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Start Time:

End Time:

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# 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

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

Q.1 (a) Critically examine the major observations of François Bernier about India. [10 Marks]

François Bernier was a French physician who visited India in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is known for sharp critic of Mughal polity, economy and society in his books "The Travels in the Mogul India".

### Major Observations

#### ① Absence of private property

a) Bernier argued that, there was no private property and everything belonged to crown.

b) Critique - Various Mughal charters talk of inheritable rights on land, also jagirdari was only assignment of revenue rights and not proprietary rights.

#### ② Absence of middle class

a) Bernier says that there is no middle

class and Indians are "unsegregated mass of impoverished masses".

d) The minority 'foreigner' rulers exploited the majority poor.

c) Critic — a vast and thriving middle class was present — merchants, traders, civil servants, hakims, artisans etc.

### 3. Cities as "Camp towns"

a) Bernier surmises that the cities had no viable structure and owe their existence completely to the royal army.

b) Critic — Major cities like varanasi, ahmedabad thrived on trade, spirituality etc.

Thus, Bernier accounts are majorly ~~not~~ meant for European audience. Nonetheless they continue to be important source of history



Q.1 (b) "Mughal Painting was on the peak in the period of Jahangir." Discuss this statement. [10 Marks]

Mughal painting which was established by Akbar achieved high watermark under Jahangir.

### Features of Jahangir's painting

- ① Focus on nature - depiction of flora, fauna, animal, birds etc. Also rivers, mountains and hunting scene.
- ② Realism - facial expression realistic and freer bodily movements can be observed.
- ③ Indian elements - Indian trees, animals, dress can be observed in his paintings.
- ④ Shifting focus from manuscript illustration to individual paintings and portraits
- ⑤ Very thick border and gorgeous decoration of the paintings.

⑥ European influence - like foreshortening, 3D effects, light and shadow effects, winged angel motifs can be seen.

⑦ Personal contribution - Jahangir had his own personal cabin for painting and provided own inputs in paintings.

This tradition was carry forwarded by Shah Jahan. However it was discontinued by aurangzeb in the name of religion.

Q.1 (c) Guru Nanak was not a revolutionary but a reformer. Discuss. [10 Marks]

Guru Nanak was born into a Khatri family in 1469 and was a major proponent of Nirguna Bhakti movement.

Guru Nanak as a reformer

- ① Believed in unity of all religions.
- ② Rejected caste system - opened gates for all caste.
- ③ Rejected idolatory, austerity and meaningless rituals.
- ④ Taught worship along with bhakti was possible - famous among traders.
- ⑤ Exhorted Hindu-Muslim unity.
- ⑥ Idea of an ideal state - to be ruled by philosopher king pure<sup>in</sup> conduct and thought.



## Not a revolutionary

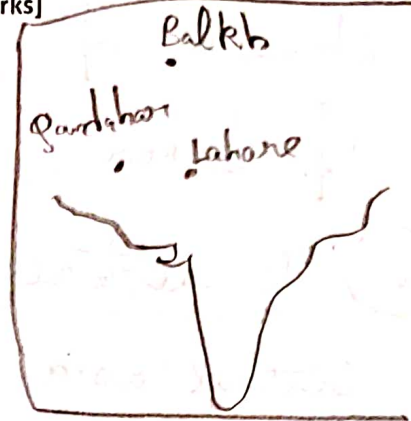
- ① Guru Nanak never meant to create a new religion.
- ② He always emphasized peace and harmony in the society.
- ③ The codification and militarization of Sikhism was done under later gurus like Guru Har Rai, Tegh Bahadur and Johand Singh.

Thus, Guru ~~nanak~~ nanak reforms at making society more egalitarian continues to strike chord even to this day.



Q.3 (a) What were the major considerations of Mughal's foreign policy with respect to Northwest frontier. Also give an account of the foreign policy of Akbar. [20 Marks]

The Mughal foreign policy in the northwest primarily concerned dealing with major powers, viz., Safavids, Uzbeks in order to secure national interest.



### Major considerations

1. Balance of relations with the uzbeqs, Safavids and ottomans.
2. Refusal to join a tripartite alliance and involve in central asian issues.
3. friendly, cordial relation with Shah of Safavid with minor clashes.
4. Securing personal trade interest by securing trade routes from Gandahar, Herat etc.

