

Duration: 1.30hrs

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Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • There are 10 questions and printed in ENGLISH. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words. • Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
1	10		
2	10		
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Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

1. Analyze the characteristic features of Gupta Art and compare it with Mauryan Art.
[150 words]

The Gupta and Maurya period are examples of finest Indian art.

Gupta period is considered as a golden period in Indian art and culture -

1) Cave paintings - Ajanta caves

- Buddhist themed wall paintings
- Fresco style
- Colourful paintings showing the Bodhisattvas, scenes from Jataka

Another example of cave paintings is found in Bagh caves, Madhya Pradesh.

2) Sculptures - The Mathura school of sculpture developed during this period.

- Red sandstone was used.
- Main focus of sculpture was on inner beauty and emotions.
- Famous example - Seated Buddha of Sarnath

3) Numismatics - The largest number of gold coins were issued during the Gupta period.

- The gold coins consisted of beautiful carvings of art - e.g.
Chandragupta - Kumudevi coin,

Samudragupta's veena playing coin,
Vyaghraharsha (tiger killing) coins, etc.

- 4) Temple art - Wall carvings on temples of Gupta period have a distinctive style, e.g. Da Parbatika stone gate.

The Gupta dynasty arrived about 300-400 years after the Maurya dynasty, hence the differences in art during the two periods is quite evident.

Maurya period -

- 1) Animal capitals - These animal capitals were carved out of stones and placed over a pillar which contained the king's messages. Famous example - Lion capital of Sarnath, Rampurva Bull, etc.
- 2) Sculptures - Images of Yaksha and Yakshini, Ashoka's images, Dhauli elephant are some examples of this period.
- 3) Stupas - Ashoka started the tradition of building stupas which were burial mounds for Buddhist spiritual leaders.

2. Discuss the various reforms introduced by Alauddin Khilji. [150 words]

Alauddin Khilji was the 2nd ruler of Khilji dynasty of Delhi Sultanate. He introduced several reforms to administer the Sultanate -

- 1) Ordinances - Four ordinances were issued to prevent any conspiracy or mutiny -

- i) Abolition of wine.
- ii) Marriage in-between nobility won't be allowed without his permission.
- iii) Reorganization of spy system.
- iv) Confiscation of religious endowments and land grants.

- 2) Market reforms - Alauddin fixed the price of commodities such as wheat, fish, meat, cotton, etc.

- He set up markets in Delhi under control of high officers.

- 3) Military reforms -

- Identity cards of soldiers
- Paid army in cash
- Dagh - Branding of horses.
- Standing army at centre.

- 4> Allauddin separated religion from politics.
- 5> He introduced measurement of land and fixed state share.

Allauddin Khilji was ambitious and gave himself the title of 2nd Alexander (Sikandar-i-Saini)

3. Distinguish between revivalist and reformist movements in the context of the 19th century reform movements in colonial India. [150 words]

The 19th century saw the rise of many social movements across the country. The reformists wanted to bring changes in society by eliminating the orthodox practices which were no longer acceptable in modern world.

The revivalists on the other hand wanted the revival of the glory of ancient India and establishment of society based on the principles of ancient scriptures, like the Vedas.

Reformist movements —

- Raja Ram Mohan Ray established the Brahmo Samaj, a reformist organization. He fought for Sati abolition among other reforms.
- Takhar Chandra Vidyasagar - widow remarriage.
- Jyotiba Phule & Savitribai Phule - Upliftment and education of Dalits
- Syed Ahmad Khan - Scientific Society and Aligarh Muslim University for education and scientific learning.
- Prarthana Samaj by Atmaram Pandurang - against caste discrimination.

Revivalist movements

- Dayanand Saraswati established the Arya Samaj and advocated "Back to the Vedas" as philosophy for society.
- Radhakant Dev formed the Dharma Samaj as a counter to Brahmo Samaj.

Thus, we see two contrasting approaches for social reform during this period which shaped the mindset of Indians and made them think about the way of life they wanted.

4. Can Quit India Movement be termed as spontaneous movement? Discuss. [150 words]

The Quit India Movement, also known as August Kranti started in 1942. Gandhi gave the slogan "Do or Die" with the aim of gaining complete independence.

