

Short-Answer Questions

1. Who was the founder of Mughal Empire in India?

Ans. Babur was the founder of Mughal Empire in India.

2. In which year did he fight the first battle in India? Where?

Ans. Babur fought first battle in India in 1526 at Panipat.

3. Which three battles were fought later by Babur?

Ans. (i) Battle of Khanwa (AD 1527)
(ii) Battle of Chanderi (AD 1528)
(iii) Battle of Ghagra (AD 1529)

4. Who did Humayun lose his kingdom to and when?

Ans. Humayun lost his kingdom to Sher Shah in 1540.

5. When did Akbar rule?

Ans. Akbar ruled from 1556 to 1605.

6. Give two things Akbar did to win over his non-Muslim subjects.

Ans. Akbar married Rajput princess and appointed Rajputs to high position.

7. How many Subas were there in Akbar's kingdom?

Ans. 15 Subas.

8. State one reason why Jahangir was loved by his people.

Ans. The people loved Jahangir because he stood for Justice in his empire. He got a golden chain fixed at the gate of the royal palace so that anyone who had any grievance and wanted justice could pull this chain, complain and demand justice from the Emperor.

9. Who was Noor Jahan ? Why is she famous?

Ans. Noor Jahan was wife of Jahangir. Jahangir left the governance of his kingdom in the hands of his famous wife Noor Jahan.

10. Why is Shah Jahan famous? Give two reasons.

- Ans.** (i) Shahjahan is remembered as a great builder. His reign is known as the golden period of architecture. He built the biggest monument for his wife Mumtaz Mahal i.e. The Taj Mahal.
- (ii) He made many conquests. Most notable were the Kingdoms of Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Golconda in the South.

11. Under whose rule the Mughal Empire began to crumble?

- Ans.** The Mughal empire began to crumble under the rule of Aurangzeb.

12. Which was the greatest weakness of Aurangzeb that led to the downfall of his empire?

- Ans.** Aurangzeb's short-sighted religious policy and his orthodox views led to the downfall of his empire.

13. Throw some light on the Central Government under the Mughals.

- Ans.** The whole empire was divided into **15 subas** (provinces). Each province was under the charge of a **Subedar** (governor) who had full civil and military powers. The post was transferable. The **Diwan** was incharge of collection of land revenue. A **suba** was further sub-divided into **sarkars**, each sarkar into **paraganas** and each pargana had a number of villages. Each pargana was under the charge of a **Faujdar**, who assisted the subedar in a number of ways. A village was under the charge of a **Muqaddam**, a **Patwari** and a **Chowkidar**. The administration in the provinces was on the lines of the Central Government.

14. How was a province administered under the Mughals?

- Ans.** The Mughal Empire was divided into 15 Subas, or provinces. Each suba was headed by a Subdued, or Governor. The Subedar had full civil and military powers. His functions were to maintain of law and order, enforce imperial decrees and administrate criminal justice in the Suba. He was

appointed by the Emperor. There was a Diwan who was in charge of land revenue collection in the province. The Bakshi discharged the duties of the Paymaster and had a general control over the army in the Suba. The Qazi, the Sadr, and the Muhtasib were other officials in the provinces. All these posts were, however, transferable.

15. What do you mean by the Mansabdari System?

Ans. For carrying successful administration, Akbar introduced a new type of system known as the Mansabdari system. Each officer or noble was given a mansab (rank) and was called a Mansabdar. The smallest Mansabdar was in charge of ten horses. The highest mansab was of 5000. The mansab was held during the life time of an officer. It did not pass on to his descendants.

16. Give a brief account of the Revenue System under the Mughals.

Ans. Land revenue was the chief source of income of the state during the Mughal period. With the help of his revenue minister, Raja Todarmal, Akbar introduced many reforms in his revenue department such as in case of famine, drought or other unexpected calamities remission was granted and even loans were advanced for purchase of seeds and animals. The revenue collectors were asked to be friendly towards the cultivators and not to oppress them.

