

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How do we know about growth of cities in 17th century?

Ans. The sources of history to know about the history of this period are travellers' accounts. Monserrate, Ralph Fitch, Thomas Roe, Domingo Paes, Nicolo Conti and Abdul Razzaq Samarqandi were some of the major foreign travellers in this period. Their accounts give us details about the life of this period.

Q.2. How was Hampi an important town? Describe its architecture?

Ans. (i) Hampi, a famous town in Krishna-Tungabhadra region was founded in 1336 in the Vijayanagara empire.

(ii) The technique of interlocking was used and no mortar or cement was used to wedge walls.

(iii) The arches, domes and pillared halls had niches for holding sculptures.

(iv) They even had well-planned orchard and pleasure garden with motif containing sculptures of lotus and corbels.

Q.3. How did Masulipatnam become an important town?

Ans. (i) The town of Masulipatnam or Machilipatnam (meaning fish port town) was located on the delta of the Krishna river.

(ii) In 17th century, the town was an important centre of activity.

(iii) The port of Masulipatnam was constructed by the Dutch. William Methwold, a Factor of British East India Company described Masulipatnam as a small and unwalled town.

Q.4. What were the main causes of the decline of Surat?

Ans. (i) Surat began to decline towards the end of the seventeenth century because of many factors.

(ii) The loss of markets and productivity because of the decline of the Mughal Empire.

(iii) Control of the sea routes by the Portuguese.

(iv) Competition from Bombay (present-day Mumbai) where the English East India Company shifted its headquarters.