

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.