Although the movement started and spread spontaneously there were several factors leading up to this -

- 1) There was widespread anger among the people as the British made India a part of World War II without consulting the Indian leaders.
- Congress ministers resigned in protest of this.
- 2) Gandhiji was preparing the people for a mass movement from a long time and laid the groundwork in form of Individual Satyagraha.
- 3) The failure of Linlithgow's August offer and Cripps Mission made it clear that a movement by the masses was inevitable.
- 4) All the leaders were instantly jailed when the movement started, but it continued to grow and spread in desired fashion across the country.

Thus, we see the Quit India Movement was culmination of years of struggle, civil disobedience and learnings from the British actions which helped in this movement being participation by every section and absence of communal riots representing the unity of the people against the British rule.

5. Under Narayan and Chilarai, Koch Kingdom reached climax of military glory. Comment. [150 words]

The Koch Kingdom was established by Vishwa Singha, who was succeeded by his son Narayan. Chilarai, was brother of Narayan and commander of the Koch army.

Both of them helped to expand the Koch Kingdom which reached its zenith in the 16th century by annexing the Jaintias, Kacharis and even territories of Ahom Kingdom.

- During Narayan's reign, the Koch defeated the Ahoms in multiple battles at Bharali, Gargaon and extended their territory well into Ahom Kingdom.
- Treaty of Majuli 1583 - This was signed between Narayan and Sukhamphaa who accepted Koch suzerainty.
- The Koch pushed the Ahoms till Narayanpur and built the Gohain Kaml Aki from Koch capital at Cooh Behn to Narayanpur in upper Brahmaputra valley.
- Narayan wanted to extend the Koch empire westwards, and sent his army against the Gaurs of Bengal.

Thus, the 15th century saw the highest glory of Koch military conquests which eventually faded as Chitanei was captured by Gonds and the Koch had to form alliance with the Ahoms.

6. "Revolt of 1857 was more than a sepoy mutiny, and led then a national revolt."

Discuss with reference to causes, nature, consequences of the revolt. [250 words]

Historians have varying opinions about the Revolt of 1857 with some calling it a 'sepoy mutiny' while others call it 'War of Independence.'

Causes : -

Political causes

Stopping of pension of Nana Sahab, son of last Peshwa.

Annexation of Awadh, Punjab, Sindh, etc. by - Subsidiary Alliance

Annexation of Satara, Thanvi by Doctrine of Lapse.

Economic causes

Land reforms such as Zamindari, ruined the peasants life.

Indian industries were ruined by imports.

Peasants were in debt due to moneylenders.

Religious causes

Abolition of Sati

Widow remarriage Act

Religious Disabilities Act

Tribal revolts

Sandhal rebellion

Khadi rebellion

Kuka revolt

Immediate cause -

The Indian sepays were discriminated by British officers. Things went out of hand with the introduction of cartridge for Enfield rifle, which allegedly contained beef and pork butter.

This agitated the Indian sepays due to religious sentiments and they started the sepoy mutiny.

Nature of the revolt -

- The revolt quickly spread to other parts like Awadh, Delhi, Bihar, etc.
- Indians attacked and killed the British people indiscriminately.
- They marched towards Delhi and declared Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar as the Emperor of India.
- The British were taken aback and gathered their forces to resist the revolt.

Finally, the British succeeded in suppressing the revolt.

- The revolutionaries were executed publicly.
- Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled to Rangoon.

The far reaching consequences of the revolt reflected in the Government of India Act 1858 -

- 1) End of company rule and power of rule over India transferred to British crown.
- 2) No more annexation of Indian states.
- 3) The position of Governor General replaced with Viceroy and a Secretary of State appointed for India in British Parliament.

7. Beginning with a limited participation, the involvement of Assamese women in the national movement became massive in scale and similar in nature to that of male participants. Discuss. [250 words]

The movement for freedom in Assam followed the trends in the national movement. Although during the beginning of the movements, such as the Swadeshi movement or Non-cooperation movement, the participation of women was limited but during later movements like Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement, women participated and walked side-by-side along the male counterparts in the fight for independence.

