryan culture was Lalkund.

13. Bodh Gaya -

(i) located in present day Bihar in

(ii) Jahanabad district.

(ii) Buddha is believed to have achieved his mahaparinirvana here.

(iii) Also, famous for Bodhi temple.

(iv) - References of Bodh Gaya has been provided by Fa-Hein & Huen Tsang

14. Shravasti.

(i) earlier capital of Kosala kingdom.

(ii) famous as a Buddhist centre.

(iii) Buddha is believed to have delivered a sermon here.

15. Taxila -

(i) capital of Gandhara mahajanapada.

(ii) It was a centre of education during ancient time.

(iii) scholars like Kautilya, Jivaka etc have been believed to teach here.

(iv) It was also one of the imp. trade sites.

16. Sopara -

(i). Located ~~at~~ 20-30 km from Mumbai,

(ii). It was an important port site of ancient India

(iii). Ashoka rock edicts have also been found here.

17. Ellora Ajanta.

(i). Located in Aurangabad dist. Maharashtra

(ii). It is famous for Buddhist caves of ancient India.

(iii). world famous murals of dying princess and Buddha begging for alms also found.

(iv). It is a UNESCO world Heritage Site

18. Madurai.

(i). located in present day Tamil Nadu along river Vaigai

(ii). capital of ancient kingdom of Pandyas.

(iii). famous for Meenaxi temple, built by Nayakas of Vijaynagar kingdom.

19. Nasik -

(i). located in present day Maharashtra

(ii). reference found in Patanjali's Mahabhasya as "Nasikya".

(iii). It was imp. trade site of Bhakshinpatta route

(iv) presently famous for kumbh mela & Shiva temple.

20. ~~Bhabhagganga~~

(i).

2. (a) What do you understand by nomadic pastoralism? How is it different from pastoralism? (15 Marks)

(b) How was the relationship with the other kinsmen getting more complicated in Vedic period? (15 Marks)

(c) Discuss the implications of iron metallurgy in the development of urbanism and Statestructures. (20 Marks)

3. (a) At what far do you agree that the feudatory character of the Kushanas political system can be inferred from the titles taken by the rulers? (20 Marks)

(b) How the foreign account has been proved the most valuable source in constructing the history of Indian-Roman trade around first century AD. (10 Marks)

(c) The urbanization and increasing trade became one of the most important reasons in expansion of Buddha religion in peninsular India, central India and different countries. Comment. (20 Marks)

4. (a) What were the scientific achievements in Gupta Period? (20 Marks)

(b) 'The religion preached by Ashoka in his edicts was a universal religion'. Examine in light of his policy of dhamma. (20 Marks)

(c) On the basis of the Ancient literature examine the Indian view on the conservation of the environment. (10 Marks)

Ans 4 -(a)- Gupta Period is often referred to as 'golden Period' of Indian History. This period saw remarkable achievement in the field of art, architecture, literature etc, but the achievement in the field of science has been phenomenal.

Scientific achievements can be broadly classified into :-

- Astronomy
- Maths
- Medical Science
- Civil Engineering
- Chemicals
- Metallurgy

(I) - Astronomy - Progress has been tremendous, so much so, that it served as base for future studies.

Important works were:-

(i)- Aryabhatiam by Aryabhatta - He was a seasoned astronomer. The theories of revolution of earth, around the sun, circular shape of earth were propounded by him. He also calculated the approximate distance between earth & sun

which is very much close to present day calculation.

(ii)- Brahmagupta Siddhanta by Brahmagupta - He also offered to study the movement of heavenly bodies and find the causes of solar & lunar eclipse.

(2)- Maths -

renowned works in ~~Maths~~ ~~were~~ Maths were:-

(i)- Aryabhatiam by Aryabhatta

He gave to the world the concept of 'zero' as a digit. He also found out the circumference of circle and the value of pie.

(ii)- Varahmihira's ~~Brihat~~ Brihadsamhita -

talks about calculation involved in construction of buildings, arts & architecture etc. He also provide knowledge of seasons & associated crafts.

(iii)- Lilavati by Bhaskaracharya.

