

HISTORY NOTES FOR 7TH CLASS (FOR ISLAMABAD)

Unit-5

The Mughal Empire

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. By looking at the timeline, identify which two emperors had the longest reign.

Ans: Aurangzeb and Akbar

2. List the emperor in order of the lengths of their reigns, with the shortest regin first.

Ans: 1. Babar 1526-1530
2. Hunayna 1530-1540 & 1555-1556

3. All the great Mughals took various attempts to run the empire effectively. In the given boxes below, identify some important improvements made by three great Mughal emperors and how these benefitted the people.

Mughal	Improvements made	Benefits to people
Akbar	-Made conquests -develops friendly relations with Rajputs. -made financial reforms.	-increased food/crops -efficient tax system to help poors. -trade & exports increased.
Jahangir	-Ended war with Rajputs. -Strengthened art/architecture	-installed chain of justice. -made masajids is arais for people.
Shah	-Built Massive	-created historical

Jahan	army. -Best architecture in history -Built new capital.	buildings.
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Answer the following questions by choosing the best option.

1. The Mughal rulers adopted the policy of religious tolerance to create harmony and

_____ in the empire.

- a. development b. equality
c. co-existence
d. financial progress

2. Akbar abolished _____ on the non-Muslims.

- a. toll tax
b. wealth tax
c. Jizya
d. compulsory military service

3. Mughal architecture started to flourish until:

- a. 16th century
b. 17th century
c. 18th century
d. 19th century

4. Battle of Plassey was fought in:

- a. 1737 b. 1747
c. 1757 d. 1767

5. Mir Jaffar is known in the history for his:

- a. bravery b. treachery
c. gallantry d. chivalry

6. Third battle of Panipat provided opportunity to

- a. British b. Muslims
c. Marathas d. Sikhs

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7. **Akbar was grandson of:**

- a. Humayun b. Jahangir
- c. Babar
- d. Shah Jahan

8. **Ain Akbari was written by:**

- a. Bairam Khan
- b. Abu al Fazal
- c. Akbar
- d. Sirangapatnum

9. **The War of Independence started from:**

- a. Meerut b. Delhi
- c. Kanpur d. Sirangapatnum

10. **After the War of Independence 1857, Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled to:**

- a. Lucknow b. Kabul
- c. Rangoon d. Kanpur

Answer:

- (1) (c) co-existence
- (2) (b) Jizya
- (3) (b) 18th Century
- (4) (c) 1757
- (5) (d) treachery
- (6) (d) Marathas
- (7) (d) Babur
- (8) (d) Abu al Fazal
- (9) (d) Meerut
- (10) (d) Rangoon

Write short note on the following:

- a. Mansabdari System
- b. Chain of Justice
- c. Baburnama

Write Short Note on:

(a) Mansabdari System:

In 1570 AD, Mansabdari System

was introduced as a new administrative and revenue system. Mansabdars were directly accountable to the emperor. They were responsible to collect the land revenue and all other taxes. Military responsibilities of Mansabdars were to maintain a specified number of cavalymen, to get them registered and their horses trademarked. This was meant to reinforce the emperor's military power during wars.

(b) Chain of Justice:

Jahangir is famous for installing the golden "Chain of Justice" outside the castle of Agra. The chain was meant to be a link between the citizens and the emperor. Jahangir announced that any aggrieved person ringing the bells would be granted a meeting with the emperor.

(c) Babur Nama:

Babur Nama is considered one of the earliest autobiographies in Islamic literature by an Indian ruler. It contains detailed accounts of Babur's political and military efforts to achieve throne. This autobiography also provides experiences of his life in Islamic Central Asia and South Asia around 1500. It includes geography, diversity of population, music, art, and languages. Specific details about fauna and flora, techniques of hunting, fishing, and agriculture are also covered in Babur Nama.

Answer in Detail:

1. Briefly describe the factors that contributed to the foundation of Mughal Empire in India by Zahiruddin Babur.

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Ans: Before the establishment of the Mughal Empire, Turko-Afghan dynasties, known as Delhi Sultanate, were founded. They ruled South Asia for about 300 years. In 1398 AD, the Turks, led by the fierce conqueror Taimur the Lame, attacked northern India and appointed Khizr Khan as governor of the conquered territories. Within a century, the northern India disintegrated into a collection of small kingdoms. In the early 16th century, powerful Mughals invaded India. Mughal Empire was founded by Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur (1526 AD -1530 AD). Babur was a brilliant general who descended from both Taimur and Genghis Khan). Babur achieved some major successes against Ibrahim Lodhi, Afghans, Rajputs and founded the Mughal Empire.

2. Why was Shah Jahan's reign considered as the Golden Age of the Mughals?

Ans: Shah Jahan ascended the throne of Mughal Empire in 1628 AD and continued the policies of the Great Mughal rulers. He extended the Mughal rule into the South of India by conquering the Deccan states. Shah Jahan reinforced the empire by building a massive army. It is said that his army consisted of a huge number of soldiers. He also made advancement of cannons at large scale.

Shah Jahan's reign was considered as the Golden Age of the Mughals because of his art and architecture. Some of the most beautiful buildings were built during his time such as, Red fort, Taj Mahal, Shalimar Bagh, Masjid Wazir Khan

etc. Shah Jahan created a wonderful blend of Persian and Indian culture is the Mughal arts and architectural works. He also built a new capital, Shah Jalalabad, with its magnificent Red fort.

3. Identify and explain the problems which made Aurangzeb unpopular in India.

Ans: Aurangzeb ruled for almost 50 years (1658 AD-1707AD). He inherited a magnificent empire, splendid cities, forts and palaces. He was an eminent scholar and made strict policies. He also fought many battles fearlessly.

