

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q.1. What is an archive?**

**Ans.** A place where documents and manuscripts are stored is called an archive.

**Q.2. What is an archive?**

**Ans.** A place where documents and manuscripts are stored is called an archive.

**Q.3. How are archives useful in medieval India?**

**Ans.** Manuscripts were collected by wealthy people, rulers, monasteries and temples. They were placed in libraries and archives. These provide a lot of detailed information to historians.

**Q.4. What were the languages according to Amir Khusrau existed in the region?**

**Ans.** Sindhi, Lahori, Kashmiri, Dvasamudri (in Southern Karnataka), Telangani, Gujari, Ma' bari, Gauri, Awadhi and Hindawi. Further, Brahmins knew the Sanskrit language.

**Q.5. Who were patrons?**

**Ans.** Patrons were influential wealthy individuals, who supported another person—an artiste, a craftsperson, a learned man or a noble.

## Short Answer Questions

### Q.1. What do you know about 'Rajputs'?

**Ans. (i)** The Rajputs derived their name from 'Rajputras'.

**(ii)** This term was used for the Kshatriya caste, warriors and included rulers, chieftains, commanders and soldiers of the different monarchs all over the subcontinent.

### Q.2. How did medieval India affect caste system?

**Ans.** Indian society continued to be divided into many castes and sub castes (Jatis and Upjatis). Most jatis had their own rules of marriages. In villages, Panchayats collected most of the taxes. Sati, polygamy and purdah systems were prevalent rapidly.

### Q.3. How do literary sources help in knowing about medieval history?

**Ans.** Since paper was available, a lot of written accounts in the form of chronicles, autobiographies, farmaans and accounts of foreign travellers are available from this period in Persian and Arabic. These provide a detailed account of rulers, their achievements and lifestyle which existed during this period.

### Q.4. What does a Sanskrit Prashasti write about Balban?

**Ans.** A Sanskrit prashasti praised the Delhi Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266– 1287) by saying that he was the ruler of a vast empire that stretched from Bengal (Gauda) in the east to Ghazni (Gajjana) in Afghanistan in the west and included all of South India (Dravida). People of different regions—Gauda, Andhra, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat apparently fled before his armies.

### Q.5. How did the French cartographer depict India? How is it different from al-Idirisi?

**Ans.** In 1720, a French cartographer gave an improved version of the Indian subcontinent. It depicts the Indian subcontinent as it is shown now. It gives us information about the coastal areas. European traders came to India by using this map. This map seems more familiar to us.

## Long Answer Questions

### Q.1. What was the progress in Indian religion in this period?

**Ans. (i)** The earlier invaders like the Greeks who came to India, followed Indian religions—Hinduism and Buddhism.

**(ii)** The new invaders—Turks, Afghans and Mughals—brought a new religion, Islam with them.

**(iii)** Islam spread in India. Later on, Sikhism was born and the advent of Europeans saw the spread of Christianity.

**(iv)** Hinduism also underwent major changes but remained the main religion of India.

**(v)** Two new religious cults—Bhakti Movement and Sufi Movement brought a new way of understanding between Islam and Hinduism.

### Q.2. Describe the jati system in India.

**Ans.** People in India were grouped into Jatis or sub-castes and ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and different occupations. Jatis framed their own rules and regulations. These were enforced by an assembly of elders called jati panchayat. But jatis were also required to follow the rules of their villages. Several villages were governed by a chieftain.

### Q.3. What was the influence of pan-regional rulers on the character of regions in India?

**Ans.** Years of imperial, pan-regional rule altered the character of the regions. Across most of the subcontinent, the regions were left with the legacies of big and small states that had ruled over them. This was visible in emergence of many distinct and shared traditions: in the realms of governance, the management of the economy, and emergence of elite cultures and languages.

## **Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)**

**Q.1. Why information about the medieval period is much more than the ancient period?**

**Ans.** The number and variety of textual records increased dramatically during this period. They slowly displaced other types of available information. Through this period, paper gradually became cheaper and more widely available. People used it to write holy texts, chronicles of rulers, letters and teachings of saints, petitions and judicial records, and for registers of accounts and taxes. Manuscripts were collected by wealthy people, rulers, monasteries and temples. They were placed in libraries and archives.

**Q.2. How did Islam grow as a major religion in medieval India?**

**Ans.** Merchants and migrants first brought the teachings of the holy Quran to India in the 7th century. Many rulers were patrons of Islam and the ulama learned theologians and jurists. Islam was interpreted in a number of ways by its followers. There were the Shia Muslims, who believed that the Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law, Ali, was the leader of the Muslim community and the Sunni Muslims accepted the authority of the Khalifas.