

NARUMALAR ACADEMY – ONLINE COACHING CENTRE

DHARMAPURI – 8122190917, 9988404061

COLLEGE TRB – HISTORY

UNIT – 7 Medieval Indian History

SUBTOPIC : Sources of Medieval Indian History: Archaeological: Epigraphic, Numismatic Sources-Material Evidences and Monuments-Chronicles, Literary Sources-Arabic. Persian and Sanskrit Literature-Regional languages-Archival Materials-Foreign Traveller's Accounts: Persian and Arab.

I. Read the Passage and Answer the Questions (Q1-Q5)

Passage: The historiography of the Mughal Empire has been profoundly shaped by the accounts of foreign travellers. Francois Bernier, a French physician in the 17th century, provided a vivid, albeit often critical, portrayal of Aurangzeb's India. His observations on the lack of private property and the perceived arbitrary power of the emperor were later used by colonial historians to prop up the 'Oriental Despotism' thesis. However, modern historians caution against a monolithic reading of Bernier. They argue that his views were filtered through his European experiences and his association with disaffected Mughal nobles, and must be balanced with indigenous sources like the Ain-i-Akbari and vernacular records.

1. What is the central caution raised by modern historians regarding Bernier's account?

- A) That it was entirely fabricated.
- B) That it is biased and must be read with other sources.
- C) That it focuses only on economic matters.
- D) That it is only useful for studying European history.

Answer: B) That it is biased and must be read with other sources.

Explanation: The passage states that modern historians argue Bernier's views were "filtered" and must be "balanced with indigenous sources," highlighting the need for a critical, cross-referenced approach.

2. According to the passage, which school of historical thought used Bernier's accounts to support its thesis?

- A) The Cambridge School
- B) The Nationalist School
- C) The Subaltern School
- D) The Colonial School (Oriental Despotism)

Answer: D) The Colonial School (Oriental Despotism)

Explanation: The passage explicitly mentions that colonial historians used Bernier's observations to support the "'Oriental Despotism' thesis."

3. Which of the following would be the BEST example of an "indigenous source" to balance Bernier's perspective, as suggested in the passage?

- A) The travelogue of Ibn Battuta
- B) The Ain-i-Akbari of Abul Fazl
- C) The writings of Niccolao Manucci
- D) The accounts of Marco Polo

Answer: B) The Ain-i-Akbari of Abul Fazl

Explanation: The passage specifically names the Ain-i-Akbari as an example of an indigenous source that can provide a counterpoint to Bernier's external and critical viewpoint.

4. The passage suggests that Bernier's association with disaffected Mughal nobles likely led him to:

- A) write a more positive account of the empire.
- B) learn Sanskrit to understand local texts.
- C) develop a negative view of the Mughal state.
- D) focus exclusively on architectural history.

Answer: C) develop a negative view of the Mughal state.

Explanation: The text implies that his association with nobles who were unhappy with the emperor shaped his "critical portrayal" and perception of "arbitrary power."

5. Based on the passage, which statement is correct?

- A) Bernier's account is the only reliable source for Aurangzeb's reign.
- B) Historiographical interpretation of Bernier's work has remained static.
- C) Bernier's personal context is irrelevant to understanding his writings.

D) The value of Bernier's account is subject to ongoing historical debate.

Answer: D) The value of Bernier's account is subject to ongoing historical debate.

Explanation: The passage outlines the colonial use and the modern critique of Bernier, demonstrating that the interpretation of his work is a subject of active historiographical debate.

6. Which one of the following statements is correct about the Kitab-ul-Hind?

A) It was written by Al-Biruni in Arabic as a sociological study of Indian civilization.

B) It is a political chronicle of the Ghaznavid conquests in India.

C) It was originally composed in Persian for Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni.

D) It focuses primarily on the maritime trade of the Indian Ocean.

Answer: A) It was written by Al-Biruni in Arabic as a sociological study of Indian civilization.

Explanation: Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind is an encyclopaedic work in Arabic that systematically analyses Indian philosophy, sciences, and social customs.