17. Name the main groups in the Mughal society.

Ans. The Mughal society was divided into three main groups. The king, nobles and high mansabdars formed the upper class. The middle class consisted of traders, the government's officers etc. The third was the lower class. It consisted of farmers, artisans and labourers.

18. How was a composite culture developed under the Mughals?

Ans. Composite culture was developed during Akbar's reign from 1556 to 1605. The policy of favouritism in making appointments to high offices among Hindus and Muslims

adopted previously by state officers was abandoned altogether. The Hindus and Musalmans moved now shoulder to shoulder in the army and other state offices. At several places inter-marriages among Hindus and Muslims came into practice. As a result of mutual concord and harmony composite culture began to develop.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. With reference to the chronological background of the Mughal rulers, answer the following :

- (i) When did Akbar rule over India?
- (ii) Who ruled India from CE 1605 to CE 1627?
- (iii) In which year Aurangzeb died?

Ans. (i) Akbar ruled from 1556 to 1605. He ruled for about 50 years and consolidated the Mughal Empire in India.
(ii) Jahangir ruled from 1605 to 1627.
(iii) Aurangzeb died in 1707.

2. With reference to Babur answer the following questions :

- (i) Who invited Babur to come to India and why?
- (ii) Which battles did he have to fight to establish his rule in India?
- (iii) Who succeeded him and how did he contribute to growth of the Empire?

Ans. (i) Babur was invited by the nobles of Ibrahim Lodi to come to India and defeat Ibrahim.
(ii) (a) Battle of Panipat (AD 1526)
(b) Battle of Khanwa (AD 1527)
(c) Battle of Chanderi (AD 1528)
(d) Battle of Ghagra (AD 1529)
(iii) **Humayun succeeded Babur :** Humayun was a weak king. He had to face a lot of trouble as Babur had died before consolidating his empire. Humayun had to face hostility from his brothers, and rebellions in Gujarat and Malwa. The greatest challenge he had to face was from Sher Shah, the Afghan ruler of Bihar. Sher Shah

defeated Humayun in a fierce battle in Kannauj and for fifteen years (from 1540 till 1555) Humayun became a wanderer. His son, Akbar, was born at Amarkot, in Sind, in AD 1542. With the help of the ruler of Persia, Humayun came back to India and regained his throne in 1555. He defeated the successors of Sher Shah, who had died in AD 1545.

3. With reference to the rule of Akbar, answer the following questions :

- (i) When did Akbar occupy the throne?
- (ii) Which policies of Akbar made him popular among the non-Muslims?
- (iii) What was the extent of Akbar's kingdom?

- Ans.** (i) Akbar became the king in 1556.
- (ii) He followed the religious policy of tolerance. He gave freedom to his people to follow their own faith and practise their religions. He abolished the Jaziya tax and the pilgrim tax imposed on the Hindus.
- (iii) Akbar's empire extended from Afghanistan in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east. It also extended from the Himalyas in the north to the Vindhya in the South. It consisted of 15 Subas (provinces).

4. With reference to Jahangir and Shah Jahan explain :

- (i) Jahangir's contribution to the growth of the Mughal Empire.
- (ii) What was Shah Jahan's contribution to the glory of the Mughal Empire?
- (iii) Which world-famous monument was built by Shah Jahan?

- Ans.** (i) Jahangir in the initial phase led the Mughal army to many conquests and expanded the Empire. He installed the 'chain of justice' in his palace. He was a learned person and so he wrote his autobiography *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* in Persian. He patronised art and literature. The Europeans came to India during his reign and established their factories in India.

- (ii) Shah Jahan is remembered as a great builder. His reign is known as the golden period of architecture. He made many conquests. Most notable were the kingdoms of Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Golconda in the South.
- (iii) Shah Jahan built the biggest monument for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. "The Taj" at Agra even today stands as the most beautiful building and is considered among the seven wonders of the world. It is a great monument of love.