(iii)- Brahmagupta Siddhanta by Brahmagupta - He discovered properties of cyclic quadrilaterals, properties of funds etc.

(3) Medical Science - development in this field has been outstanding.

Major works were:-

(i)- Asthang Hridaya by Vagbhatta - He talks about various medicine.

(ii)- Hasti Ayurveda by - dealt with ailments of elephant

(iii)- Prakalpya wrote a book on horses and their ailments & cure.

(iv)- Rasagosesa Nagarjuna discovered the medicinal properties of metals & herbs.

(4) Civil Engineering - development in this field is evident from the long temples & carving of stone on them. This period marked a remarkable shift from wooden to stone architecture which shows the civil engineering growth of the period.

(5) Chemicals - In the process of converting metals into gold, a number of acids & bases earlier unknown were discovered.

(6) Mettalurgy - High watermark in field of mettalurgy of this period is seen from the Iron pillar at Mehrauli

which has not rusted even till now. Further, copper statue of Buddha also shows the level of metallurgy of Gupta period.

Thus, Gupta period saw an overall development in the field of science & technology. The central authority and liberal & progressive society favoured new discoveries & inventions. These inventions became benchmark for future discoveries and also have also been translated by foreign authors. Thus, Gupta period represented a 'Golden period' for scientific developments.

Ans 4(b) - Ashoka's inclination towards Dhamma is evident from various edict have been discovered from various part of the sub-continent.

In the 6th pillar edict, Ashoka mentions that he began inscribing edicts for propogation of Dhamma after 12th regnal year. As evident from sources, this happened after his Kalinga war and

Ashoka's change in mind.

Historians have differed in their approach toward Ashoka Dhamma. Some call it a move towards political consolidation, some say it was a new religion.

However, recent researches of his edicts have shown that Ashoka intended to create a universal religion with a uniform moral code of conduct.

In 2nd rock edict Ashoka himself asks what is Dhamma and goes on to explain it in the 2nd and 7th edict that Dhamma is about good conduct & values.

In the 1st rock edict Ashoka asks his subjects to abjure violence. He abandons killing of animals for personal pleasure.

In the 9th rock edict Ashoka asks his subject to reject pomp & show and observe good conducts like donations respect for learned, pity for poor etc.

In the 12th rock edict, Ashoka calls for mutual respect of all sects and reverence of the learned & sacred

irrespective of faith.

In the 2nd rock edict, Ashoka also mentions about the responsibility of the king towards his subjects. This includes, constructing wells, planting medicinal herbs etc.

Therefore, from the above evidences, it becomes clear that Ashoka laid stress on observance of universal values, and intended to establish a code of conduct acceptable by all faiths.

However, Ashoka's inclination towards Buddhism, has ~~been~~ sometimes led to inference that Ashoka was popularizing Buddhism through his ~~the~~ policy of Dhamma. But, as seen before, ~~a~~ elements of respect for all religions and describing the duties of kings as a part of Dhamma shows that Ashoka was not creating ~~of~~ or popularizing any particular religion but was preaching a 'universal religion' which laid stress on moral principles of ~~an~~ an ethical life.

Ans 4(a)- The principle of conservation of environment has been a part of cultural ethos of India. It was so much embedded in the Indian society that often the nature and its forces were worshipped by the people.

During the Vedic Age, the vedas provide reference of sacredness of trees like peepal, neem etc. The Ayurveda has reference to medicinal properties of plants which should be conserved. Similarly, worship of water, air (vayu), & forest gods show the respect of people towards nature.

During Mahajanapada Age, peepal tree was an auspicious symbol associated with Buddha. It was considered evil to cut the ~~tree~~ people tree.

During Mauryan period, though megasthenes talk about wooden pallisade, which suggest cutting of forest but at the same time Ashokan inscription talk about planting medicinal herbs & trees.

During Gupta Age as well, references of medicinal properties of plants have been found which makes us believe that they would be conserved.

Similarly, worship of statues of Ganga & Jamuna show that water resources were considered pure & conserved.

