MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF INDIA – MCQ BOOKLET

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1. Muslim Invasion of India

Administration and Socio-Economic Impact of Arab Rule in Sindh

1. During the 8th – 14th centuries, in the Sanskrit texts and inscriptions, which of the following terms were used to denote Muslims ?

- **1. Turushka**
- **2. Tajika**
- **3. Parashika**
- **4. Kardamaka**

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

A. 1, 2 and 3
B. 1, 2 and 4
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 3 and 4

Ans: A

UPSC CDS-2-2022

During the period between the 8th and 14th centuries, when Islamic rule and influence spread in various parts of India, Sanskrit texts and inscriptions frequently used terms like 'Turushka' (referring to Turks, especially Ghaznavids, Ghurids, and Delhi Sultans of Turkish origin), 'Tajika' (often referring to Arabs or people from Persian lands, including early Muslim rulers like the Rais of Sind or later groups), and 'Parashika' (specifically referring to Persians). These terms were used by Indian writers to identify and describe people of Muslim faith, often based on their ethnic or geographic origins.

2. According to Chachnama, what was the Capital of the Indus Country in the 6th and 7th century ?

A. Deval
B. Arod
C. Lodawa
D. Barmer

Ans: B

MPPSC CS Prelims-2020

The Chachnama is a primary historical source for the history of Sindh under the Chach dynasty and the Arab conquest in the early 8th century. It describes Aror (or Alor, Arod) as the capital city of Sindh under King Chach and his successors, including Dahir, who ruled before the Arab invasion led by Muhammad bin Qasim.

3. In Islam, offering prayers five times a day is called

A. Sawm
B. Zakat
C. Salat
D. Shahada

Ans: C

PPSC CS Prelims-2013

The question asks for the term used in Islam for offering prayers five times a day.

4. The Arab conquest of Sindh is depicted in

A. Akbar Namah
B. Ain i Akbari
C. Chach Namah
D. Shah Namah

Ans: C

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2022

It provides valuable insights into the political, social, and economic conditions of Sindh before and during the Arab invasion.

5. Name the Arabie traveller who presented an account of the period of Mihir Bhoj.

A. Suleman
B. Shah Alain Neerun
C. Al Masoodi Hazzab
D. Obaidullah Hussaini

Ans: A

Sr. Teacher (Sanskrit Edu.) Comp. Exam 2022 b-2022

Suleman's observations offer valuable insights into the reign of Mihir Bhoj, a significant ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty, who is known for his military achievements and administrative capabilities.

6. Vikramashila, a centre of learning in medieval India, was established by

A. Chandragupta Maurya
B. King Gopal
C. King Dharmapala
D. King Ashoka

Ans: C

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATOR(EO) -2019

Vikramashila was a prominent Buddhist monastic university, and its establishment is attributed to King Dharmapala.

7. Vikramshila, a centre of learning in medieval India, was established by

A. Changragupta Maurya
B. King Gopal
C. King Dharmapala
D. King Ashoka

Ans: C

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATOR(EO) -2019

King Dharmapala, a prominent ruler of the Pala Empire, founded Vikramshila, which became a major centre for Buddhist studies and monastic education.

Arab Invasion of Sindh: Causes and Context

8. India's earliest contact with Islam came through

A. Arab invasion of Sindh in the seventh century.
B. Turkish invasions of the eleventh-twelfth centuries.
C. Arab merchants of Malabar coast.
D. Sufi saints and Arab travellers.

Ans: C

WBPSC CS Prelims-2016

India had long-standing trade relations with the Arabian Peninsula. Arab traders were visiting the Malabar coast in South India well before the advent of Islam. With the rise of Islam in the 7th century CE, Arab merchants brought the new faith with them. Their interaction with the local population led to the peaceful spread of Islam in coastal areas, particularly on the Malabar coast, through trade and settlement, even before the first significant military invasions. The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 CE marked the first major military contact and the establishment of Muslim rule in a part of India, but contact and the introduction of Islam through trade routes predate this. Turkish invasions started much later in the 11th century. Sufi saints and Arab travellers also played a role, but the earliest significant contact that facilitated the spread of Islam was through the established trade networks involving Arab merchants.

