

GS SCORE

Test - 02

HISTORY

Time Allotted: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- There are SIX questions divided in Two Sections and printed in ENGLISH.
- Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Question no. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, FOUR 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.

1. Invigilator Signature: P. V. H.
2. Invigilator Signature _____

Name: APARAJITA
Mobile No. [REDACTED]
Date: 2nd August.
Signature: Apajita

- Performing good but it could be better on discussing few areas
- Structure
- Intro could be written in a impressive way.
- 'Somewhere analysis part was missing'
-

Roll No. _____

GIS SCORE

SECTION- A

1. Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and write a 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. (25 × 20 = 50 Marks)

1. A Jain site
2. A Buddhist educational centre
3. A port site
4. An Ancient capital
5. A Palaeolithic site
6. A historical site
7. A Harappan site
8. An ancient capital
9. A Manufacturing centre in Ancient India
10. A later Vedic site
11. A Mesolithic site
12. A Chalcolithic site
13. A Buddhist centre
14. A trade centre in Ancient India
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

28

→ Sometimes you are writing less info

Remarks

1. Pawapuri - Nalanda, Bihar
 - Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara, attained Moksha or Kaivalya here
 - Marble Jain temple located here
 - Near Rajgir, the first capital of Magadha.

50/2

2. Nalanda - Buddhist University, established by Kumarajit.
 - Mentioned by Hsien Tsang
 - Means : Nalam (lotus) Da (give), or guru of knowledge
 - Also patronised by Harsha the Pushyabhuti king
 - Located near Rajgir, Bihar.

2

3. Surat - Famous trading centre & Arab lands, Egypt, Rome
 - Harappan site of 'Dholavira' located here
 - Famous for Textiles, Diamond working
 - Famous Congress session of 1907 was at Surat split

4. ~~Kanpur~~ - Prayagyaichpur - Gwalhati
 - Capital of Kanauj dynasty

Remarks

- Kamakhya Temple
- Important Neolithic sites
- Famous for textiles - Asian textile Institute located here.

(2)

- 5) Prabhas Patan - Somnath, Gujarat
- Handaxes, cleavers, found here
 - Shell working industry
 - Temple of Someshwar Mahadev
 - Famous for lock-making industry today
 - Important trade centre during Harappan & late Harappan period.

- 6) Bhimbetka - Rajshahi district, MP
- Discovered by V.S. Wakankar
 - Palaeolithic & Neolithic occupation
 - Large no. of paintings of all three periods. with natural colors: White, Red, Green.
 - Depiction of entire community dance, division of labour, hunting scenes.

- 7) Kot Diji - Sea, Baluchistan, Pakistan
- Pre-Harappan
 - Evidence of Black & Red Ware pottery

(1/2)

Remarks

- Brick making site.

8. Champa - Bhagalpur

(2)

- Capital of Anga Mahajanapada
- Ajalsatru was the govt of Champa
- Mentioned as 'Biccha' in Aravan Veda
- Near river Champa

9. Tanjore - Tanjavur

(1/2)

- Estb by Chola King Vijayalaya
- Temple of goddess Nishumbhasudini
- Famous textile centre, glass paintings
- Capital of Early medieval Chola Kingdom

10. Hastinapur - Kurukshetra

(1/2)

- Site of the famous Mahabharata battle
- On the bank of Yamuna river
- Excavated by B.B. Lal
- Capital of Kuru Mahajanapada

Remarks

11

Adangarh - Hoshangabad

- Cave paintings
- Bone & Stone tools : Mischans
- On the bank of Narmada river
- Evidence of animal domestication : goat, sheep
- Red ware & Black & Red Ware pottery

2

12

Ahar - Near Odairpur

- Chalcolithic Banas culture
- On the banks of rivers Banas, Berach, and Ahar
- Evidence of wheat and Barley
- Pre-Harappan
- Black Shipped Ware pottery

2

13

Odantapuri - Bhagalpur

- Buddhist University founded by Pala King Gopala (750-770 AD)
- Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhism temples here destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji in the 12th C AD.

1/2

Remarks

14

15. Pratishthana - Amranganabad.
- Capital of Avanti Mahajanapada
 - Also known as Paithan, Capital of Satavahanas
Potana
 - Deogiri / Capital of Yadava also located here
 - On Dakshinapatha Trade route
 - Bibi ka Maqbara located here.