Therefore, literary sources of ancient time sends us a message that environment and its conservation has been a part of our social values. Though people used the resources for the benefit but it appears that it was done with due care and respect for the utility provided by nature.

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Section 3

Ans 5(a) - Early medieval society began after decline of ~~Gupta~~ Harsha till the coming of the Turks. During this phase, there has been a marked change in the society, despite a few elements of continuity which makes us believe that, Early Medieval society was distinct phase.

The elements of change were:-

(i) - the earlier concept of ~~varna~~ Varnashram-dharma which was stressed, began to change. ~~The~~ Shudras began to take up commerce. ~~The~~ condition of vaishyas declined due to decline in trade.

(ii) - early medieval society is marked by elements of feudalism. The ~~long~~ concept of land grants gave rise to landed class people who turned to become feudals thus disturbing erstwhile community based society esp. in rural areas.

(iii) - The coming of Hunas & other foreign elements also caused inclusion of new elements in the society. Hunas were given ancient titles of Suryavanshi & ~~or~~ Chandravanshi & branded as Rajputs.

SECTION- B

5. Answer the following in 150 words (10×5=50)

(a) Why should the early medieval society be seen as a distinct phase in the development of Indian history?

(b) Evaluate the importance of malfulzat literature as a source of Medieval Indian history.

(c) Critically analyse the social cultural values of the pre-Muslim Indian society?

(d) Evaluate the Babur's description of social and cultural environment in India.

(e) What were the social aspects of the emergence of the political structures in South India?

(i) - This period also marked proliferation of castes. A new ~~ed~~ caste called .. Kayastha grew up.

(ii) - Land grants in the periphery region also caused inclusion of tribal elements in the society. There was a mutual effect on ~~eac~~ each other. Growth of Tantricism is a result of inclusion of tribals.

(iii) - With inclusion of new elements in the society, ~~the~~ ~~traditional~~ ~~modern~~ ~~ed~~ condition of women also deteriorated. Evils of purdah, ~~so~~ sati, early marriage became order of the day.

Therefore, with the disintegration of a central power & with coming of new elements, India society witnessed

a remarkable change during early to medieval India

Ans 5(b) - Malfuzat literature consists of discussion of the various sufi saint. It also consists of the teachings of the sufi saint which ~~ca~~ ranges across various dimensions like political, social & religious.

Thus, the historians have tend to draw substantial elements of history from these texts.

For eg, the arrival of sufi saints, ~~and~~ the along with the rulers. their chronology of accession., political condition of the region can be deciphered from malfuzat texts.

Similarly, the discussion of sufi saints also reveal the social order of the day. they talk about existence of different faiths, condition of living. & social practices during the medieval times.

Proper religious beliefs, role of state in religion, indulgement of sufis with political affairs are also described in the text

Therefore, though Mughal text are not a direct source of history but it gives a good picture of political, social & religious life of people.

Ans 5(c). Evidences of pre-Muslim society comes from literary sources of Kalhana's Rajtarangini, Alberuni's Kitab-ul-Hind etc.

The key elements of socio-cultural values of pre-Muslim India were:-

(i) Caste System - Al-Beruni mentions division of Indian society into 4 varnas & also presence of untouchables. Further, varna system was reduced to a theoritical concept as Shudra's position increased while vaishyas decreased.

(ii) presence of ~~evils~~ social evils - society was marked with evils like child marriage, purdah, sati, etc.

(iii) Stagnant society - Al Beruni says that Indian society has failed to evolve. Unlike earlier ancient age, society was filled with ~~superstitions~~ superstitions. the people considered their

learning as supreme and didn't intend to learn more.

(v) – Religion – Shaivism & Vaishnavism were major religion. However, this period also saw a rise in Tantricism in North & Bhakti in the south.

However, this doesn't mean that pre-Muslim society was filled with only negatives. This period witnessed an ~~especially~~ ~~good~~ increase in agriculture and revival of trade & commerce during later Ray. This helped ward off superstitions & evils. Condition of royal women was good. They were granted inheritance right & some were even allowed to rule. Eg. Amogavarsha's daughter.

Similarly, growth of liberal & progressive Bhakti saints (Nayanars & Alwars) were important progression during this age.