Background and Precursors: Arab Incursions into Persia and Central Asia

9. The decline of trade and commerce in North India between 7^{th} and 10^{th} centuries was partly due to the

- **(1) Collapse of West Roman Empire**
- **(2) Collapse of China**
- **(3) Collapse of South East Asia**
- **(4) Decline in skills of Indian artisans**

A. (1)
B. (2)
C. (3)
D. (4)

Ans: A

APPSC Group-II-Prelims-2016

The period between the 7th and 10th centuries in North India is often seen as a period of relative decline in long-distance trade and urbanization compared to earlier periods. While various internal factors contributed, external factors also played a role. The collapse of the West Roman Empire in the 5th century AD disrupted major Mediterranean trade routes which had connections, albeit indirect, with India. This long-term impact on major trading networks is considered a contributing factor to the decline of long-distance trade connecting with the west.

Causes for the Success of Turkish Invaders against Indian Kingdoms

10. North Indian powers were defeated at the hands of invaders from Central Asia because :

- **(a) Indian soldiers could not hope to get plunder.**
- **(b) There was no unity among Indian soldiers due to casteism.**
- **(c) Central Asian soldiers had more modern weapons.**
- **(d) The invading army was led by slaves.**

A. (a), (b)
B. (b), (d)
C. (c), (d)
D. (a), (c)

Ans: C

MPSC CS Prelims-2013

Statement (c) suggests Central Asian soldiers had more modern weapons. While not "modern" by today's standards, they often possessed superior military tactics and technology for their time, particularly in the effective use of cavalry (mounted archers) and mobility, which contrasted with the traditional reliance on infantry and elephants by Indian forces. Statement (d) points out that invading armies were led by slaves. The Ghurid and early Delhi Sultanate rulers often rose from slave or mamluk backgrounds based on merit and military prowess. This system of leadership promotion based on capability could foster a more disciplined and effective military force compared to systems based purely on heredity.

11. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the othe as Reason (R). Assertion (A): Turkish invasions or India were successful. Reason (R): There was no political unity in North India. Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)

B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)

C. (A) is true, but (R) is false

D. (A) is false, but (R) is true

Ans: A

UPPCS Prelims-2018

- Assertion (A) states that Turkish invasions of India were successful, which is historically accurate, as evidenced by the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate after the invasions led by figures like Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori. - Reason (R) states that there was no political unity in North India. This is also true, as North India was divided into numerous independent kingdoms (Rajput states, etc.) that often fought among themselves rather than presenting a united front against invaders.

12. Who are the four Rajput clans described in Prithviraja-Raso of Chanda Bardai, who are said to have emerged from fire-pit of Mount Abu ?

A. Pratiharas, Chahamanas, Gahadavalas, Kalachuris

B. Paramaras, Chandelas, Chahamanas, Chalukyas

C. Chahamanas, Kalachuris, Chandelas, Pratiharas

D. Pratiharas, Chahamanas, Chalukyas, Parmaras

Ans: D

UPPCS Prelims-2009

The Agnikula legend is a well-known account of the origin of certain Rajput clans, first appearing in the Prithviraj Raso. It describes how the sage Vashistha performed a yajna (fire sacrifice) on Mount Abu to fight against demons, and from the fire emerged four heroes who became the progenitors of these dynasties.

Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: Qutb al-Din Aibak and Initial Consolidation

13. Who was the first Muslim Conqueror of Bihar?

A. Malik Ibrahim

B. Iltutmish

C. Bakhtiyar Khalji

D. Ali Mardan Khalji

Ans: C

BPSC Prelims Exam-60-62rd

Bakhtiyar Khalji's campaigns in the late 12th and early 13th centuries marked the beginning of Muslim rule in parts of Bihar and Bengal.

