

CLASS-7

HISTORY

LESSON-1

STUDYING THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

E. Give short answers for the following questions. (20-30 words)

1. Name some of the new food crops that were introduced during the medieval period in India.

1. **New food crops like potatoes, chillies, corn were introduced during the medieval period in India**

2. Name some of the new social and political groups that became powerful during this period.

2. **Rajputs, Sikhs, Marathas, Jats and Ahom became powerful during this period.**

3. Mention the names of some of the foreign travellers who came to India during this period.

3. **Some foreign travellers who came to India during this period were Al Beruni, Ibn Battuta, and Marco Polo.**

4. Define Bhakti.

4. **Bhakti means personal devotion to god. In bhakti, there is a direct relationship between the god and the devotee.**

5. How can maps help us to understand the history of a region in a better manner?

5. **Maps help us to understand the history of region in a better manner because it tells us how people have organized themselves into town, cities and countries and also provide geographical features of the region.**

F. Give long answers for the following questions. (50-60 words)

1. Write a note on Sufism and Bhakti.

1. **Sufism:** Around the 8th century Sufism rose in the Muslim world. It drew certain ideas from Hinduism and Buddhism. Sufism was a monotheistic faith and preached of equality and brotherhood. They became popular with the masses because their ideas were taught in local and regional languages.

Bhakti: Bhakti means personal devotion to god. In bhakti there is a direct relationship between the god and the devotee. There are no intermediaries like priests, prayers or chants required for the purpose of worship. The Bhakti movement emerged as an alternative to Buddhism and Jainism.

2. Why do we have a large number of literary sources from the medieval period? What do they include? Mention four important literary sources of this period.
2. We have a large number of literary sources from the medieval period because since paper had become more easily available. Literary sources include chronicle by court historian, biography, autobiographies, travelogues, farmans and correspondence of the ruler and various court records. Important literary sources of this period are :
- Tahqiq –i- Hind written by Al-Beruni
 - Rajatarangini by Kalhana.
 - Tarikh-i- Firuz Shahi written by Ziauddin
 - Humayun Nama by Gulbadan Begum.

G. Give very long answers for the following questions. (100-120 words)

1. Discuss the archaeological sources of the medieval period in detail

1. **Archaeological sources of the medieval period:**

- Archaeological sources include temples, palaces, mosques, forts, tombs, remains of the dwellings of ordinary people, coins, paintings, tools and weapons, inscriptions, and various other artefacts of this period.
- They give us an idea of the political, economic and social history of that time.

- During this period, a large number of monuments were built by many rulers, particularly in south India.
 - Under the Sultanate rulers and the Mughals, a number of mosques and mausoleums were built. Inscriptions and edicts record things like royal orders, proclamations, gifts to temples and priests, achievements of kings and genealogical lists.
 - Coins were issued by almost all the rulers. These coins were made of different metals. Some coins may have the dynastic emblem on them.
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2. What are some of the problems that historians have to face with the sources? Give one exam.

Problems that historians have to face with the sources are:

- There was no printing press in medieval India; all manuscripts were copied by hand by the scribes. Scribes were people who were employed to keep records. They made copies of the original documents. Scribes often made changes while copying the documents. These changes grew over the centuries. The manuscripts of the same text would vary from one another.
- Changes occur in languages and meanings of various words. Historical records were written in a number of languages such as Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu and various regional languages. Though the roots remain the same, grammar, Vocabulary and meanings of certain words change over a period of time. For example, modern Persian is quite different from medieval Persian.
- For example- the term 'Hindustan' signifies that it is the land of the Hindus, meaning not people of a particular community but people living in this part of South Asia, beyond the Hindukush Mountains. The word Hindu is derived from Sindhu which is another name for river Indus. The word indicated people living on the banks of the river Sindhu. When Minhaj-i-Siraj, a 13th century court historian who wrote in Persian, used the term Hindustan, he meant the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the land between the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. He used the term in a political sense for the lands under the control of the Delhi Sultanate. Even in later medieval period, the term did not include south India. In the 16th century, Babur used this term to define the geography, flora, fauna and the culture of the subcontinent and its people. At different points in history, the term 'Hindustan' signified a country with borders different from present-day India.

3. Write a note on some of the major political, social and economic developments of this period.

3. **Major Political Developments:**

In India After the death of Harshavardhana, several regional kingdoms were constantly battling with each other over control of larger and richer territories. In the 13th century, the Turks and the Afghans ruled from Delhi, Their rule is referred to as the Delhi Sultanate in the 16th century; the Mughal dynasty founded by Babur succeeded the Delhi Sultanate. In the 18th century, the power of the Mughals declined and their empire was broken up into various regional kingdoms. Towards the end of the 15th century, European companies started arriving in India in order to develop trade ties with it. The Portuguese were the first to arrive followed by the French, the Dutch and other European nations. By the 17th century however, the French and the English emerged as the main rival companies' vying for power in India. By the mid-18th century, the English emerged victorious and ruled India till the 20th century.

Major social Developments:

With the rise of new regional kingdoms, many new social groups emerged. Some like Rajputs, Sikhs, Marathas, Jats and Ahoms were politically powerful. The rise of the regional kingdoms was marked by the expansion of agriculture. This expansion caused significant economic and social differences among the peasants. As differences emerged in society, new groups of people also came up like Kayasthas and baidyas.

Major Economic Developments:

The new arrivals brought new technologies and ideas with them. The Persian wheel (ghatajantra) for irrigation, the spinning wheel (charkah) and the cotton bow for weaving are three such examples. New food crops and beverages such as potatoes, chillies, corn, tea and coffee also arrived in the Indian subcontinent. Thus, this was a period of social, economic, political and cultural changes.