7. Match the following foreign travellers with their respective countries of origin:

(a) Abdur Razzaq (i) France

(b) Ibn Battuta (ii) Portugal

(c) Francois Bernier (iii) Morocco

(d) Domingo Paes (iv) Persia (Timurid)

A) (a)-(iv), (b)-(iii), (c)-(i), (d)-(ii)

B) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(iv), (d)-(ii)

C) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(iii), (d)-(i)

D) (a)-(i), (b)-(ii), (c)-(iv), (d)-(iii)

Answer: A) (a)-(iv), (b)-(iii), (c)-(i), (d)-(ii)

Explanation: Abdur Razzaq was a Persian ambassador from Herat (Timurid). Ibn Battuta was from Morocco. Francois Bernier was a French physician. Domingo Paes was a Portuguese traveller.

8. Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri?

A) It is the official court chronicle written by Mutamad Khan.

B) It is a personal and often candid memoir of Emperor Jahangir.

C) It is a translation of Sanskrit texts commissioned by the emperor.

D) It focuses exclusively on the administrative reforms of Jahangir.

Answer: B) It is a personal and often candid memoir of Emperor Jahangir.

Explanation: The Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri is valued precisely because it is Jahangir's first-person narrative, offering insights into his personal thoughts, observations, and habits.

9. Match the following sources with the dynasties they are most associated with:

(a) Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi (i) Vijayanagara

(b) Amuktamalyada (ii) Tughlaq

(c) Futuhat-i-Firoz Shahi (iii) Mughal

(d) Ain-i-Akbari (iv) Aravidu (Vijayanagara)

A) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(iii)

B) (a)-(i), (b)-(ii), (c)-(iv), (d)-(iii)

C) (a)-(ii), (b)-(i), (c)-(iii), (d)-(iv)

D) (a)-(iii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(ii), (d)-(i)

Answer: A) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(iii)

Explanation: Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi (Barani) is for the Tughlaqs. Amuktamalyada is attributed to Krishnadevaraya of the Aravidu (Vijayanagara) line. Futuhat-i-Firoz Shahi is Firoz Shah Tughlaq's autobiography. Ain-i-Akbari is for the Mughals.

10. Which one of the following statements is correct about the Padshahnama?

A) It is a history of the early Delhi Sultans.

B) It is an illustrated manuscript chronicling Shah Jahan's reign.

C) It is a religious text explaining Islamic law.

D) It is the autobiography of Emperor Aurangzeb.

Answer: B) It is an illustrated manuscript chronicling Shah Jahan's reign.

Explanation: The Padshahnama is a lavish, officially commissioned history of Shah Jahan's reign, renowned for its detailed miniature paintings.

11. Which one of the following statements is correct about the Malfuzat literature?

- A) It consists of the discourses and conversations of Sufi saints.
- B) It is a collection of royal farmans from the Tughlaq period.
- C) It refers to the revenue records of the Mughal Empire.
- D) It is a genre of heroic poetry in Rajput courts.

Answer: A) It consists of the discourses and conversations of Sufi saints.

Explanation: Malfuzat are a specific genre of Sufi literature where a saint's disciples compiled his spoken teachings and conversations.

12. What is the primary significance of the Uttaramerur Inscription from the Chola period?

- A) It details a military conquest of Rajendra Chola.
- B) It provides the genealogy of the Pandya kings.
- C) It lays down the regulations for the election of local village assembly members.
- D) It records a land grant to a Buddhist monastery.

Answer: C) It lays down the regulations for the election of local village assembly members.

Explanation: The Uttaramerur Inscription is a vital epigraphic source that details the constitution of local self-government, including qualifications and selection procedures for assembly members.

13. Which one of the following statements is correct about the Tarikh-i-Firishta?

- A) It was written during the reign of Emperor Jahangir.
- B) It is a regional history of Bengal.

C) It is a general history of India from the Ghaznavids to the Deccan Sultanates.

D) It focuses solely on the history of the Delhi Sultanate.

Answer: C) It is a general history of India from the Ghaznavids to the Deccan Sultanates.

Explanation: Muhammad Qasim Firishta's work, written in the Deccan, is a comprehensive history of India, covering a wide chronological and geographical scope.

14. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct about Al-Biruni's methodology in Kitab-ul-Hind?

A) He relied solely on second-hand accounts from Arab traders.

B) He learned Sanskrit to study Indian texts directly.

C) He adopted a comparative approach, comparing Indian ideas with Greek thought.

