

## EXTRA QUESTIONS

DATE:- 3/06/21

### Question 1.

Why were travels more difficult and risky in the 14th century? Give any two reasons.

Answer:

1. There was a hazard of robbers on long journeys.
2. The travellers could feel home-sick and also fall ill.

### Question 2.

'Ibn-Battuta was an inveterate traveller.' Give an example.

Answer:

1. Ibn-Battuta was neither afraid of anything nor did he get tired.
2. He travelled extensively for several years through northern Africa, western Asia, many parts of central Asia, Indian sub-continent and far off places in China.
3. That is why he was known as an inveterate traveller.

### Question 3.

Who was Jean-Baptiste Tavernier?

Answer:

1. Jean Baptiste Tavernier was a French jeweller.
2. He had visited India six times. He was especially impressed by the trade activities in India.
3. He compared India with Iran and the Ottoman Empire.

### Question 4.

What was the idea of oriental despotism of the French philosopher Montesquieu? What was the base of this idea?

Answer:

1. The idea of oriental despotism states that rulers in Asia enjoyed absolute authority over their subjects and the subjects were kept in conditions of subjugation and poverty.
2. The base of this idea was that all the land belonged to the king.

### Question 5.

How had Bernier described a complex social reality of the artisan, under the Mughals? Give any one reason.

Answer:

1. Bernier wrote that artisans under Mughals were hardly encouraged to make their product better because their profit was appropriated by the state.
2. That is why there was a continuous decline in the level of production.

3. On the other hand, he wrote that the world's precious metals were flown into India as manufactures exported in exchange for gold and silver.

**Question 6.**

**"Ibn-Battuta was full of excitement to know about the unfamiliar." Give reasons in favour of the statement.**

Answer:

1. When Ibn-Battuta arrived in India in the 14th century, the whole of the sub-continent was part of a global network of communication.
2. This communication network stretched from China in the east and North-western Africa and Europe in the west.
  3. Ibn-Battuta himself extensively travelled in these regions. During his journeys, he observed sacred places, spent time with scholars and rulers and even remained on the post of Qazi.
  4. He also enjoyed the cosmopolitan culture of urban centres where people used to speak Arabic, Persian, Turkish and other languages and exchanged ideas, information, stories, etc.
  5. These include stories of men noted for their piety, kings, general masses and people of all categories.
  6. If anything was unfamiliar in those stories, it was particularly highlighted so that the readers or listeners must be impressed by that.
  7. Ibn-Battuta very interestingly described the coconut and the paan. His readers were very much unfamiliar with these two things.

**Question 7.**

**"Bernier's accounts influenced western theorists from the 18th century. Give arguments to support the statement.**

Or

**"Bernier's description of imperial land ownership influenced western theorists like French philosopher Montesquieu and German Karl Marx." Justify it with suitable arguments.**

Answer:

1. The descriptions of Bernier had a deep impact on many western thinkers. For example, Montesquieu, the French philosopher, used the descriptions of Bernier to develop his idea of oriental despotism. In other words, Montesquieu stated that the rulers in Asia enjoyed absolute authority over their subjects. All the people lived in subjugation and poverty. All the land belonged to the king and there was no private property.
2. Karl Marx further developed this idea as the Asiatic mode of production.
3. He stated that the surplus was taken by the state in India.
  4. This led to the emergence of society having a large number of autonomous and egalitarian village communities.
  5. The imperial court also respected their autonomy. It was considered as a stagnant system.

**Question 8.**

**Why did travellers, who came to India, sometimes took social inequalities for granted as a natural state of affairs? Explain.**

**Answer:**

- 1. Travellers, who came to India, sometimes took social inequalities like a caste system for granted because they did not consider it unique. For example, Al-Biruni had explained the caste system in India.**
- 2. He did not consider it unique as such social divisions were prevalent in ancient Persia.**
- 3. He even accepted the Brahmanical description of the caste system. But he did not accept the notion of pollution as social pollution was contrary to the laws of nature.**
- 4. Actually, he tried to explain the caste system in comparison with its parallels in other societies. But he also expressed that all humans are treated equally in Islam and they differ only in their observance piety.**