16. Bharuch - Ancient Bhugukasha.
- Located near Dakshinapatha Trade route
 - Imp port for Satavahanas, Satrapata,
Bahamani Kingdom
 - Trade with Egypt, West Asia, & Rome.

Remarks

17.

Bagh Caves



- Near Gwalior
- On the bank of seasonal Baghari river
- Buddhist Caves paintings
- Cave + known as 'Chitrashala'
- Gupta period

18.

Palahjitra



- Patna
- Capital of Magadha Mahajanapada
- Guru Gobind Singh born here
- Known as 'Tal Durga' during ancient times
- On the banks of Ganges, Son, and Purni
- Mentioned by Greek ambassador Megasthenes

19.

Mathura



- Pandya Capital
- Third Sangam under Nalanda
- Famous for Cotton textiles
- Mentioned in Megasthenes Indica
- Named after Mathura



Remarks

20.

Nageshwar

- Harappan & late Harappan site
- Port site
- Beads, gems, shell jewellery found here
- Mahomed Begarha visited here
- Trade with Mesopotamia, Egypt.

Remarks

2. (a) The transformations in early Medieval India have been studied by historians with many different perspectives. Explain. (20 Marks)
- (b) Early medieval India experience decline of the urban centres. Critically evaluate. (15 Marks)
- (c) The evolution of the Rajputs was nothing but the social mobility. Comment. (15 Marks)

(a) Early Medieval India has been a subject of much debate among historians, as regards the economic and social conditions of the period: -

- Historian Dr. R.S. Sharma has termed the 6th-8th century AD as a period of decline / degeneration. The debate of -
 - The decline of the Gupta empire and the invasion of foreign groups such as Huns.
 - Decrease in the issue of gold coins during Kumaragupta's reign
 - Beginning of proto-feudal outlook, decline of secondary economic activities eg. migration of a guild of silk weavers from Datta in Gujarat to Mandore, to take up an alternate profession.
 - Emphasis of sources of the period eg. Brahspati, on rigidity towards women
 - Evidence of sati from Eran inscription of Goparaja

Remarks

No emphasis on Feudalism

These have been held as evidences of societal and economic decline.

However, historians such as D.C. Sarkar have held the period to be in continuity with the previous period.

- 8 1/2
- The rise of Byzantine and Sassanid empires, in place of the Roman empire.
 - Rise of the Arabs in the 8th c AD
 - Flourishing trade and expansion of crafts, such as leaf glass-making, silk weaving, wine distilling.
 - Rule of green regents, such as Prabhavats Gupta, Koschima queens such as Didde.
 - Expansion of agriculture, and irrigation.

Dr. Satish Chandra, and Dr. Jafar Habib point out that even though social and economic rigidities were increasing, viz :-

→ Mention of Samashtra and Dakshinapana as 'Rajdasa'

Remarks

- Some prominent historians & their arguments are missed by Dr.
- See the Mod. Hist.

- Terms such as Grama Dhama, Kula Dhama, in place of Desa Dhama, Rashtra Dhama, indicating advent of feudalism
- Parashar smritis prohibiting fathers from marrying their daughters to those who go abroad
- Prohibition on going to areas where Munja grass does not even grow, & black gazelle doesn't roam.
- These evidences can be understood, in terms of Boatmanial reaction towards the growing advent of foreign groups, thereby threatening the Varnashramadharma system and the assimilation of local groups into the system.
- Further, guilds such as Manigramam, and Nandisi & continued to flourish. Trade with the Chinese, Tang Empire, Arabs, and southeast Asia also prospered!
- In social scenarios, Anuloma and Pratiloma marriages, continued, and ~~weavered states~~ so foreign accounts of Abu Said and Sulaiman mention that women had a choice of veiling or not veiling their faces, and of committing sati...

Remarks

→ You have primarily discussed the ETAP

→ You must ~~discuss~~ discuss the broader changes which took place during this period in the background of his reign.

Therefore, a varied picture is presented by the historians regarding the early medieval age.

* ————— *

(B) Early Medieval age has often been viewed as an age of economic degeneration, on the following accounts; by historians such as R.S. Sharma :-

- Decline of the purity of gold coins during later Gupta period.
- Decline of guilds and abandonment of urban centres
eg. Migration of the guild of silk weavers from Kanchi to Mandore, & change their occupation.
- Hsien Tsang ~~said~~ in his 'Si-Yu-ki' mentions that towns such as Pataliputra, Vaishali, and Ujjain had fallen on bad days.
- Decline of Urbanism, and growing regionalism, i.e. self-sufficient village economy.