14. Nalanda Vihar was destroyed by:

A. Bakhtiyar Khalji

B. Qutubddin Aibak

C. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq

D. Alauddin Khalji

Ans: A

BPSC Prelims Exam-60-62rd

The destruction of Nalanda was a significant event marking the decline of Buddhism in the region and the end of a major center of learning.

15. The earliest description of Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion of Bihar is in

A. Tarikh-i Hind

B. Tabaqat-i Nasiri

C. Taj-ul Maasir

D. Tarikh-i Mubarak Shahi

Ans: B

BPSC Prelims Exam-64th

- Tabaqat-i Nasiri is a chronological history written around 1260 AD. - Minhaj-i Siraj was a contemporary historian who served under some of the early Delhi Sultans. - The work covers the Islamic world

generally but gives significant attention to the Ghurid dynasty and the early Delhi Sultanate.

16. Who was the real founder of Turk rule in Bihar?

A. Ibn Bakhtiyar Khilji
B. Ibrahim
C. Dariya Khan Noohani
D. Malik Husamuddin

Ans: A

BPSC Prelims Exam-67th Re-Exam

Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji was a military general of Qutb-ud-din Aibak who led the conquest of Bihar and parts of Bengal in the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

17. Which Muslim general conquered Bengal in the thirteenth century?

A. Timur
B. Iqtiaruddin Bin Baktiar Khilji
C. Chenges Khan
D. Abdur Rahim Khan i Khanan

Ans: B

WBPSC CS Prelims-2021

- Bakhtiyar Khilji, a subordinate of Qutb al-Din Aibak, led expeditions into eastern India. - He is credited with conquering Nadia (Nabadwip), the capital of the Sena ruler Lakshmana Sena, around 1203 AD, and subsequently establishing Muslim rule in parts of Bengal.

18. In which year Timur captured Delhi?

A. 1397 AD
B. 1398 AD
C. 1399 AD
D. 1400 AD

Ans: B

acf -2019

Timur captured Delhi in 1398 AD.

First Battle of Tarain (1191 AD) and its Aftermath

19. The First Battle of Tarain is related to

A. The Hindu princes of north India fighting against Muhammad Ghori
B. Revolt in Gujarat kingdom against Mahmud of Ghazni
C. Land battles in Sind between Muslim princes
D. The battle between the Marathas and Rajputs

Ans: A

GPSC Prelims CSP-1-2024

In the First Battle of Tarain, Muhammad Ghori was defeated and severely injured, and his forces were routed by the Rajput army led by Prithviraj Chauhan. This victory was a significant, though temporary, check on the Ghurid expansion into North India.

20. When was the first battle of Tarain fought?

A. 1175 A.D.
B. 1191 A.D.
C. 1192 A.D.
D. 1206 A.D.

Ans: B

WBPSC CS Prelims-2020

The First Battle of Tarain was a significant conflict between the Ghurid forces led by Muhammad Ghori and the Chauhan Rajput army led by Prithviraj Chauhan III.

21. The First Battle of Tarain took place in

A. 1191 AD
B. 1176 AD
C. 1105 AD
D. 1155 AD

Ans: A

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2022

- The First Battle of Tarain was fought between the Ghurid ruler Muhammad Ghori and the Chauhan ruler Prithviraj Chauhan III. - The battle took place

near Tarain (modern Taraori) in present-day Haryana, India. - In this battle, Prithviraj Chauhan decisively defeated Muhammad Ghori, who was injured and forced to retreat.

22. Who won the first battle of Tarain?

A. Prithviraj Chauhan
B. Muhammad Ghori
C. Muhammad-bin-Qasim
D. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

Ans: A

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2023

The first battle of Tarain (1191) was won by Prithviraj Chauhan against Muhammad Ghori.