Therefore, ~~early~~ pre-Muslim society was a mixed society. While there was an element of regression in North India but South India saw liberal & progressive society

Ans 5(d) :- Babur invaded India in 1526 and ruled for 4 years. In this brief span he has mentioned effectively about Indian social and cultural environment in his book Baburnama.

(i)- He says that society was dependent on agriculture but people were rich and ~~to~~ able to sustain themselves.

(ii)- Reference of caste system ~~has~~ in the Hindu society has been provided.

(iii)- Though Babur talks about urban town as well but he says that people lacked planning & urban civic sense.

(iv)- Babur also applauds the co-existence of different religions together. ~~Many~~ ~~rulers~~ He gives example of Muslim rulers of Deccan sharing borders with Hindu rulers of Vijaynagar & Rajputana.

Therefore, Babur in his autobiography provides a context of socio-cultural environment in India. However, in his book he admits his inefficacies of not having been ~~able to study~~ enough time to examine things closely.

Ans 5 (e) - Emergence of political structure in South India dates back to Sangam Age.

The Sangam literature talk about various chiefdoms & their chiefs who were basically bound by kinship ties during early age. Reference of "Kuti" as a kinship based clan is provided. However, ~~at~~ with due course of time, the chiefs moved beyond kinship ties. They formed matrimonial alliance with different chiefs & territory increased. With increased territories, alliances & counter-alliances were formed, which led to wars and subsequent expansion. Thus, emerged greater & powerful chiefdoms some of which were cholas of Uraiyur, ~~Cheras of Kuta~~ Pandyas of Madurai & Cheras of Karur.

~~Therefore,~~ As, the technology increased, ~~territori~~ wars became more rigorous & the imperialist ~~&~~ streak led the birth of a "proper state with well defined bureaucracy & taxation system. The Pallavas of Kanchi were the first state in south India in true sense of the word.

6. (a) Discuss the contributions of the sultans in medieval period in the expansion of education in India. (20 Marks)

(b) "Although 'Urdu' as a language originated in North India but it's actual development could be seen in South India.". Critically evaluate. (15 Marks)

(c) Evaluate the impacts of sufism on the bhakti movement and Indian society. (15 Marks)

7. (a) "The policy towards Mongols during various rulers of Saltanat period varied, which was the reflection of political stability." Discuss. (15 Marks)

(b) Briefly discuss the role of Behmani Kingdom in the development of architecture with special reference to the Persian impacts. (20 Marks)

(c) Evaluate the Portuguese Impact on the Indian Ocean Trade Network during the Saltanat period. (15 Marks)

Ans 7 (a) - Mongols rose under the banner of Changez Khan at a time when the Turkish sultan were intending to establish & expand in India.

Therefore clash between them was imminent. The policy of sultans in tackling Mongols however varied as per sultan.

Iltutmish, was first Delhi sultan to face the threat of Mongols. The Turkish were yet to establish themselves firmly, so he adopted a defensive stance.

(i) - shifted capital from Lahore to Delhi

(ii) - created Kabir & Sindh as buffer provinces.

(iii) - used diplomacy by not providing shelter to fugitive Jalal-ud-din. Barni to thus escaped wrath of Changez Khan

Balban's policy of handling Mongols was both defensive and appeasement this was because he was faced with various challenges in his accessions

(i) he strengthened his forts & defences.
(ii) raised a large army under Diwan-I-Arz.
(iii) he seldom moved out of capital, to keep a watch on Mongols.
(iv) appeased Mongols by sending gifts on occassions.

Jalal-ud-din Khilji and Alah-ud-din Khilji's policy toward Mongols were more offensive than predecessors. This was because they had inherited a stable Empire rich in resources.

(i) Allah-ud-Din Khilji raised a large army to attack Mongols.
(ii) He strengthened forts at the frontiers.
(iii) He defeated Mongols on number of occassions. After death of Dawa Khan, threat of Mongols was averted.

Thus, depending on the strength & political condition prevailing over the Sultanate, each Sultan adjusted his foreign policy. The weaker ones took defensive & appeasement policies but stronger ones were able to face Mongols through direct combat.