Remarks

- Decline of the Roman Empire in 476 AD, leading to decline of urban centres such as Bharuch, Surat
- Narrow outlook of the Smritis and Puranas of the age towards urban activities like trade, currency, banking, money lending etc

However, a closer examination reveals, that while some urban centres declined, the new ones arose simultaneously and in equal measure :-

- Foreign accounts of Hsien Tsang, I T'ing, mention flourishing towns of Kashi, Pattadakal etc
- Guilds such as Ayyavole 500, rose in Ahode, and Mamigramam and Nandini rose in the deep South.
- Port towns of Samardar (Bengal), Muchiri (Kerala), Aracamedu (Tamil Nadu), continued to grow
- Uraiyur, Tanjore, Kanchipuram, Cranganore, Bharuch, continued to prosper on account of trade with

Remarks

the Byzantine empire, & their Arab empire & Tang empire

- New crafts, occupations such as Ivory, pearl working, leather making, wine distilling, came into prominence, giving rise to new urban centres.

* ————— *

(c) Emergence of Rajputs on the political milieu of Indian Subcontinent can be traced through —

- Derived from 'Rajputra', the Rajputs may have
- Been rich agriculturists, landowners who came to occupy high social status, and coalesced themselves into a brotherhood and common attributes i.e. a case of social mobility.

Remarks

- Brahmakshatriya tradition, i.e. acquisition of a kshatriya status by landed Brahmanas in order to restore the Varashramadhama system, as stipulated by historians such as Gauri Shankar Mishra, M.S. Vats etc.
- Assimilation of foreign ruling groups, such as Hunas - Chand Bardai makes a mention of the Vratya-Stoma sacrifice by sage Vashistha, which gave rise to Parauas, Solankis, Pratiharas & Chahamanas.
- Ghatiyal inscription of Gurjara Pratiharas, calls them originally the doorkeepers of Rama (Prathar of Ram), and therefore descendants of Lachmana.
- Historians have also held them to be tribal groups, or local warrior classes that arose in the ladder of social prestige.
- Terms like 'Ranak', 'Ranuta' have also been identified as Rajputs, indicating that they may have been

Remarks

feudal lords and military governors, who later came to be identified as a common class of 'Rajputs'.

(A) Therefore, evolution of Rajputs is a case in point for social mobility, through different sections of the social structure.

→ Conversion of farmers of this area into khatabdiga has not been discussed properly.

3. (a) Social recognizance emerged around the temples in early medieval India. Comment. (20 Marks)
- (b) "The local groups, which constituted the real basis of power in early medieval South India, played a somewhat unique role in these polities." Evaluate. (20 Marks)
- (c) Briefly write about money lending and Dadni system during medieval India. (10 Marks)

(a) The Temples in early medieval India became a nucleus of social change and evolution: -

(i) Patronage to temples, legitimized the kingship of empires such as Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Pandyas, Pallavas, and Cholas, as the temples had a wide social base.

(ii) It also helped in making political networks, as landed aristocrats and feudal lords often made grants to temples in the name of the king, who in turn rose their social rank and prestige.

(iii) It also assimilated local traditions with the mainstream deity, and therefore aided the social mobilization of the tribals into the Varashiana system. eg. lord Jaganath identified with Vishnu in Orissa, Kali

Remarks

or Mariamman with Durga, Murugan with Parthkeya.

i) It raised the importance of priestly class, such as Brahmanas, and Mathadhipatis (Heads of Mathas) as they were considered the mediator to God.

v) Temples often patronised education, through Gatthas and shalas. Therefore a learned social class emerged.

vi) Temples also patronised irrigation activities and most temples were associated with tanks, which aided the agriculturists or the Valangai group.

vii) It also aided merchants and traders, as they often patronised the temples via guilds.

Moreover, the area around temples developed into market towns, thereby aiding the Idangai social group.

→ The process through which temples became deciding authority for the identity in society?

Remarks

viii) Dancers, musicians, entertainers were also employed by the temple, raising their societal recognition

(ix) Further, regular fairs and festivals aided the formation of a group identity / modern regional identity, in the society.

Thus, social recognition emerged largely around the temples in early medieval India.