23. Arrange the following Chauhan rulers in chronological order and choose the correct code : (i) Chamundaraj (ii) Durlabhraj – III (iii) Vigraharaj – III (iv) Prithviraj – I Codes :

A. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
B. (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)
C. (iv), (i), (ii), (iii)
D. (ii), (iii), (iv), (i)

Ans: A

Senior Physical Education Teacher Exam -2022

Understanding the lineage and reign periods of rulers is crucial for reconstructing the history of dynasties. This question tests the chronological knowledge of Chauhan rulers.

Impact of Ghaznavid Raids on North-Western India

24. Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind was written in which language?

A. Arabic
B. Persian
C. Urdu
D. Turkish

Ans: A

UPSC CDS-2-2020 GPSC Prelims CSP-1-2021

Al-Biruni was a Central Asian scholar who travelled to India with Mahmud of Ghazni in the early 11th century. His monumental work, Kitab-ul-Hind (literally "Book on India"), is a comprehensive study of Indian society, culture, religion, philosophy, science, and geography. Al-Biruni wrote this work, like most of his scholarly output, in Arabic.

25. Who wrote the book called Tahqiq-i-Hind, which gives a detailed description of North India ?

A. Mahmud Ghazni
B. Al-Biruni
C. Ibn Battuta
D. Abdul Razzak

Ans: B

MPSC CS Prelims-2022

Tahqiq-i-Hind (also known as Kitab fi Tahqiq ma li'l-Hind min maqulah maqbulah fi'l-aql aw mardhulah, or simply 'Indica') is a famous book written by the Persian scholar Al-Biruni. He traveled to India with Mahmud of Ghazni in the 11th century and provided a detailed account of the society, religion, philosophy, science, geography, and customs of the Indian subcontinent, particularly North India.

26. Consider the following statements and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- **1. The Sun temple of Multan is mentioned by Hiuen Tsang, Abuzaiyid, Al Masudi and Alberuni.**
- **2. The pilgrimage to Sambapur was associated with Sun worship.**

Codes:

A. Only 1 is correct
B. Only 2 is correct
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

Ans: C

UPPCS Prelims-2020

Statement 1 is correct. The famous Sun Temple of Multan was indeed visited and described by several foreign travelers and chroniclers, including Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) in the 7th century, and later Arab geographers and historians like Abu Zayd al-Sirafi (likely Abuzaiyid), Al Masudi, and Alberuni in the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries respectively. Statement 2 is also correct. Sambapur is a historical name for Multan, derived from the legend of Sambha (son of Krishna) establishing the Sun Temple there after being cured by sun worship. Pilgrimage to this temple (Sambapur) was a major centre for Sun worship in the region.

27. Who wrote Kitab-ul-Hind?

A. Al-Masudi
B. Al-Biruni
C. Sulaiman
D. Firdausi

Ans: B

WBPSC CS Prelims-2018

'Kitab-ul-Hind', also known as 'Tarikh al-Hind' (History of India), is a comprehensive book on the history, geography, sciences, and customs of the Indian subcontinent written by Al-Biruni.

28. Who composed the book 'Tahqiq-i-Hind'?

A. Al Beruni
B. Al Masudi
C. Khafi Khan
D. Hasan Nizami

Ans: A

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2023

'Tahqiq-i-Hind', also known as 'Kitab al-Hind' (Book of India), is a famous work on Indian philosophy, religion, customs, and society written by the Central Asian scholar Al Beruni (Abu Rayhan al-Biruni) in the 11th century.

29. The famous literary work 'Kitabul - Hind' was written by: (a) Alberuni (b) Badayuni (c) Zia-ud-din Barni (d) Kaphi-khan

A. Alberuni
B. Badayuni
C. Zia-ud-din Barni
D. Kaphi-khan

Ans: A

Civil Judge -2018

'Kitab al-Hind', also known as 'The India', is a 11th-century work of prose in Arabic by the Persian scholar Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. It is an encyclopedic description of the history, geography, and culture of India.

30. The famous literary work 'Kitabul-Hind' was written by:

A. Alberuni
B. Badayuni
C. Zia -ud-din Barni
D. Kaphi - khan

Ans: A

Civil Judge -2018

'Kitab al-Hind' was authored by Alberuni, a Persian scholar who traveled to India in the 11th century. The book is a detailed account of Indian society, culture, religion, and sciences.

