

HISTORY (315)
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. Answer any one the following question in about 40-60 words.

A) Mention the limitations of Inscriptions as an evidence for constructing History.

Answer:- There are some limitations of inscripational evidence. For example sometimes, letters are very faintly engraved, and thus reconstructions are uncertain. Also, inscriptions may be damaged or letters missing. Besides, it is not always easy to be sure about the exact meaning of the words used in inscriptions, some of which may be specific to a particular place or time.

B) “Coins provides useful information regarding economic history”. Analyze the statement.

Answer:- Coins provide useful information regarding economic history as they were used as a medium of exchange. Some coins were issued by guilds or associations of the merchants and craftsmen with the permission of the rulers. This shows the influence of craft and commerce. Coins also portray kings and gods, and contain religious symbols, all to which throw light on the art and religion of the time.

2. Answer any one the following question in about 40-60 words.

A) “Ashoka advocated a universal religion”. Examine the statement.

Answer:- While Ashoka was a devout Buddhist, his Dhamma was not exclusively Buddhist. It incorporated moral teachings that could be accepted by people of different faiths. This inclusivity aimed to create a harmonious society transcending religious boundaries. Ashoka sent missionaries to various regions, including present-day Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, and even parts of Southeast Asia. These missions aimed to spread Buddhist teachings, fostering a sense of universal religion.

B) Highlight the reasons for thousands of farmers committing suicide in the third world.

Answer:- The capitulation by many governments of the Third World—particularly in Asia and Africa - has resulted in agrarian crises and a very desperate situation for the peasantry in these areas. Landlessness is increasing, and enclaves of corporate agriculture have meant a shift to export crops. The demand for export crops from advanced capitalist countries of the west has resulted in decline of food crop production and consequent decline in food consumption by the majority of the peasantry. This has led to thousands of suicides by farmers, and also movements of the peasantry for support prices, lower costs of inputs, and water and electricity for irrigation.

3. Answer any one the following question in about 40-60 words.

A) Assess the policies of sultan Zianul Abidin in Kashmir.

Answer:- He abolished jaziya and prohibited cow slaughter and gave the Hindus important state posts. A large number of temples were repaired and new ones constructed. Abul Fazl, the court historian of the Mughal Emperor Akbar noted that Kashmir had one hundred and fifty big temples. Sultan Zainul Abidin married the daughters of the Hindu raja of Jammu. Some scholars call Zainul Abidin as the Akbar of Kashmir. Under him, Kashmir became prosperous and he was called the Bud Shah or the great king of Kashmiris. The Sultan contributed to the agricultural development of Kashmir by constructing dams and canals. Agricultural records were maintained. During the period of famine and other natural calamities, relief in terms of loans and grains and fodder was provided to the peasants. Sultan also introduced reforms in the currency. He introduced market control and fixed prices of the commodities. Traders and merchants were asked to sell the commodities at fixed prices. Sultan also subsidized the import of the commodities which were scarce in the state. To make up for the shortage of salt, he imported salt from Ladakh and helped the traders in every possible way. Sultan also paid attention to the development of handicrafts.

B) Differentiate between Mahalwari and Ryotwari System.

Answer:-

1. **Ownership:**
In the Mahalwari system, the land was owned by the village community, while in the Ryotwari system, individual peasants had ownership rights.
2. **Revenue Collection:**
Under Mahalwari, revenue was collected from the entire village and then distributed among the landowners. In the Ryotwari system, revenue was collected directly from individual peasant households.
3. **Responsibility:**
In Mahalwari, the entire village was responsible for tax payments, while in Ryotwari, individual peasants were accountable for paying taxes to the government.
4. **British Intervention:**
Both systems were introduced by the British for revenue collection in India. Mahalwari was more prevalent in northern India, while Ryotwari was adopted in the south.

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4. Answer any one the following question in about 100-150 words.

A) Examine the role of landed intermediaries in revenue collection during the Medieval Period.

Answer:- During the Sultanate period, landed intermediaries continued to play an important role in revenue collection. Khuts (small landlords), Muqaddams (village headmen) and a group of intermediaries, such as, rai, rana, rawats etc., enjoyed superior rights over land as compared to an average peasant. Alauddin Khalji tried to curtail the powers and shares of these groups. Later Delhi Sultans like Ghiyassuddin and Firuz Shah Tughlaq gave certain concessions to them. During the Mughal period rais, ranas, rawats and other such intermediaries are referred as zamindar. They were the people who had hereditary rights over the produce of the land.

B) Is the gap between the rich and the poor increasing/decreasing today? Discuss it with your family and friends and write a note on it.