(b) Local groups, such as Vellalas (peasants), Arasars (Ruling Classes) and Varayas (Merchants) played a significant role in these politics.

© Rich agriculturists and landowners were highly powerful class in South India. This can be attested by the Sangam literature, which calls the Cholas, Pandyas, and Cheras as Muverdavelan (three chiefs).

⇒ Content should be more elaborated

Remarks

→ See the Mod. Hint

Trade and commerce was also held in high prestige, and guilds had a unique role to play in the society. Contemporary texts make a mention of 'Varajji Dharma' (Merchant's duty) in the polity.

Local political structure was also in the hands of largely these local classes: -

- 'Nagaram' was the town of the merchants
- 'Velamraji'; town of peasants with local assembly called Ur
- 'Brahmaditya', town of Brahmanas, with local assembly called Sabha

These groups were allowed to levy taxes, look after irrigation works, roads, education etc and punish the locals for transgression.

Landed chiefs became very powerful, and it is attested in the records of Chola trip.

Remarks

Kuttolunga P., that the idangai and Valangai groups revolted against the Chiefs or Nadavarani.

*

c) Medieval India, of the ~~12th~~ 12th - 18th century, had been termed as the Urban Revolution, by Mr. Habib, on account of economic activities, of which money lending and Dadni system were the centre-piece :-

- New towns and new occupations were emerging which required capital and material at short notice, therefore money-lending and usury became popular.

- Large scale construction activity by the Turks in the North, Bahamani Kingdom in the Deccan, & the Hoysalas and Vijaynagara rulers in the South also required capital advances.

∴ These capital advances were either in the form of

Remarks

~

cash, or in the form of receipts called Hundi & hundikas, that could be encashed at another place than the place where it was issued.

• Foreign travellers such as Sulaiman, Abu Zaid, mention affluent merchants in Gujarat and Deccan engaged in money lending.

• Bernier, Tavernier, Barbosa also mention rich merchants of Kashi and Delhi who engaged in money lending at high interest rates.

• Barbosa, in the court of Krishna Deva Raya (1509-1530) makes a mention of 'Kudirai Chettis' or moneylenders.

• Agricultural expansion by rulers such as Muhammad Bni Tughlag, and Firuzshah Tughlag, aided the growth of moneylending, for agricultural expansion.

Dadni System

'Dadni' comes from the Persian word Dadan, or

Remarks

'Advance'

Merchants used to lend cash, or material advances at nominal interest rate, to be paid back at a later date, mutually agreed upon.

Daari system aided the growth of 'Gasbas' cities, construction activity, irrigation, agricultural expansion, growth of arts & crafts in medieval India.

It later became a source of business expansion by the merchants of the East India Company in the 17th c, and led to them making huge profits, and thereby making a case for colonial plunder in the ensuing century.

→ There should be a critical analysis
→ giving much facts

Remarks

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Remarks

SECTION-B

4. Write short notes in not more than 150 words on each of the following:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) What has Al-Biruni explained about the caste system existing in India?
- (b) Compare the irrigation devices mentioned by Babur in his autobiography with the irrigation system, used in Vijayanagara empire.
- (c) To what extent is it possible to characterise agricultural production in the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries as subsistence agriculture? Give reasons for your answer.
- (d) It was the royal patronage, which promoted the Bhakti Movement. Analyse.
- (e) What was the status of women in the Mughal agrarian society?