5. Consolidation of frontier - to thwart chances of foreign invasion. Fortification of Lahore, Kandahar.

6. To restore the Mughal homelands - in Central Asia. However no concrete steps were taken in this regard.

### Akbar's foreign policy

1. With the Uzbeks

a) Exchange of envoys with Uzbek ruler Abdullah Uzbek, thus providing for a tacit understanding of non-interference.

b) Refusal to join tripartite Sunni alliance of Ottoman, Uzbek, Mughal against Safavid Iran.

- c) Provided guarantee to Uzbek ruler to non-interference during his quest in Khorasan.
- d) Capturing Kabul - after mirza hakim death, thereby solidifying frontier.
- e) Abdullah died in 1590 and threat of Uzbek invasion reduced subsequently.

## 2. With Safavids

a) Maintain a cordial and friendly relation with Safavid Shah.

b) However, Qandahar under control of Safavid was a major source of consternation.

c) With instability in Iran, Akbar captured the Qandahar fort in 1596 thereby consolidating North West boundaries.

### 3. With Ottomans

- a) There was never a direct and deep contact with ottomans.
- b) Ottomans looked down upon mughals as impure

Thus, the mughal foreign policy was very pragmatic guided by national strategic and economic interest



Q.3 (b) Critically examine the principal causes of the rise of Marathas in the 17th century. [15 Marks]

The rise of marathas in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was a significant event in the Indian history, ~~to~~ which was to dominate Indian affairs for the next 150 years.

### Causes of Maratha rise

① Hindu reaction against Aurangzeb's narrow ligoted policies

a) As per J.N Sankar, the puritanical policies of Aurangzeb was met with a strong "Hindu reaction" in the form of Marathas.

b) Critique - Shivaji allied with muslim states (Bija pur)

② Struggle of independence against foreigners

a) M.G. Ranade argues that marathas fought against the foreign mughal rule.

b) Critique - Mughals rule for more than 100 years and cannot be claimed as

foreigners.

### ③ Weakness of the mughal empire

a) Irfan Habib and Atthar Ali has emphasized mughals weakness due to agrarian and jagirdari crisis as a cause of maratha rise.

b) Critique - Too much focus on mughals.

### ④ Regional aspiration

a) Andre Wink and Muzzafar Alam highlighted the strong regional tendencies in Punjab, Awadh and deccan in the wake of weak centre

b) Critique - Misses out on other socio-economic dimensions.

### ⑤ Socio economic movement

a) Satish Chandra argues that maratha movement was a movement of "upward"

mobility" of low class maratha bargians to powerful chiefs by invoking hindu and maratha pride.

⑥ Capable leadership of Shivaji Maharaj  
Jadunath Sarkar lauds the excellent leadership of Shivaji and says him as the last great ruler the 'hindu race' has produced.

Thus, the story of maratha rise is a story of politico-economic and social rise of regional states — a dominant theme towards the end of Mughal empire



Q.3 (c) Describe the basic features of Mughal tomb architecture with special reference to the Taj Mahal. [15 Marks]

The tomb architecture in India reached apogee under the Mughals due to high degree of syncretism between Indian, foreign, islamic and hindu elements.

The Taj Mahal and its basic features

- ① Taj Mahal is an ivory white islamic mausoleum dedicated to wife of the mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- ② Profuse use of marble - use of marble as a building material rather than as a designing element.
- ③ Major islamic features - such as a bulbous double dome, and a half dome port arch as a design



element rather than structural.

④ Char bagh - The tomb is built on high marble plinth and is placed in a garden divided into 4 quadrants with pathways with running water fountain

⑤ Indian styles - like use of lotus swastik motifs for designing, slender turret and kiosk adopted from gujarat architecture

⑥ Other designing elements

a) Pietra dura - floral patterns inlaid with semi-precious stone - jasper, lapis lazuli

b) Arabesque - beautiful flowery symmetric arabic script from Quran.

c) Jali work - on marble to allow air, light in the room.

(7) The minars on the 4 sides are separated from the main body of the tomb.

Thus, the Islamic rule in India saw huge improvement in tomb architecture from a simple Balban's tomb to the Taj Mahal — one of the 7 wonders of modern world.

Q.4 (a) Throw ample light on florescence of literature and art in the Vijayanagar empire. [20 Marks]

The Vijayanagar empire between 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Century was not only the political but also socio-cultural epicentre of the entire South India.

### Florescence of literature

1. Provided huge impetus to not only Sanskrit but also regional languages — Telugu, Kannada, Tamil etc
2. Krishnadeva raya, himself was versed in all the major languages.
3. He wrote many novels — Amuktamalyada (Telugu) and Rasmanjari and Jambavati Kalyana (in Sanskrit).
4. 'Ashtadiggaja' (8 jewels) in his court created exquisite work in literature



a) Pandurang Mahamatya by Tenali  
Rama.

b) Manucharitra by Allasani Peddana -  
hailed as father of Telugu literature.