Indian Resistance to Ghaznavid Invasions

31. Where did Gurjar Pratihara ruler Mathan Dev Rule ?

A. Mandore
B. Rajorgarh
C. Jalore
D. Merta

Ans: B

Senior Physical Education Teacher Exam -2022

Rajorgarh was an important center during the Gurjar-Pratihara period. The inscriptions found at Rajorgarh mention the rule of various Pratihara rulers.

Mahmud of Ghazni: Motives, Campaigns, and Destruction of Indian Temples

32. The historian to accompany Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni in several of his expeditions was

A. Ferishta
B. Alberuni
C. Minhazuddin Siraj
D. Badauni

Ans: B

APSC CCE Prelims Exam-2001

Al-Biruni is famous for his scholarly work 'Kitab-ul-Hind' (Book of India), which provides a comprehensive account of the history, society, customs, and sciences of India based on his observations during his time accompanying Mahmud's expeditions.

33. The Muslim scholar who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni during the visit to India was

A. Ibn Batuta
B. Alberuni
C. Amir Khusru
D. Firishta

Ans: B

JPSC CS Prelims-2011

- Alberuni is renowned for his extensive studies of India, its people, religion, philosophy, science, and geography, which he documented in his seminal work, 'Kitab al-Hind' (Book of India). - His account provides invaluable insights into the social and cultural conditions of India during that period.

34. Who is the author of the book "Tahqiq-i-Hind"?

A. Ziauddin Barani
B. Amir Khusro
C. Al-Biruni
D. Abdur Razzaq

Ans: C

MPPSC CS Prelims-2022

"Tahqiq-i-Hind" (also known as Kitab fi Tahqiq ma li'l-Hind min maqulah maqbula fi'l-ʿaql aw mardhulah, meaning 'Researches on India: From statements accessible to reason or to be rejected') is a famous book written by Al-Biruni. Al-Biruni (Abu Rayhan al-Biruni) was a Persian scholar who visited India in the early 11th century during the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni. His book provides an extensive and objective account of Indian society, culture, religion, philosophy, science, and customs at the time, making it a valuable historical source.

35. The Persian poet Firdausi who composed 'Shah Namah' was associated with the court of

A. Sultan Mahmud
B. Muhammad Ghori
C. Shah Tahmasp
D. None of the above

Ans: A

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

The Persian poet Hakim Abul-Qasem Ferdowsi Tusi, known as Firdausi, composed the epic poem 'Shahnameh' (Book of Kings). He was associated with the court of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, although their relationship was complex and marked by disagreements.

36. The Somnath Temple of Gujarat was destroyed by Sultan Mahmud in

A. 1015 AD
B. 1020 AD
C. 1025 AD
D. 1027 AD

Ans: C

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

This raid on Somnath was one of the most famous and destructive of Sultan Mahmud's seventeen invasions of India between 1000 and 1027 AD.

37. King Jaypala, who faced Sultan Mahmud's invasion belonged to the

A. Chalukya dynasty
B. Hindushahi dynasty

C. Pandya dynasty
D. None of the above

Ans: B

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni launched several invasions into the Indian subcontinent starting from the late 10th century. One of his most significant early campaigns involved a conflict with the Hindushahi ruler Jaypala in 1001 CE, in which Jaypala was defeated.

38. Who criticized Mahmud's behaviour towards Hindus? - (5) Question not attempted

A. Utani
B. Farabi
C. Firdausi
D. Albaruni

Ans: D

Archaeology and Museums Dept. Exam 2023 (Curator)-2023

This question tests knowledge about the socio-cultural impact of Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions and the accounts of contemporary foreign scholars.