Remarks

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Remarks

GIS SCORE

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Remarks

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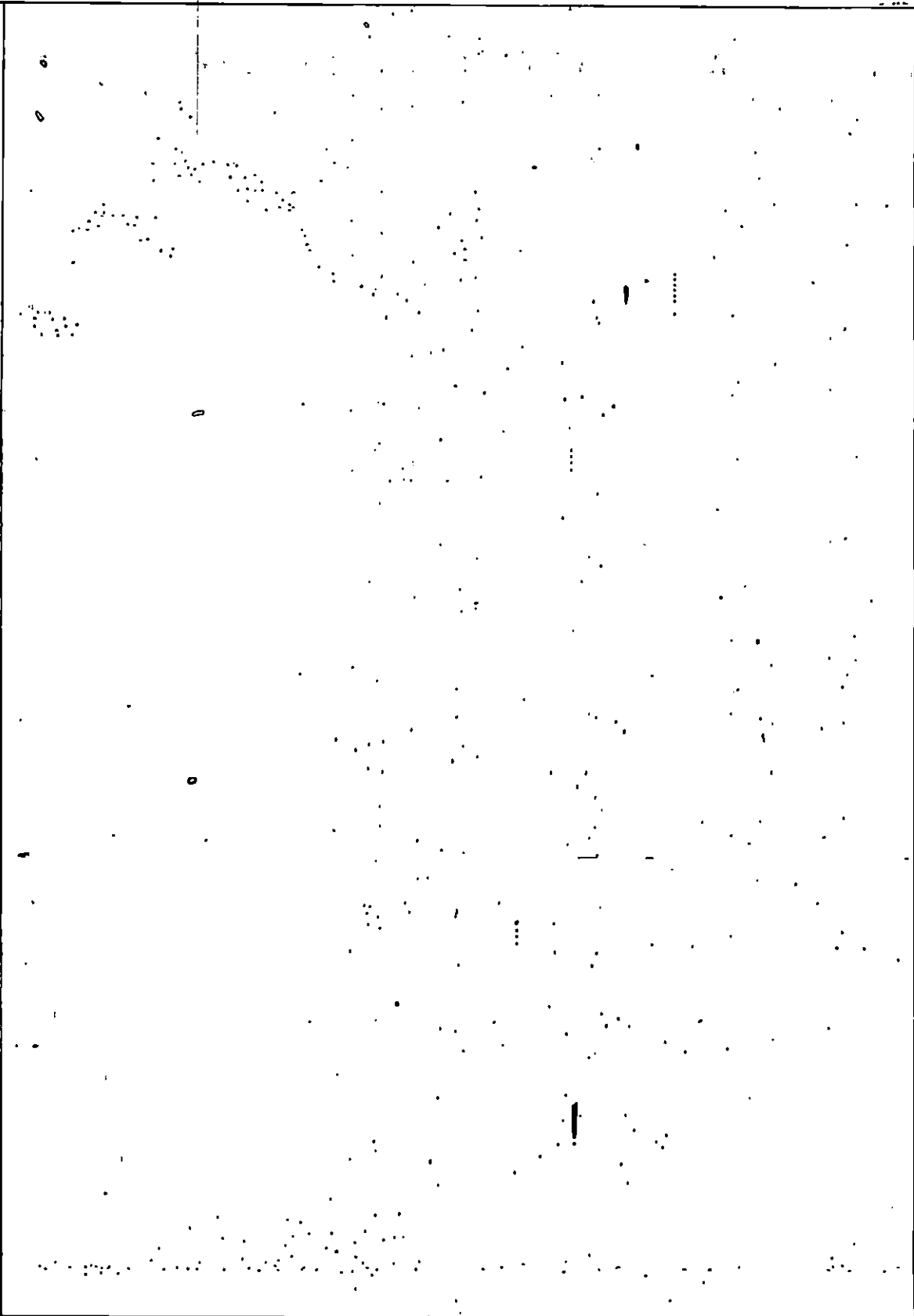
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Remarks

GS SCORE

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Remarks



Remarks

GS SCORE

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Remarks

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Remarks

5. (a) What were the non-agricultural economic activities during the Sultanate period?
(25 Marks)
- (b) The ayagara system in Vijaynagara Kingdom replaced the Local administration of Cholas. Comment.
(15 Marks)
- (c) Write a brief note on the organisation of agricultural production during the medieval India.
(10 Marks)

(a) Several non agricultural economic activities flourished during the sultanate period :-

- i) During Islamic reign, construction activity began to be patronized, giving way to activities like marble cutting, mortar making, stone working etc.
- ii) Al Biruni mentions high process in textiles, spice, sheet-making, embroidery, paper-making wood-working.
- iii) Advent of the Turks gave a flip to Paper-making and book-binding, apart from history writing.
- iv) Ibn Batuta (visited during Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's reign) mentions trade & commerce in glass-ware.

Remarks

bead making, gems and jewellery making, iron smithing
leather working, Ivory carving etc.

v) Lavish lifestyle of the Sultans as well as the nobles gave a flip to cloth working. Muslin cotton, Velvet etc came into prominence. Zardozi embroidery with golden and silver threads received heavy patronage.

(10/2) vi) Wine distilling, Ice making, also became prominent and 12th century poet Kalhana mentions scented wine for the Turk nobles in Delhi, and the availability of ice all year round.

vii) Royal Karkhanas were headed by a Daroga, and flocked by Ustads, and his shagirds became major centres for production.