D) He expressed sympathy for the Indian people despite the political context.

Answer: A) He relied solely on second-hand accounts from Arab traders.

Explanation: Al-Biruni's methodology was groundbreaking because he learned Sanskrit and engaged with primary texts, moving beyond second-hand accounts.

15. Which one of the following statements is correct about the Chachnama?

A) It is a Persian text dealing with the Arab conquest of Sindh.

B) It is a biography of Sultan Iltutmish of Delhi.

- C) It is a Sanskrit epic from the Rajput period.
D) It is an account of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Answer: A) It is a Persian text dealing with the Arab conquest of Sindh.

Explanation: The Chachnama is a 13th-century Persian text that provides a historical account of the Arab conquest of Sindh led by Muhammad bin Qasim.

16. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct about the Bakhar literature?

- A) It is a genre of historical narratives written in Marathi.
B) It often blends historical facts with legendary elements.
C) It was sponsored directly by the Mughal imperial court.
D) It serves as a crucial source for Maratha history.

Answer: C) It was sponsored directly by the Mughal imperial court.

Explanation: Bakhar literature was a Marathi tradition, not one sponsored by the Mughal court. It often represented a regional, and sometimes antagonistic, perspective to Mughal rule.

17. Match the following literary works with their primary language of composition:

- (a) Rajatarangini (i) Persian
(b) Tuzuk-i-Baburi (ii) Sanskrit
(c) Lilatilakam (iii) Chagatai Turkic
(d) Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh (iv) Malayalam

- A) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iii), (c)-(iv), (d)-(i)

B) (a)-(i), (b)-(ii), (c)-(iii), (d)-(iv)

C) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(ii), (d)-(iv)

D) (a)-(iv), (b)-(ii), (c)-(i), (d)-(iii)

Answer: A) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iii), (c)-(iv), (d)-(i)

Explanation: Kalhana's Rajatarangini is in Sanskrit. Babur's Tuzuk-i-Baburi is in Chagatai Turkic. Lilatilakam is a treatise on Manipravalam (Sanskrit-Malayalam). Badauni's Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh is in Persian.

18. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct about the Madala Panji?

A) It is the chronicle of the Jagannath Temple at Puri.

B) It is written in the Sanskrit language.

C) It provides information on the history of Odisha.

D) It is a type of regional historical record.

Answer: B) It is written in the Sanskrit language.

Explanation: The Madala Panji is written in the Odia language, not Sanskrit, making it an important source for the evolution of regional historiography.

19. Match the following archaeological sources with their types:

(a) Qutub Minar Inscription (i) Numismatic

(b) Deval Raya coin of Iltutmish (ii) Monument

(c) Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque (iii) Epigraphic

(d) Sher Shah's Rupee (iv) Material Evidence/Architecture

- A) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(iv), (d)-(i)
- B) (a)-(i), (b)-(iii), (c)-(ii), (d)-(iv)
- C) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(iii)
- D) (a)-(iv), (b)-(ii), (c)-(iii), (d)-(i)

Answer: A) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(iv), (d)-(i)

Explanation: An inscription is epigraphic. A coin is numismatic. A mosque is a monument/material evidence. Sher Shah's Rupee is a coin (numismatic).

20. Who was the author of the Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh, which offers a critical view of Akbar's reign?

- A) Nizamuddin Ahmad
- B) Abdul Qadir Badauni
- C) Jahangir
- D) Gulbadan Begum

Answer: B) Abdul Qadir Badauni

Explanation: Abdul Qadir Badauni was a courtier of Akbar who secretly wrote Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh, expressing orthodox disapproval of Akbar's religious policies.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS:

1. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R) :

Assertion (A): With the establishment of Turkish rule, the art of history writing was firmly established in India.

Reason (R): The Sultanate period witnessed development of paper industry in India.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct ? Select the correct answer from the codes given below :

Codes :

- (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.

2. Who proclaimed that the mason and stone cutters of Delhi were superior to their fellow craftsmen in the whole Muslim World ?

- (A) Amir Khusro
- (B) Minhaj-us-Siraj
- (C) Ibn Batuta
- (D) Isami

3. Who among the following used to look after the army during the Sultanate period ?

- (A) Naib
- (B) Wazir
- (C) Qazi
- (D) Ariz-i Mamaliq