

## **The Delhi Sultanate**

### **Exercises**

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#### **Long answer questions:**

- 1.** Compare the administrative measures of Alauddin Khajji with those introduced by Muhammad Tughluq.
- 2.** Describe how Muhammad Tughluq's failed policies affected him as a ruler.
- 3.** Explain how the reign of Firuz Shah was different from other sultans.
- 4.** Discuss the economy and trade in the Sultanate

## Solutions

### Long-answer questions:

1.

Alauddin khajji	Muhammad Tughluq
During his reign, the Mongols attacked twice. To defend his empire, Alauddin had to raise a large standing army.	He defeated the Mongol army and then he planned an attack on the Mongols, for this he raised a large standing army.
To accommodate his soldiers, he constructed a town called Siri.	He ordered the entire population to shift to Daulatabad. The soldiers were stationed in Delhi. This caused great misery to the people.
The soldiers were paid salaries in cash. This was bound to lead to inflation. To control inflation, the prices of all essential commodities were fixed. Strict action was taken against merchants who sold at higher prices.	The soldiers were paid in cash. However, he did not control the prices in the market. He introduced the currency of copper and brass coins in place of gold and silver coins. However, the Sultan could not take any steps to check forgery. As a result, foreign trade suffered. The state treasury was drained by the forged currency.
The Doab region was taxed at 50% of the produce in order to bear the additional burden of feeding the soldiers.	He levied extra taxes in the Doab region. Unfortunately, the very same year, this fertile region suffered a famine. The discontent among the peasants led to the eventual withdrawal of his order. However, it was too late. The damage was already done. Agriculture suffered extensively.
The measures taken were very successful.	His measures were a complete failure. He had to disband his army. The people were shifted back to Delhi from Daulatabad. The Sultan decided to withdraw the copper coins. The royal treasury suffered immense losses and it ruined the economy. The peasants in the Doab were discontented and agriculture suffered immensely. His unsuccessful experiments made him quite detested. Poor administration in his empire led to internal aggression and revolts. This weakened his empire.

2. Muhammad Tughlaq's failed policies affected him as a ruler. His unsuccessful experiments made him very unpopular. Poor administration in his empire led to internal aggression and revolts. This weakened his empire.

- 3.** Firuz Shah inherited a ruined economy and discontented people. Instead of expansion of the empire, he concentrated on stabilizing the economy and the empire. His revised revenue policy, encouraged agriculture and brought prosperity to the people. There was rapid growth of trade and commerce. The reduction in the prices of commodities of daily use made the life of common people easy. He also introduced certain judicial reforms and improved the penal system. Torture was abolished. Firuz Shah set up an employment Bureau for the unemployed and many hospitals for providing free treatment to the poor. He had also improved the currency system by introducing new coins of mixed metal. A special department was established to help the poor and needy. It also helped poor Muslims in arranging the marriages of their daughters by providing them with the state help. Many 'Sarais' were established and trees were planted on both sides of the roads. Firuz Shah Tughluq is credited with building numerous towns. Among these some prominent towns were Hissar, Jaunpur, and Firozabad etc. He constructed irrigation canals and dams. He also set up one of the two Ashokan pillars at Firozabad which he had removed from their original location. However, he followed a very orthodox religious policy and ruled according to Islamic laws. He consulted the lamas in all matters. For the first time he imposed 'Jazia' tax on non-Muslims. He demolished Hindu temples and built mosques in their places. He destroyed the Jagannath Puri temple in Odisha, and killed a large number of priests.
- 4.** Agriculture prospered during the period of Sultanate. Irrigation canals were dug and more land was brought under cultivation. Crafts were patronized. Skilled artisans made objects using metals, stones, pearl, ivory and sandalwood. Silk, woollen and cotton textiles were made. Industries came up in rural and urban areas. Fairs were organised. Merchants were wealthy and lived well. There existed important commercial cities like Delhi, Kanauj, Multan and Surat.

Both internal and external trade was carried out. There were paved roads, rest houses and shops for travelers. Trade was carried on with Sumatra, Malaysia, China and Africa. Main imports were Arabian horses, gold and silver whereas the items of exports were spices, sandalwood and indigo.