Answer:-

The wealth gap between the rich and the poor is a topic of significant concern today. Several points to consider include:

1. **Increasing Disparities:**

Many believe that the wealth gap is growing due to factors like income inequality, tax policies, and access to opportunities.

Technological Advancements: The digital age has created new avenues for wealth, but not everyone benefits equally, contributing to the divide.

2. **Government Policies:**

Social safety nets and progressive taxation can help mitigate the gap, but their effectiveness varies by region.

3. **Globalization:**

While it has lifted many out of poverty, it has also allowed multinational corporations to exploit cheaper labor, impacting income inequality.

The wealth gap remains a complex and evolving concern, with various factors at play.

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5. Answer any one the following question in about 100-150 words.

A) How did colonialism influence the economic patterns and alter social relations in the 20th-century world? Elaborate in detail.

Answer:-They came down heavily on aspirations for freedom. They replaced the earlier languages of administration with their own. They also initiated some educational policies with the aim of assimilating some sections of colonial society with the foreign rule they practiced policies of divide and rule, restricted development of modern economic activity and used education for purpose of creating a social gulf between those educated in the colonial languages and those in the local languages. The impact of colonialism and capitalist penetration altered social relations in the colonies. They altered the pattern of agriculture to shift its priorities towards the cash crops they might trade in. This pattern of production for export was greatly expanded during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

B) Analyse the causes of the fall of the Mughal Empire.

Answer:-

1. Weak successors:

The foremost reason for the fall of the Mughals was the inefficiency of the later rulers. For instance, when Bahadur Shah came to power, he was 63 years old, which already made him a less than ideal choice. He didn't have the vigour or the zeal to control an empire or even expand it. There were other rulers after him that followed the same path, like Jahandar Shah, Muhammad Shah, etc. For these successors, luxury and wealth were the only priority, and they revelled in it. They were incapable of suppressing revolts or mutinies, and were involved in conspiracies and power play.

2. Influence of the nobles:

Under the Mughal rule, there were four divisions of the nobility:

- a Turanis
- b Iranis
- c Afghans
- d Indigenous Muslims

Once these nobles understood that their loyalty meant nothing, and they weren't immune to degradation, they started fighting to occupy more jagirs and high offices. The growing influence of the nobles was evident as they formed alliances with zamindars, regional governors and chieftains. They collected all the income of the jagirs and limited the number of troops in the army; thus, weakening the military.

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3. Incompetence of the Mughal army

Another reason behind the fall of the Mughals was the unproductive military force. Due to the relaxation of the rulers, the mansabdars began to possess wealth for themselves instead of using it for the maintenance and improvement of the army. Moreover, there was no direct contact between the emperor and the troops, which led to a lack of discipline in them. They weren't punished for their crimes, and no action was taken for overlooking their duties. The army that once contributed to consolidating territories had become a mob by now.

4. Economic decline

The long wars and other luxurious expenses had a toll on the kingdom's treasury. Shah Jahan's ambitious idea of building the Taj Mahal had depleted the resources, and Aurangzeb's war in the south didn't help matters. The production of crops fell as the revenue demand rose. Battles were fought to choose the successors as well. All these incidents led to the Mughal empire becoming bankrupt. The economic collapse was more evident during the rule of Alamgir II. Their bankruptcy went on for 50 years.

Conclusion ----

The fall of the Mughals was a result of numerous events that took place during an extended period of time and the wrong decisions of the emperors. However, the major issues that were especially responsible for this fall were the wrong choice of successors, in-fighting among nobles, deterioration of the army, economic decline, attempts to seize the empire through foreign invasion, and the lack of administrative skills that resulted in the rise of independent provinces. If you focus closely on these issues, the fall of the Mughals could be understood.

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6. Prepare any one project out of the given below:

A) India witnessed many battles for supremacy among the many states that came up after the decline of the Guptas between 750 A.D. and 1200 A.D. Still that period contributed immensely in promoting culture. Make a list of the contributions keeping the following points in mind.

SER. NO.	NAME OF THE KING/RULER	DYNASTY	CONTRIBUTION IN WHICH FIELD	NAME OF THAT TEMPLE/ART PIECE/LITERATURE ETC.

Answer:-

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1.	Krishna I, Rashtrakuta	Rashtrakuta	Cave Architecture	Ellora Caves
2.	Raja Raja Chola I	Chola	Temple Architecture	Brihadeeswarar Temple (Thanjavur)
3.	Various Rulers	Vakataka	Fresco Paintings	Ajanta Caves
4.	Al-Biruni	Ghaznavid	Literature	Al-Biruni's "Kitab al-Hind"
5.	Harsha	Harsha	Literature	Harsha's "Ratnavali"