

IV. Long Answer Type Questions:

Q1. How has the meaning of the term, 'Hindustan' changed over the centuries?

Ans. 1:-The meaning of the term, 'Hindustan' changed over the centuries in the following ways:

- In 13th century AD ,Minhaj-i-Siraj, a Persian writer and historian meant by 'Hindustan' the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna.
- Amir Khusrau, a 14th century AD poet used the term, 'Hind' in the similar way. It did not have any political meaning.
- In the early 16th century, Babur used Hindustan to describe the geography, the fauna and the culture of the inhabitants of the sub-continent.
- Today we understand 'Hindustan' as the modern nation state. The term does not carry political and national meaning.

Q2. In what ways were the affairs of Jatis regulated?

Ans. 2:- A Jati means sub-caste. Jatis were ranked on the basis of their occupations.

The affairs of Jatis were regulated in the following ways:

- (i) Each Jati framed its own rules and regulations to manage the conduct of its members.
- (ii) An assembly of elders i.e., the Jati Panchayat enforced these regulations.
- (iii) Jatis had to follow the rules of their villages also.
- (iv) Several villages were governed by chieftan.

Q3. Mention the various difficulties that historians faced in using manuscripts.

Ans. 3:- The various difficulties that historians faced in using manuscripts

were:

- (i) In the absence of printing press in that period, scribes copied manuscripts by hand. Naturally they made small changes in words or sentences. So historians often have to guess what the author has originally written.
- (ii) Authors revised their chronicles time to time. For example:- Zia-ud-Din Barni wrote his chronicles for the first time in 1356 AD. He wrote another version of it two years later. But, both the versions differ from each other.
- (iii) When historians read documents, maps and texts from the past, they have to keep in mind the different historical backgrounds in which that information was produced.
- (iv) They also have to be careful about the terms they use because they might mean different things in the past.

Q4. What were some of the major religious developments during the medieval period?

Ans. 4:- Some of the major religious developments during the medieval period are as follows:

- (i) Hinduism:-
 - New deities came to be worshiped.
 - Some tribal and forest groups were absorbed into the Hindu society.
 - Construction of temples became an important activity among the Hindu rulers.
 - The importance of Brahmanas of the Priests grew.
 - The emergence of the idea of Bhakti was one of the major developments of this period.
- (ii) Islam:-
 - Islam believes in one God, Allah and the teachings of his last Prophet, Muhammad.

- Many rulers were patrons of Islam.
- After Prophet Muhammad's death, a Caliph or Khalifa succeeded him as the religious and the political head of the Muslim community.
- Later the Muslim community split into two major sects- Shia and Sunni.

Q5. How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problem in doing so?

Ans. 5:- Historians divided the past into periods in following ways:

- (i) Many British historians like James Mill divided the history of India into three periods- Hindu, Muslim and British. This was based on the religion of rulers. It ignored the significant historical developments in the society economy or culture and also ignored the rich diversity of the sub-continent.
- (ii) In order to get a clear picture of the important changes in history, historians generally divide the past into three period. These are- The Ancient or Early period, the Medieval or Middle period and the Modern period.

Yes, historians faced many problems. They are:

- (i) Medieval period is often contrasted with the Modern period.
- (ii) Modernity reflects material progress and intellectual advancement.
- (iii) This suggests that the Medieval period does not progress. But actually it was not true.

V. Fill in the Blanks:

1. Documents and manuscripts
2. Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee

3. Hind
4. Islamic or Muslim empire
5. Sher Shah Suri