5. Even royal women produced excellent  
literature.

(Eg.) 'Madhura Vijaya' by Ganga Devi  
outlining exploits of her husband  
in Madurai Sultanate

### Flouriscence in Art

1. Vijayanagara architecture was a  
fusion of chola dravidian, pallava  
and chalukya architecture.

2. Temples had long boundary wall  
and pond inside it.

3. Humongous entrance gate called  
'Raya Gopuram'.



4. Temples had pillared halls called 'Kalyan mandapam' for marriages.
5. Many animal motifs were carved on pillars, walls such as horses, elephants
6. Major examples include Virupaksha Temple at Hampi which has a rath temple inspired by Pallavas.
7. Vijayanagar painting - carry forwarded the Pallava mural traditions with new features.
8. Paintings found in the Lepakshi Temple are shown with people in side profile, narrow waist and large frontal eyes.

9. The ~~st.~~ paintings depict stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Thus under Vijayanagar empire, the South India was restored to the position of ~~present~~ pre-eminence in the cultural field.

Q.4 (b) What were the nature and consequences of the revolts against Aurangzeb? Discuss. [15 Marks]

Throughout his long reign of 50 years, Aurangzeb faced a number of revolts not only from hindus (like jats, marathas, Satnamis) but also muslims (like afzidi tribe in afghanistan).

### Nature of revolt

#### ① Hindu reaction

a) J.N. Sarkar argues that revolts were hindu reaction against bigoted policies of aurangzeb.

b) Critic - muslim tribes also revolted.

#### ② Agrarian crisis

a) Irfan Haliki argues that these revolts were due to high revenue burden and excessive exploitation of peasants.



li) Critic - S. Chandra refutes this as isolated instance of agrarian crisis.

### 3. Regional aspiration

a) Chetan Singh, Muzzafar alam highlighted the delicate balance of power in peripheral area which was disturbed by Aurangzeb leading to revolt.

### Consequences of revolt

1. Antagonization of hindus - I.N. Sarkar says that harsh policies employed by Aurangzeb to curb the revolt antagonized hindus.  
(Eg.) Rathors of Marwar after 1678.

2. Huge burden on exchequer - in commissioning of army, equipments.

3. Weakening of mughal empire - I. Habibullah says that these agrarian revolts led to weakening of mughals ultimately



leading to their demise.

④ Appearance of regional states -  
like Jats, Awadh, Maratha etc

⑤ Foreign invasion - the weak mughal  
empire was not capable of  
thwarting invasion of nadir shah  
and Ahmadali.

Thus, revolts, along with other factors,  
decided fate of mughals and India  
in the coming years.

Q.4 (c) Give an account of taxation in Mughal India with suitable examples. [15 Marks]

The taxation system in India during Mughals is one of the most well documented and studied thanks to diverse sources, viz, ain-i-akhari, land revenue records, grants and royal charters.

### Account of Mughal taxation

#### ①. Dah Sala System (10 yearly system)

a) In 1580, after years of experimentation, this system was ~~is~~ divided by Todar Mal.

b) The entire empire was divided into different revenue circles (dastur).

c) The crop production, area, crop rate was studied for a period of 10 years.

d) Subsequently, a 10 yearly average, <sup>crop rate</sup> was worked out on this basis and states share was fixed at  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

## ②. Revenue assessment

a) The land was divided into 3 categories — good, bad and middling

b) The land revenue rate was decided based on land productivity.

↳ Polaj — fertile land — regular rate.

↳ Chachar — fallow for 1 year — full rate after 1 yr

↳ Parauti — fallow for 3 year — full rate after 3 yrs

c) Different methods of assessment include — Zabt (measurement), Batai (crop sharing) and Kankut (appraisal)

## ③. Revenue collection

a) Collected in both cash and kind, but cash was preferred.

b) Individual farmer was given 'Patta' and a deed 'Qululiyat' was signed.

c) Collection was done by Zamindar (Amungo) and 10% share of produce was given as nankar.



#### 4. Flexibility

- a) If crop rates increased, the revenue demand was also increased.
- b) In case of famine, the field was declared 'nahut' and revenue demand cancelled.

Despite a well established and detailed framework, it led to piling up of huge arrears, exploitation of peasantry and inflation of jama leading to jagirdari crisis during Aurangzeb.