

The Mughal Empire

Q1. True/False

- i. Babur used canons effectively in the first battle of Panipat. True
- ii. Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in 1530. False
- iii. In Iran Humayun received help from the Safavid Shah. True
- iv. Akbar was 33 years old when he became emperor. False

Q2. Fill in the blanks

- i. The capital of Mirza Hakim, Akbar's half-brother, was Kabul.
- ii. The five Deccan Sultanates were Berar, Khandesh, Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golconda.
- iii. If zat determined a mansabdar's rank and salary, sawar indicated his military responsibility.
- iv. Abul Fazl, Akbar's friend and counsellor, helped him frame the idea of sulh-i kul so that he could govern a society composed of many religions, cultures and castes.

Q3. When did Humayun recapture Delhi?

Ans. He recaptured Delhi in 1555.

Q4. Who was the first Mughal emperor of India?

Ans. Babur was the first Mughal emperor (1526- 1530).

Q5. Who started guerrilla warfare in the Deccan?

Ans. Marathas started guerrilla warfare.

Q6. Who was Jahangir?

Ans. Jahangir was the great Mughal Emperor, and he was the son of Akbar.

Q7. Who gave shelter to Humayun when he fled to Iran?

Ans. In Iran Humayun received help from the Safavid Shah.

Q8. Who was the author of Akbar Nama and Ain-Akbari?

Ans. Abul Fazl was the author of Akbar Nama and Ain-i-Akbari.

Q9. How did Humayun die?

Ans. Humayun died as a result of an accidental fall in his building.

Q10. At what age did Akbar become the emperor of the Mughal Empire?

Ans. At the age of 13, Akbar became the emperor of the Mughal Empire.

Q11. Who was the regent of Akbar?

Ans. Bairam Khan was the regent of Akbar.

Q12. Who defeated the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi and where?

Ans. Babur defeated and killed Ibrahim Lodi in the Battle of Panipat in 1526.

Q13. Who were defeated in the battle of Chanderi by Babur?

Ans. Rajputs were defeated in the battle of Chanderi by Babur.

Q14. What was jagir?

Ans. Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called jagirs.

Q15. What forced Humayun to flee to Iran?

Ans. Sher Khan defeated Humayun at Chausa (1539) and Kanauj (1540), forcing him to flee to Iran.

Q16. Who was Genghis Khan?

Ans. Genghis Khan was the ruler of the Mongol tribes, China and Central Asia. He died in 1227.

Q17. Who was Jahangir's mother?

Ans. The mother of Jahangir was a Kachhwaha princess, daughter of the Rajput ruler of Amber (modern-day Jaipur).

Q18. Who was Shah Jahan's mother?

Ans. The mother of Shah Jahan was a Rathor princess, daughter of the Rajput ruler of Marwar (Jodhpur).

Q19. What is the rule of primogeniture?

Ans. In law, primogeniture is the rule of inheritance whereby father's estate descends to the eldest son.

Q20. When did Mehrunnisa receive the title Nur Jahan?

Ans. Mehrunnisa married the Emperor Jahangir in 1611 and received the title Nur Jahan.

Q21. What was the Mughal tradition of succession?

Ans. They followed the Mughal and Timurid custom of coparcenary inheritance, or a division of the inheritance amongst all the sons.

Q22. Who was Babur?

Ans. Babur, the first Mughal emperor (1526- 1530), succeeded to the throne of Ferghana in 1494 when he was only 12 years old.

Q23. What was known as zabt?

Ans. Each province was divided into revenue circles with its own schedule of revenue rates for individual crops. This revenue system was known as zabt.

Q24. What was the name that Prince Khurram assumed after he ascended the throne?

Ans. After the death of Jahangir, Prince Khurram ascended to the throne in 1627 and was named Shah Jahan.

Q25. Who was victorious in the conflict over succession amongst the Shah Jahan's sons?

Ans. Aurangzeb was victorious and his three brothers, including Dara Shukoh, were killed.

Q26. What were the central provinces under the control of the Mughals?

Ans. The central provinces under the control of the Mughals were-Lahore, Panipat, Delhi, Mathura, Agra, Amber, Ajmer, Fatehpur Sikri, Chittor, Ranthambhor and Allahabad.

Q27. What was zat?

Ans. Rank and salary were determined by a numerical value called zat. The higher the zat, the more prestigious was the noble's position in court and the larger his salary.

Q28. What was the role of the zamindar in Mughal administration?

Ans. Zamindar in Mughal administration collected tax from peasants. They acted as intermediaries between peasants and the ruler. In some areas the zamindars exercised a great deal of power.

Q29. Explain the term Dogma and Bigot.

Ans. Dogma - A statement or an interpretation declared as authoritative with the expectation that it would be followed without question.

Bigot - An individual who is intolerant of another person's religious beliefs or culture.

Q30. Aurangzeb insulted Shivaji when he came to accept Mughal authority. What was the consequence of this insult?

Ans. As a result of this, Shivaji escaped from Agra, declared himself an independent king and resumed his campaigns against the Mughals.

Q31. Why was it a difficult task for rulers of Middle Ages to rule the Indian subcontinent?

