

Case Study:

Raja Man Singh I of Amber was one of Emperor Akbar's top military officers. Akbar gave him a high rank called a **7,000 *Zat***. In Akbar's administration, the ***Zat*** rank was a number that showed an officer's official status, importance in court, and salary. A higher *Zat* number meant more respect and higher pay. To pay his officers, Akbar gave them land assignments called *jagirs*. In return, officers like Man Singh had to keep a fixed number of armed soldiers, war horses, supply camels, weapons, and war elephants ready for battle. The emperor sent inspectors to check these troops and animals regularly. Officers lived with the constant fear of inspection because missing gear or soldiers meant pay cuts, lost land, or demotions. Man Singh's high position was rare because non-Muslim officials were kept as a small minority in the top ranks, rarely making up more than one-third of all high officers. At the same time, Akbar's finance minister, Todar Mal, set up a land survey system (*Zabt*). He measured fields and checked crop prices so the state knew exactly how much tax money *jagir* lands would produce to pay for these army contingents.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1.The main purpose of the *Zat* rank given to Raja Man Singh was to:

- **A)** Show the total area of farmland he personally owned.
- **B)** Set his official court status, personal rank, and base salary.
- **C)** Count how many foreign cities he was allowed to visit.
- **D)** Decide the exact number of farmers working on his land.

2.Akbar's main reason for linking land pay (*jagirs*) to army requirements was to:

- **A)** Stop officers from growing independent power away from royal control.
- **B)** Force all army officers to give up their administrative work at court.
- **C)** Let local farmers pick their own army generals during times of war.
- **D)** Keep the central royal treasury completely out of all tax collection.

3.Assertion (A): Mansabdars were very afraid of

official troop inspections.

Reason (R): Failing to show the required horses, weapons, and men led to heavy salary cuts.

- **A)** Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) does NOT explain (A).
- **B)** (A) is true, but (R) is false according to government rules.
- **C)** (A) is false, but (R) is true regarding Mughal rules.
- **D)** Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) gives the correct reason for (A).

4. Identify the INCORRECT statement about how the Mansabdari system worked:

- **A)** Officers received land revenue assignments (*jagirs*) to pay for troops.
- **B)** Officers had to maintain elephants, war horses, and camels for battle.
- **C)** Non-Muslim officers held most of the top positions in the whole empire.
- **D)** Akbar used officers to gather troops quickly without a big main army.

5. Imagine a Mughal commander fails to present his

**required soldiers and weapons during an inspection.
The most direct penalty he faces is:**

- **A)** Receiving extra land grants to help him buy missing weapons.
- **B)** Facing immediate salary cuts or losing his official rank.
- **C)** Getting reassigned to work full-time measuring farm fields.
- **D)** Getting an automatic promotion to encourage better effort.

6.Regarding the place of non-Muslim officials in Akbar's higher government, the most accurate statement is:

- **A)** Non-Muslims were completely banned from getting any rank above 1,000 *Zat*.
- **B)** Foreign-born Muslim nobles were routinely demoted to make room for local officers.
- **C)** Akbar gave equal numbers of top jobs to Muslim and non-Muslim officers.
- **D)** Akbar chose talented non-Muslims for top roles while keeping their overall numbers small.

7.Todar Mal's land survey reforms helped Raja Man Singh's military duties by:

- **A)** Providing clear land revenue estimates to ensure steady funds for his troops.
- **B)** Forcing soldiers to work on farms during peacetime to earn extra income.
- **C)** Replacing land payments with direct monthly cash payments from the court.
- **D)** Making mansabdars measure every field themselves before going to war.

8. Compared to keeping one huge central army at the capital, Akbar's mansabdari model was designed to:

- **A)** Remove the need for weapons or horses during major war campaigns.
- **B)** Allow local rulers to keep all taxes without reporting to the emperor.
- **C)** Spread out troop maintenance among regional officers for fast army setup.
- **D)** Force every soldier in the empire to live right next to the royal palace.

9. Compare two officers where Officer A holds a *Zat* rank of 7,000 and Officer B holds a *Zat* rank of 1,000:

- **A)** Officer A collects less tax money than Officer

B.

- **B)** Officer A is banned from keeping war elephants or heavy weapons.
- **C)** Officer A belongs to a much lower administrative level than Officer B.
- **D)** Officer A holds higher court respect, greater status, and better pay.

10.Strong government control under Akbar was built mainly through the combined action of:

- **A)** Turning all military leaders into permanent farmers across all regions.
- **B)** Balancing officer pay, strict army inspections, and steady tax collection.
- **C)** Giving full independent power to local kings without any central checks.
- **D)** Removing all tax duties for high-ranking officers during their entire career.

Answer Key

1. **B**

2. **A**

3. **D**

4. **C**

5. **B**

6. **D**

7. **A**

8. **C**

9. **D**

10. B