5. Discuss the Mughal Administration under the following heads :

- (i) Central Government under the Mughals.
- (ii) Provincial Government under the Mughals.
- (iii) The Mansabdari System under the Mughals.

- Ans. (i) The Central Administration:** The emperor was the head of the empire. The Vazir or the Diwan was the Prime Minister. He was next to the Emperor in the work of administration. He headed the revenue department. He was also a mansabdar and had subordinates to help him in the general administration. The Mir Bakshi, or the Paymaster, had a general control over the army. The Sadr-i-Sudur advised the emperor on religious matters. Some other officials worked for the central administration.
- (ii) **Provincial Administration:** The whole empire was divided into 15 subas, or provinces. Each province was under the charge of a Subdedar, or governor, who had full civil and military powers. The post was transferable. The Diwan was in charge of collection of land revenue.
- (iii) **The Mansabdari System:** The Mughal administration was a military administration. For its successful functioning, Akbar introduced a new type of system, known as the **Mansabdari System**. Each officer or

noble was given a **mansab** (rank) and was called a **Mansabdar**. The smallest **Mansabdar** was incharge of ten horses. The highest **mansab** was of 5,000. But the princes had higher numbers also. The **mansab** was held during the life time of an officer. It did not pass on to his descendants. The **Mansabdars** were transferred from one district to another. They were paid a fixed salary. The **Mansabdars** had to maintain an army according to the rank of their **mansab**. There were 33 grades of **Mansabdars**. The grades varied from 10 to 10,000 during Akbar's reign. Akbar also maintained a regular standing army. They were not **Jagirdars** but some were assigned land called **jagirs**.

6. With reference to the Mughal Society discuss the following:

- (i) Main groups in the Mughal Society.
- (ii) Position of women under the Mughals.
- (iii) Development of a composite culture under the Mughals.

Ans. (i) Three Main Groups in the Society: Under the Mughals society was divided into three main groups. The king, nobles and high mansabdars formed the upper class. They lived a life of luxury. The landlords also belonged to this group. The nobles mainly consisted of Turanis, Iranis, Afghans, Shaikhzadas and a few Rajputs. High salaries were paid to them and their life-style was very extravagant. The other group was that of the middle class. It consisted of traders, the government officers, etc. They led a simple life. The third was the lower class. It consisted of farmers, artisans and labourers. They were poor people who worked hard to earn their livelihood.

- (ii) **Position of Women:** In the Mughal period, the women held no particular position in the society. They enjoyed no freedom of any kind at all. The Purdah-system was completely observed by both Hindus and

Mussalmans. Divorce system was in vogue among the Muslims but the life of women was rendered very miserable after they were divorced. Among Hindus the customs of child-marriage and Sati were prevalent while widow-marriage was not in practice in the Hindu society. Despite all this, there had been many women like Rani Durgavati, Tara Bai, Nur Jahan, Chand Bibi, etc. who were advanced enough to obtain a high and respectable position in the society.

- (iii) **Emergence of a Composit Culture:** During the period of the Sultanate of Delhi, differences between the Hindus and Muslims continued to exist. During Akbar's reign, from 1556 to 1605 A.D a composit culture developed. The Hindus and the Mussalmans moved now shoulder to shoulder in the army and other state offices. The Hindus began to look with due regard at the Mussalman Pirs and the tombs while the latter paid respects to the Hindu saints and ascetics (sants and sadhus) and pilgrimage places. Many Hindus studied Arabic and Persian competently and helped a good deal in the production of literature in these language. Similarly, Mussalmans began to read Hindi and Sanskrit and some of them as Rahim proved to be eminent poets of Hindi. In the same way, the Sanskrit books were done into Persian and those in Persian were translated into Hindi and Sanskrit. At several places inter-marriages among Hindus and Muslims also came into practice. As a result of this mutual concord and harmony a new kind of composite culture began to develop and the foundation of a new nation was laid.