39. Alberuni was the contemporary of

A. Mahmud Ghajnavi
B. Mohammed Ghori
C. Allauddin Khalji
D. Mohammad Bin Tughlaq

Ans: A

Protection Officer -2018

Alberuni's work provides invaluable insights into Indian society, religion, philosophy, geography, and mathematics during the period of Mahmud of Ghaznavi's raids.

40. Mahmud invaded India who was the Sultan of

A. Ghazni
B. Turkey
C. Egypt
D. None of the above

Ans: A

District Library and Information Officer(DLIO) -2018

Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions are significant events in medieval Indian history, marking the beginning of Muslim rule in parts of India and leading to immense wealth being plundered.

Muhammad bin Qasim's Campaigns and Conquest of Sindh (712 AD)

41. Dahir, the king of Sind, was defeated by

A. Sultan Mahmud
B. Muhammad bin Kasim
C. Qutb-ud-din Aibak
D. Muhammad Ghori

Ans: B

APSC CCE Prelims Exam-2006

The invasion of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 CE is a significant event in early medieval Indian history, representing the first major contact between the Arab Islamic world and the Indian subcontinent.

42. Who was the Hindu king at the time of Muhammad bin Qasim's invasion of Sind?

A. Dahir
B. Hala
C. Harsha
D. Ananda Pala

Ans: A

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

Dahir was the Brahman ruler of Sind when Muhammad bin Qasim, an Arab general of the Umayyad Caliphate, invaded Sind in 712 AD.

43. Which of the following works refer to the History of Sind and it's conquest by the Muslim?

A. Taj-ul-Maathir
B. Chach Namah
C. Lubab-ul-Abab
D. Kitab-i-Tahqiq

Ans: B

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

- Chach Namah is the primary historical source for the Arab conquest of Sindh. - It narrates the history of the Chacha dynasty and the subsequent invasion by the Arabs.

44. During the Arab invasion in 712AD the ruler of Sind was defeated by whom?

A. Sultan Mahmud of Gazni
B. Muhammad Ghori
C. Muhammad-bin-Qasim
D. Tajuddin Yildiz

Ans: C

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2023

Muhammad-bin-Qasim is credited with the first successful Arab invasion of the Indian subcontinent, specifically the region of Sind.

Muhammad Ghori's Further Campaigns and Consolidation of Turkish Power

45. Whom had Muhammad Ghori defeated in 1194 in the Battle of Chandawar?

A. Kumarpal
B. Jaichand
C. Govindraj
D. Bhim II

Ans: B

MPPSC CS Prelims-2017

The Battle of Chandawar was fought between Muhammad Ghori and the Gahadavala king Jaichand of Kannauj in 1194 CE. This battle solidified Ghori's control over parts of northern India after his victory over Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192).

46. Who faced defeat in the Battle of Chandawar in 1194 AD?

A. Bhima II
B. Jaichand
C. Lakshman Sena
D. Muhammad Ghori

Ans: B

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

The Battle of Chandawar was fought in 1194 AD near Chandawar (modern Firozabad district, Uttar Pradesh) between the forces of Muhammad Ghori and Jaichand of Kannauj, the ruler of the Gahadavala dynasty. Muhammad Ghori emerged victorious, leading to the decline of the Gahadavala kingdom.

47. When Bhakthiyar Khalji attacked Tirhut in 1202-03 during his invasion of Bengal, what was the outcome for its ruler Raja Narshimhadeva?

A. He was killed in battle
B. He was imprisoned and exiled
C. He agreed to pay tribute and his territory was restored to him
D. His kingdom was permanently annexed by Khalji

Ans: C

District Statistical Officer Assistant Director -2025

Raja Narshimhadeva of Tirhut submitted to Bhakti-yar Khalji by paying tribute, leading to the restoration of his kingdom.

48. When Bhaktivar Khilji attacked Tirhut in 1202-03 during his invasion of Bengal, what was the outcome for its ruler Raja Narshimhadeva?

A. He was killed in battle
B. He was imprisoned and exiled
C. He agreed to pay tribute and his territory was restored to him
D. His kingdom was permanently annexed by Khilji