Unpopular Policies of Aurangzeb:

According to historians, some of the Aurangzeb's policies caused serious discontent among the Muslims and non-Muslims.

→ Financial difficulties of the empire increased due to the policy of long-drawn wars of Aurangzeb. He imposed heavy taxes including war tax on the common people which were beyond their means. The wealth of the empire was reduced because farming, trade and industry were not flourishing all across India.

→ Aurangzeb wanted to unite the Subcontinent under his own politico-religious will which caused problems for his rule.

Despite all the challenges, Aurangzeb maintained the empire for nearly half a century, yet it was heading towards its

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downfall rapidly.

4. Describe the Mughal policy of religious tolerance in India from Zahiruddin Babur to Aurangzeb Alamgir.

Ans: During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Mughal Empire reached the climax of its political power and culture. The Mughal rulers power not only fond of arts, architecture, and poetry, they were also recognized for their high level of religious tolerance. Most of the Mughal rulers ensured the balance of different socio- economic and political interests of Indian groups and communities with no interference in their religious beliefs. Mughal rulers adopted distinct ways to create religious harmony among the Muslims and non- Muslims for peaceful coexistence and smooth progress of the empire. The table on the next page represents the religious policy of the Great Mughal rulers in the Indian subcontinent.

Mughal Rulers	Religious Policy
Babur & Humayun	- Babur practiced an open-minded and tolerant Islam. According to historians, he never persecuted the followers of other religions. - Babur always valued the scholarly religious discussion. Baber's son, Humayun, also followed the

	religious policy of his father. To a great extent, he was as tolerant as Babur was.
Akbar & Jahanghir	- Akbar was religiously most tolerant among all the Mughal rulers. He did not force Islamic laws on non-Muslim subjects and allowed them to apply the laws of their own religion to their area. - As a manifestation of his religious tolerance, he also abolished the Jizya tax upon non - Muslims. - When Akbar's son Jahangir came to the throne, he preferred comparatively stronger religious policies. However, he remained tolerant towards all the other religions in the Empire.
Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb	- Shah Jahan was unprejudiced towards all Muslim sects and non-Muslims. - Many historians believe that Aurangzeb was tolerant towards all

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	the other religions. He even gave charities and funds to non-Muslims for the building of their worship places. However, some historians label Aurangzeb as intolerant towards non-Muslims.
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5. What are the important features of the Mughal art and architecture? Give some examples.

Ans: The Mughal dynasty widely displayed remarkable art forms and mixed Islamic and Indian architectural styles. Mughal architecture started to flourish from the reign of Akbar until the early 18th century. Some examples of the Mughal art and architecture can be found in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Forts, Palaces and Mausoleums:

During the Mughal rule, the architecture of forts and tombs presented an outstanding resemblance to the Islamic architecture. The Mughals merged the Persian and Indian styles in their architecture. Forts had distinct domes, lustrous towers at corners and magnificent halls. The forts had arrangements for soldier barracks, private and public halls for meetings, horse and elephant stables and gardens at the entrance. Delicate ornamentation with arches, decorative sections with fine geometrical designs and inscriptions were major highlights. Mughal palaces reflected beautiful

craftsmanship and inspirations of Indo-Persian traditions. The mausoleum such as Taj Mahal presents a blend of Persian, Turkish and Indian style of architecture. The Mughal architecture expresses a beautiful sense of harmony and a feeling of immense peace.

Mughal Art and Literature Paintings:

Mughal Era has vastly contributed an admirable architectural, literary and cultural history to India. The Mughals' keen interest in paintings presented a blend of Indo-Persian mixture. The paintings of the Mughal Era show themes from stories of Persian literature and Indian folklore. Main subjects of the Mughal paintings included portraits of the monarchs, events and details of the court life, wildlife, hunting scenes and battle illustrations. Originating from the time of Turkish-Afghan Delhi Sultanate, paintings prospered under the rule of Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan. During the Mughal dynasty, Persian, Bengali and Punjabi literature developed immensely. The interest of Mughals in the growth of literature reflected from 'Tuzak-i- Baburi', Humayun-Nama and Navratans.

Critical Thinking

Q. Do you think that Aurangzeb ruled the empire Effectively?

Ans: Aurangzeb Alamgir is considered the last great Mughal ruler. His rule lasted for almost fifty years 1658 AD -1707 AD. When he became Emperor, he inherited a magnificent empire, splendid cities, forts and palaces. His region was divided into

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two parts i.e. until 1680 AD, he was devoted to safeguarding the empire from rebellions and disintegrations. Aurangzeb also changed the traditions of Mughal rulers before him. Although he tried to maintain the empire effectively for nearly half a century, yet it was heading towards its downfall rapidly.

Glossary

Disintegrated:	Crumbled
Interregnum:	a period when normal government is suspended, especially between consecutive reigns or regimes.
Tropical:	hot and humid climatic area
Revenue:	Income
Diverse:	Varied
Dispelled:	scattered, ousted
Diplomacy:	negotiation and cooperation
Contained:	Controlled
Politico:	religious and political policies which are based on specific belief religious will
Sanskrit:	an ancient Indo-European language of India
Cults:	a particular system of religious beliefs
Milieu:	situation, setting
Staunch:	steadfast
Denouncing:	criticizing and rejecting

Write down more words and their meaning that you find difficult in this unit.

Words	Meaning
Inscriptions	Engraving
Princedom	Jurisdiction / rank
Aggrieved	Unfair treatment
Levied	Impose / charge
Dissolute	Improper conduct.