They produced all sorts of artefacts for Royal

Remarks

offices as well as for ladies' harems.

viii) Centralized administration of the Sultanate increased the requirement of the army and the weapon industry swords, arrows & bows (Navatis), artillery etc increased in production.

ix) Import and export of luxury items such as glass containers, harkas, ceramic & glass pottery, embroidered carpets etc also received patronage.

x) Advent of 'Dhuni', gave impetus to Cotton Carding.

→ Ans format is not proper

→ Given less details. This Q. is factual which needs more no. of facts

Remarks:

(b) The ~~Chola~~ ^{Ayagara} system of local governance during the Vijayanagar rule, filled the vacuum left by Cholas to a large extent: -

The Ayagara system consisted of a system of 12 'chiefs' to look after the local administration eg. collection of taxes, maintenance of roads, Temples, irrigation systems etc.

In lieu of their services, these Ayagars, received land grants, known as 'Mangams', over which they were allowed to levy taxes.

These chiefs were in charge of local works, and the king was free to devote his attention to other pressing matters, such as was with Bahamani or Gajapati of Orissa.

However, there were significant differences in the Ayagar system and Chola local administration: -

Remarks

DIFFERENCES

VIJAYNAGARALOCAL GOVERNMENT.

- The chiefs were nominated by the king
- They were awarded land grants, which led to feudal sentiments becoming strong, leading to centrifugal forces
- Central control on peripheral areas declined
- led to ~~strengthening~~ blurring of differences between these chiefs and the military and provincial governors.

CHOLA LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

• The representatives were elected through Kudovolai, or Por (ticket) system

• The representatives weren't awarded any land for the services

Land owners

• Central control was maintained through officer known as Adhikari at local level.

• Each town = Brahmadeya, Velanvagai, and Nagaram, had their own Sabha with their own responsibilities.

Remarks

Some prob with the Govt

Ⓓ During to these vital differences, we can say that it cannot be concluded that the Ayazana system completely replaced the Chota local government, even though, it was largely successful in achieving the objective.

*

(c) Organization of agricultural production in medieval India :-

Not a proper beginning

• Advent of the turks, who brought the Persian wheel with them (Sakija), led to the proliferation of irrigation.

• More and more land was brought under cultivation and agriculture received a boost.

• Md. Biri Tughlag and Firuzshah Tughlag, along with Alau gave keen attention to

i) Expansion of agriculture.

Remarks

ii) Production of cash crops

iii) Production of fruits.

Diwan-i-Amir Khasi, or department of agriculture was instituted by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

Sandhar and Taccavi loans were given to the farmers to sow cash crops.

Large no. of orchards were maintained by the nobles and the state.

- Alla-ud-din Tughlaq, Shah Suri, and Akbar developed an efficient revenue system based on pre and post assessment of harvest and the soil fertility. Predictable revenue system encouraged the farmers to produce more and produce better crops.

Large no. of canals & wells were dug by the kings. Irrigation tax known as Haj-i-Shah was levied at the rate of 10% from the farmers.

Remarks

• Landed classes such as Jats, in the Mathura - Agra region became very affluent as a result of better returns on agriculture.

Further, knowledge of seasons through astronomical charts known as Ut-Sahab also made agricultural activity predictable and profitable.

• Cash crops received a boost due to better rural - urban linkage, demand by the affluent nobles and better navigation system, and the network of Barjars

→ Could not comprehend the Q

→ It is asking about the agrarian relation, Zamindar, Mohajirs, Caste related to cultivation etc

Remarks

6. (a) Critically evaluate the imperial ideology under Akbar. (20 Marks)
- (b) Evaluate the role and position of Indian merchants in Indian Ocean trade in 17th Century? (20 Marks)
- (c) The 18th Century India experienced the emergence of many new town centers rather than the fall of urban centers. Examine. (10 Marks)

(a) Imperial Ideology under Akbar:

Briefly, introduce Akbar's ideology and its importance to Mughal Empire

(i) Divinity of the ruling class. Akbar adopted the title of Zill-ul-lah i.e. beloved of the gods.

(ii) Supernatural powers of the monarch through practices such as Deer Shikha Dahan, Tula Dan, and breathing on the water to be consumed by the ill

(iii) Centralization of administration through a well-developed system of admiral officials eg. Daraz-i-Aam, Daraz-i-Aux-i-Munalik, Mir-i-Saman etc.