Ans. Ruling as large a territory as the Indian subcontinent with such a diversity of people and cultures was an extremely difficult task for any ruler to accomplish in the Middle Ages.

Q32. What helped the Mughals to extend their influence over many kings and chieftains?

Ans. The careful balance between defeating but not humiliating their opponents enabled the Mughals to extend their influence over many kings and chieftains.

Q33. What do you mean by the term mansabdar?

Or

What do you know about Mansabdari System?

Ans. The term mansabdar refers to an individual who holds a mansab, meaning a position or rank. It was a grading system used by the Mughals to fix (1) rank, (2) salary and (3) military responsibilities.

Q34. What were the military responsibilities of mansabdars?

Ans. The mansabdar's military responsibilities required him to maintain a specified number of sawar or cavalymen. The mansabdar brought his cavalymen for review, got them registered, their horses branded and then received money to pay them as salary.

Q35. What power did the nobles exercise during Akbar reign?

Ans. Akbar's nobles commanded large armies and had access to large amounts of revenue. While they were loyal the empire functioned efficiently but by the end of the seventeenth century many nobles had built independent networks of their own. Their loyalties to the empire were weakened by their own self-interest.

Q36. What was the relationship between the mansabdar and the jagir?

Ans. Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called jagirs. Most mansabdars did not actually reside in or administer their jagirs. They only had rights to the revenue of their assignments which was collected for them by their servants while the mansabdars themselves served in some other part of the country.

Q37. Write about the major campaigns and events of Shah Jahan reign.

Ans. Mughal campaigns continued in the Deccan under Shah Jahan. The Afghan noble Khan Jahan Lodi rebelled and was defeated. Campaigns were launched against Ahmadnagar; the Bundelas were defeated and Orchha seized. In the north-west, the campaign to seize Balkh from the Uzbegs was unsuccessful and Qandahar was lost to the Safavids. In 1632 Ahmadnagar was finally annexed and the Bijapur forces sued for peace.

**Q38. What were the main features of sulh-i kul?
Or**

Write short notes on Akbar's religious policy.

Ans. Akbar introduced the idea of sulh-i kul or "universal peace". Its main features were:

- i. This idea of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions in his realm.

ii. Instead it focused on a system of ethics – honesty, justice and peace – that was universally applicable.

Q39. Why was it important for the Mughals to recruit mansabdars from diverse backgrounds and not just Turanis and Iranis?

Ans. As the empire expanded to encompass different regions the Mughals recruited diverse bodies of people. From a small nucleus of Turkish nobles (Turanis) they expanded to include Iranians, Indian Muslims, Afghans, Rajputs, Marathas and other groups. Those who joined Mughal service were enrolled as mansabdars.

Q40. Write a short note on 'Babur'?

Ans. About Babur

i. Babur, the first Mughal emperor (1526-1530), succeeded to the throne of Ferghana in 1494 when he was only 12 years old.

ii. He was forced to leave his ancestral throne due to the invasion of another Mongol group, the Uzbeks.

iii. After years of wandering he seized Kabul in 1504. In 1526 he defeated the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, at Panipat and captured Delhi and Agra.

Q41. Write short note on Humayun.

Ans. About Humayun

i. Humayun divided his inheritance according to the will of his father. His brothers were each given a province. The ambitions of his brother Mirza Kamran weakened Humayun's cause against Afghan competitors. Sher Khan defeated Humayun at Chausa (1539) and Kanauj (1540), forcing him to flee to Iran.

ii. In Iran Humayun received help from the Safavid Shah. He recaptured Delhi in 1555 but died the next year after an accident in this building.

Q42. How were the debates with religious scholars important in the formation of Akbar's ideas on governance?

Ans. Akbar's interaction with people of different faiths made him realise that religious scholars who emphasised ritual and dogma were often bigots. Their teachings created divisions and disharmony amongst his subjects. This eventually led Akbar to the idea of sulh-i kul or "universal peace". This idea

of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions in his realm. Instead it focused on a system of ethics – honesty, justice and peace – that was universally applicable.

Q43. Why did the Mughals emphasise their Timurid and not their Mongol descent?

Ans. The Mughals were descendants of two great lineages of rulers. From their mother's side they were descendants of Genghis Khan (died 1227), ruler of the Mongol tribes, China and Central Asia. From their father's side they were the successors of Timur (died 1404), the ruler of Iran, Iraq and modern-day Turkey. However, the Mughals did not like to be called Mughal or Mongol. This was because Genghis Khan's memory was associated with the massacre of innumerable people. It was also linked with the Uzbeks, their Mongol competitors. On the other hand, the Mughals were proud of their Timurid ancestry, not least of all because their great ancestor had captured Delhi in 1398.

Q44. How important was the income from land revenue to the stability of the Mughal Empire?

Ans. The main source of income available to Mughal rulers was from land revenue. The Mughal Empire was very large and therefore for administration and maintaining law and order, a huge amount of revenue was needed which comes from the land revenue. The land revenue was also needed for salaries of the soldiers and officials and welfare works for the common people. The enormous wealth and resources commanded by the Mughal elite made them an extremely powerful group of people in the late seventeenth century. Thus, we can say that land revenue played a crucial role in the stability of the Mughal Empire.