Ans 7 (B) The rise of Bahmani kingdom saw a unique syncretism between the North & South ~~and~~ kingdom. This sync was seen in the field of literature, language, art, ~~and~~ etc However, in the field of architecture a unique Indo-Islamic Deccani Style of architecture emerged.

The ~~Indo~~ "Bahmani Style" of architecture can be classified into broadly 2 phases:-

Phase 1 - ~~(i)~~ - Early phase.

(i) During this phase, the architecture of Bahmani rulers were more like the Turkish architecture.

(ii) elements of sloping walls, ~~&~~ called batter, thick & strong walls with little ~~of~~ or no decoration is evident.

(iii) Persian elements in the architecture included, ~~arches~~ use of arches, ~~domes~~ domes, use of lime-mortar, burnt-bricks etc. However, arches were included along with lentels & small pillars of indigenous style of architecture.

The monuments of this phase which show these qualities ~~are~~ is Haft Gumbad.

Phase II - Gulbarga Phase.

(i) After the Bahmani's shifted to Gulbarga, a greater influence of Southern architecture style is evident.

(ii) This led to a unique Indo-Islamic Deccani architecture.

(iii) Monuments were marked with Indo-Persian elements like ~~domes~~ domes, arches, brids, fine calligraphy etc. but southern elements of raised mandapa, gateways etc are also visible.

~~Mohamed~~ Mahmud Gawan Madarsa is the first example of this phase.

Ans 7(c) - The advent of Portuguese marked a significant impact in trade network ~~&~~ on the ~~Indo~~ Indian-ocean trade.

The impacts were:-

(1) - Monopoly of portuguese on certain goods.

(i) - Portuguese reserved right to trade in ~~so~~ pepper, textile & arms.

(ii)- cartaz system helped them establish their control over Indian and Arab traders.

However, the monopoly is over-emphasized. The Arabs & the Indian merchant of Vohras & Modis continued to trade in restricted goods. Some state have even bypassed the cartaz system.

(2)- Introduction of new trade partners

Portuguese introduced trade with Japan to India.

(3)- Introduction of new trade route

A new trade route via Cape of good Hope, helped surpassed the Arab dominance of over trade in Indian ocean.

(4)- Introduction of new goods

Portuguese brought exotic varities of fruits and vegetables like tobacco, potato, cashewnut etc to India. Thus, our export & import basket increased.

(5)- Improved ship technology -

Portuguese brought new technologies

like better ships, use of water pumps etc

(6) Introduction of new European traders

gradually, new European countries like, British, French, etc followed Portuguese in the trade with India.

Therefore, arrival of Portuguese changed the nature, & direction of and way of trade in the Indian ocean.

8. (a) The solidarity and prosperity of Mughals are reflected in their architecture as well. Comment. (15 Marks)

(b) "Aurangzeb was not a bed personality, it was the circumstance." Critically evaluate. (15 Marks)

(c) Discuss briefly the life in the rural society during the Mughal India with special reference to North India. (20 Marks)

Ans 8(a) - The arrival of Mughals in India paved ~~pa~~ way for a new form of architecture. The gradual development of architecture represented the strength & the material progress of the Mughals.

(i) During the reign of Babur, not enough monuments have been built due to paucity of time & ~~also~~ also because Babur had not well established himself. Most of his early, monuments have been ruined.

(ii) Humayun, because of his regular struggles with Sher Shah could not focus on architecture. ~~Having~~ His monuments, constructed by him were later re-structured by Sher Shah. Din-Panah is a case in point.

(iii) With the arrival of Akbar, Mughal architecture took a new turn which was symbolic of the political

& economic stability of during his rule. Akbar has made vast conquest & consolidated his empire. His land revenue policies ~~has~~ had provided enough wealth to the state.
As such Akbar had time and resources to invest in architecture.

The prominent works include, Humayun's tomb built by Hamida Begum, ~~Fate~~ Akbar's capital at Fatehpur sikri, Panchmahal, Buland Darwaza etc.
These monuments have Persian influences of like arches, domes, minarets etc. but indegenous influence like use of Chatra, Jali etc are indicative of tolerance of ~~Akbar's~~ Akbar's beliefs.