(iv) Separation of powers & the system of checks & balances.

The post of Wazir was abolished and 'Wakil' was preferred. He was to be in charge of revenue admin.

Remarks

while the Arz-i-mumalik was to be in charge of the army and was to check Wakil's powers.

v) Element of Despotism: Even though Rajputs were treated as loyal allies, they were subjugated when needed. eg. Akbar fought with Maharana Pratap in Haldighati (1576), because he didn't personally arrive to pay homage to Akbar.

(10/2) vi) Secular Polity was emphasized upon through the ideas of Ibadatkhana and Sulh-i-kul (universal peace).

vii) Control over nobility and Ulemas: Akbar proclaimed himself to be the Insdan-i-kamil (Perfect), and Mutjahid (final interpreter of Islam).

viii) Elements of Benevolent State: Akbar removed Jaziya in 1564, Pilgrims Tax in 1563, and prohibited the practice of inviting prisoners of war to Islam in 1567. He also instituted 'Turbegs' to see that no

Remarks

woman was sati against her will. He also raised the age of marriage to 14 for girls & 15 for boys

10) Progressive state as an efficient revenue system (Zabti Bishki system) was introduced, along with the Mansabdari system (1567), to manage the army as well as the nobility.

Therefore, under Akbar, the state was a progressive, secular, and benevolent.

However, in the end it was still a despotic and centralized state, and force was used wherever needed to order to maintain imperial privileges.

- Akbar is good, it contains good points
- But some aspects are missing such as
- Mansabdari system
- Secular nature should be given more space
- If you would have connected this Akbar with current world be much better

Remarks

Position of Indian Merchants :-

(b) → The 17th Century had seen advent of Arabs, Turks, Abyssinians, as well as the Dutch and English in the Indian ocean trade. Thus, competition for the Indian merchants had certainly increased.

→ However, the Indian merchants continued to strengthen themselves in a symbiotic relationship with the Arabs and Abyssinians, who had largely settled on both the Konkan and Coromandel coasts, as well as Gujarat & Bengal. Discuss the impact of European Jokers

→ Further, the position of Indian merchants remained the same because

i) They were willing to work at a lower profit margin of 10-15%, as against 50-60% needed by the English.

ii) They had superior knowledge of both domestic and international markets.

Remarks

→ Further several Indian merchants, such as Vijee Vohra, had bases in West Asia, Egypt as well, and were more than able to compete with foreign groups.

Role of Indian merchants

- Indian textiles such as cotton continued to make the larger bulk of India's trade. In 1701, England had to pass a law to ban the import of Indian cotton.
- Indigo blue, and spices also continued to be exported to Europe, and West Asia.
- They aided in bringing better technologies to India such as superior ship building, mariner's compass from China.
- They made India into a sink of world's gold.
- Gave a tough competition to foreigners such as English & the Dutch and the English had to resort to treachery, such as misuse of Dastaks to make profits.

Remarks

(c) 18th Century India saw the rapid disintegration of the Mughal empire, thereby leading to a decline in the cities such as Delhi, Agra, which served as erstwhile imperial capitals.

This is also attested by the poetic words of the time which lament the condition of Delhi and its fall from grace.

However historians such as D.C. Saksae and Athar Ali, are of the opinion, that the decline of these centres was accompanied by the growth of other centres:

• A large no. of nobles migrated to Lucknow from Delhi which had become the new capital of Shah Alam.

Nawabs such as Wajid-Ali Shah heavily patronised the art and literature, as well as architecture in Lucknow, leading to a typical 'Lucknowi Culture.'

Remarks:

- Faizabad was patronised by Faiz Baksh, and Sadat Khan and became a famous centre for glass working.
- Murshidabad was patronised by the successors of Mir Junaid and Shaista Khan and eventually became the nodal point of political activity in Bengal.
- Towns such as Jaipur were established by Sawai Jai Singh, and Gwalior also arose as a prominent centre for arts and music.
- These rulers encouraged artisans to settle in these new towns, and invited merchants and learned men to contribute to their townships, thereby creating new urban centres.

Therefore, the 18th C India experienced the emergence of many new town centres rather than the fall of urban centres.

Remarks

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Remarks

HISTORY TEST NO-2

MAP-2

INDIA

WITH AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, NEPAL,
MYANMAR (BURMA), PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA

