

## Short Answer Questions

### Q.1. How did Delhi become a capital?

**Ans. (i)** Delhi first became the capital of a kingdom under the Tomar Rajputs, who were defeated in the middle of the twelfth century by the Chauhans (also referred to as Chahamanas) of Ajmer.

**(ii)** It was under the Tomars and Chauhans that Delhi became an important commercial centre.

### Q.2. What were the limitations of authors of tawarikh?

**Ans. (i)** They lived in cities like Delhi and hardly ever in villages.

**(ii)** They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.

**(iii)** These authors advised rulers on the need to preserve an 'ideal' order based on birthright and gender distinctions. Their ideas were not shared by everybody.

### Q.3. What did Minhaj-i-Siraj think about Raziyya?

**Ans. (i)** Minhaj-i-Siraj, a chronicler around 1236 recognised that Raziyya, Iltutmish's daughter was more able and qualified than her brothers.

**(ii)** However, she could not become the ruler since it was not ordained by God, as women were supposed to be subordinate to men.

**(iii)** Her attempts to rule independently failed and she was removed in 1240.

### Q.4. What was the position of Delhi Sultans in the 13th century?

**Ans. (i)** In the early 13th century, the control of the Delhi Sultans rarely went beyond heavily fortified towns occupied by garrisons.

**(ii)** The Sultans seldom controlled the hinterland of the cities and were therefore, dependent upon trade, tribute or plunder for supplies.

### Q.5. Why was controlling garrison towns difficult?

**Ans. (i)** Controlling garrison towns in distant Bengal and Sind from Delhi was extremely difficult.

**(ii)** Rebellion, war, even bad weather could snap fragile communication routes, Mongol invasion further weakened the Sultanate.

### Q.6. What is a mosque? Who has the chief authority in it?

**Ans. (i)** A mosque is called a masjid in Arabic, is a place where a Muslim prostrates in reverence to Allah.

(ii) In a congregational mosque (masjid-i-jami or jama masjid), Muslims read their prayers (namaz) together.

(iii) Members of the congregation choose the most respected learned male as their leader (imam) for the rituals of prayer.

(iv) He also delivers the sermon (khutba) during the Friday prayers.

**Q.7. Write a short note on Raziya Sultan.**

**Ans. (i)** Iltutmish nominated his daughter as his successor in 1236.

(ii) She was the only woman Sultan to rule over India.

(iii) Being a woman, she faced great opposition and rebellion from the nobles. She was brave, intelligent and a just ruler.

(iv) However, she was defeated by Altunia, the governor of Sirhind.

(v) She later married Altunia to recover the throne.

(vi) However, the nobles plotted against her and she was put to death in 1240 as they found it humiliating to work at her command.

**Q.8. How did Sultans promote Islam?**

**Ans. (i)** The Delhi Sultans built several mosques in cities all over the subcontinent.

(ii) These demonstrated their claims to be protectors of Islam and Muslims.

(iii) Mosques also helped to create the sense of a community of believers who shared a belief system and a code of conduct.

(iv) It was necessary to reinforce the idea of a community as Muslims belonged to different backgrounds.

**Q.9. Why were bandagans important?**

**Ans. (i)** The early Delhi Sultans especially Iltutmish, favoured their special slaves purchased for military service, called 'bandagan' in Persian.

(ii) They were carefully trained to man some of the most important political offices in the kingdom.

(iii) Since they were totally dependent upon their master, the Sultans could trust and rely upon them.

**Q.10. Who were clients?**

**Ans. (i)** The Khiljis and Tughluqs continued to use bandagan and also raised people of humble birth, who were their clients, to high positions like governors and generals.

(ii) Client is someone who is under the protection of another, a dependent, a subordinate or a servant—another name for bandagan/slave.

(iii) They were appointed as generals and governors. However, this also introduced an element of political instability.

**Q.11. To whom were slaves and clients loyal? What problems emerged on their succession?**

**Ans. (i)** Slaves and clients were loyal to their masters and patrons, but not to their heirs.

(ii) New Sultans had their own servants. As a result, the accession of a new monarch often saw conflict between the old and the new nobility.

(iii) The patronage of these humble people by the Delhi Sultans shocked many elites and the authors of Persian tawarikh criticised the Delhi Sultans for appointing the low and born to high offices.

**Q.12. What were the three types of taxes imposed in Delhi Sultanate?**

**Ans. (i)** Taxes were on cultivation called kharaj and amounting to about 50% of the peasant's produce.

(ii) Taxes on cattle.

(iii) Taxes on houses.

**Q.13. How did, according to Ibn Battuta, chieftains protect themselves?**

**Ans. (i)** According to Ibn Battuta, the chieftains fortified themselves in mountains, in rocky, uneven and rugged places as well as in bamboo groves.

(ii) Further chieftains lived in forests which served them as ramparts and where no one could enter.

**Q.14. What happened to Delhi Sultanate after 1526?**

**Ans. (i)** By 1526, Delhi Sultanate was reduced to Delhi and Agra.

(ii) By then, Jaunpur, Bengal, Malwa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and the entire South India had independent rulers who had established flourishing states and prosperous capitals.

(iii) This period also saw the emergence of new ruling groups like the Afghans and the Rajputs.

**Q.15. Write a short note on Qutub-ud-din Aibak.**

**Ans. (i)** Qutub-ud-din Aibak had started his career as a humble slave of Muhammad Ghori.

(ii) He rose to prominence after his master's death in 1206.

(iii) He consolidated his power through matrimonial alliance. He got the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosques constructed in Delhi and Ajmer.

(iv) He started the construction of Qutub Minar in the memory of the Sufi saint, Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki.

(v) He died in 1210 while playing Polo at Lahore.

**Q.16. Write a short note on Muhammad bin Tughlaq.**

**Ans. (i)** He was both, a great scholar and cruel.

(ii) He is known for his reforms but he lacked practical wisdom.

(iii) Due to this, his weakness resulted in repeated attacks in many parts of his kingdom.