(N)- During the reign of Jehangir, there was decline in affairs of state. No new areas were conquered or progress made. This was also evident in field of architecture where monuments of Jehangir's reigns are few.

N): ~~The~~ The epitome of Mughal architecture reached in the reign of Shah Jahan. This period was also marked by new conquests in Deccan & also

increased revenue of state.
This progress is visible in architecture as well.
The monuments of Taj Mahal, Red fort, adorned with Peacock throne, etc show prosperity of mughal rule.
These monuments have extensive usage of precious ~~mar~~ white & red ~~mar~~ stones.
The intricate design of Pietra Dura & carvings filled with precious jewel are evidence of progress of mughal rule

(vi) - As the mughal started declining during the reign of Aurangzeb, so did Architecture. Confidence of architecture are few both due to conservative attitude of Aurangzeb and also due to the declining political & economical stability.

Thus, mughal architecture follows a unique pattern of economic & political solidarity & progress.

Ans 8(b)- Aurangzeb has often been criticized by historians on various grounds. The grey shades of his character are projected in terms of :-

(i)- his religious policy

(ii)- his rajput policy

(iii) his Deccan policy.

(iv) finally, his role in decline of ~~Aurangzeb~~ Mughal empire.

Religious policy.

Aurangzeb has often been considered as intolerant and a fanatic ruler. Evidence of his destruction of temples, forbidding Hindu festivals etc are cited as reasons. However, Aurangzeb was not fanatic as considered. He came to the throne against wish of Rajputs & liberal and had to please Ulemas. Further influence of conservative Suhrawardi sect of sufism was responsible for this orthodox views.

No major conversions, Aurangzeb's grants to Hindu temples of Benaras & Guwahati show that he has been ill-projected.

Rajput policy :- Aurangzeb has been shown to present a intolerant view towards Rajputs. However, situational analysis show that ~~defeat of~~ capture of Kishangarh by enemy state of Mewar, & escaping friendly state of

of Shivaji from the charge of Rajput nobles and death of Rajput nobles like Jaswant Singh, changed his attitude towards them.

Further, not all Rajput states were against him & their strategic significance has also reduced.

Deccan Policy - Aurangzeb's obsession with Deccan is shown as to lead to decline of Mughals. However, after staying in Deccan as governor, he knew the importance of Deccan, and was not willing to leave it.

Thus, his obsession may have backfired but it was in the strategic interest of the state.

Finally, all these are showed as evidence to decline of Mughal rule.

But, recent researches have shown that decline was due to various other factors like agrarian crisis, Jagirdari crisis, centralized system etc.

Thus, Aurangzeb has been over-maligned by historians. His attitude was a result of his socialization & conditions prevailing at that time.

Ans 8 (c) The life in ~~Mughal~~ rural society in Mughal rule is marked with stark differences.

On one hand rich peasants and zamindars resided while on the other hand poor peasants & tenets lived.

The rich class included ~~the~~ Chaudharies, Khut/Muqqadam (zamindars), Biyayat (owner of large lands), Khud Kasta (owner of self owned lands) etc.

The people in lower class included - Pai Kasta (people ~~who~~ who cultivated other's land), Mukarriyaya (share croppers), ~~Lava~~ Lava (tenets etc).

The rural society also included people employed in small agro based industries like jaggery making, sugarcane crushing, leather tanning etc. Besides, there were people employed in services like washermen, cobblers etc.

The lifestyle of rural people was subsistent. ~~Ans~~ References show that people could satisfy their two ends meet. However, instances of revolts due to higher land revenue is also seen.

As references ~~also show~~ like Ain-I-Akbari show, clothing pattern of people also varied. Rich peasants & zamindars lived an elitist life and wore luxurious items like jewellery etc. However, poor peasants couldn't even afford clothes. Men generally ~~to~~ lay bare with a dhoti covering bottom while women wore a saree covering upper part of the body.

Therefore, rural society in India was highly differenciated. Rich people could afford all luxuries which poor were contend with mere subsistence.