Many prominent women figures emerged during the national movement -

1) Chandraprabha Saikia -

- She founded the Assam Mahila Samiti in 1926
- She is considered the pioneer of feminist movement in India

2) Rani Gaidinliu -

- She belonged to the Naga tribe and was an active participant in the Civil Disobedience movement (COM)
- She was arrested by the British and put in jail during COM.

3) Kanabata Baruah -

- She is known as 'Birbala'
- She sacrificed her life during the Quit India movement in Gohpur

4) Bhageswari Phukanoni -

- Freedom fighter in AZM who laid her life for the nation.

5) Vidhewari Baruah -

- She is the youngest martyr who laid her life at the age of 12 years for the country.

In addition to these women, thousands of women took part in the prabhat phris, women brigades during the civil disobedience movement.

They marched, sang songs of freedom and took care of the injured in the clashes. These women are true examples of feminine energy and empowerment, who came forward in this fight breaking barriers.

B. Explain on what grounds Warren Hastings may be regarded as real founder of the British Empire in India. [250 words]

The Regulating Act of 1773 made the Governor General of Bengal as the highest position in India, with the Governors of Madras and Bombay Presidency reporting to him.

- Warren Hastings was the first Governor General of Bengal. His contributions helped the British consolidate power in India —

- 1) He defeated the Maratha Power, which was rising once again after the Battle of Panipat (3rd) - 1761.
- 2) Warren Hastings defeated Haider Ali, in the Anglo - Mysore wars and began the establishment of British power in the south.
- 3) He ended dual government in Bengal introduced by Robert Clive, which had become a corrupt system.
- 4) He started the post of collector in India, for administrative purposes.

Before Warren Hastings, the power in India was divided between the Governors of Bengal, Madras and Bombay presidency who would often

come in way of each other. But, post 1743, the British rule in India got a more centralized approach with Bengal becoming the centre of all British affairs in India.

The British empire expanded rapidly post this with annexation of Hyderabad, Mysore, Awadh, Sindh, Punjab and so on forming the mighty British India, that ruled for about 200 years after Hastings became the governor general.

9. What was the Permanent Settlement of Bengal introduced by Lord Cornwallis? To what extent did it prove beneficial to British rule in India? What were its effects on Indians? [250 words]

The British introduced land reforms in India with the motive of higher revenue collection to send back to the British treasury.

Permanent Settlement on the Zamindari system was introduced in 1793 by Lord Cornwallis in Bengal. Its features were —

- 1) Land was permanently allotted to a Zaminder and the revenue was fixed.
- 2) The Zaminder would keep $\frac{1}{11}^{th}$ of the revenue and give $\frac{10}{11}^{th}$ of revenue to the British.
- 3) The Zaminder employed cultivators to work on the fields, who were paid by him.

This system did not prove beneficial to the British because —

- 1) Land had been allotted permanently and revenue was fixed. Therefore, as prices of food grains would go up, the British could not collect higher revenue.

- 2) This system ensured a fixed supply of revenue to the British.
- 3) Foodgrains could be exported to Britain from India.

However, due to the ~~the~~ stagnant revenue, British were forced to modify the system and brought new land reforms such as - Ryotwari and Mahalwari system.

This system had mixed impacts on Indians as well -

- 1) A new social class of Zamindars emerged - who were the landlords.
- 2) In case of crop failure, the farmers still had to pay up revenue.
- 3) The zamindars would default on payments, creating economic issues for British.
- 4) In addition to zamindars, jagirdars also emerged. Together, they made the normal farmer's life full of hardships.

Thus, we see this system brought about class differences which would go on to widen and result in various revolts and uprisings.

10. Write short notes on

- a) Satgharia Ahom
- ✓ b) Posa system
- c) Line system

[250 words]

The Ahoms had travelled to Assam from Mong Mao with a handful of people under the leadership of Sukapha, who established the Ahom empire in Assam.

In order to expand territory, various strategies were used - both force / aggression and diplomacy.

The neighbouring tribes in the hills were usually annexed or matrimonial alliance was established.

During Pratap Singha's reign, there was the issue of hill tribes attacking the border areas of Ahom Kingdom and looting the residents.

To counter this, the Posa system was introduced -

- The system was of negotiation with tribes, to offer them money in return the tribes would not attack the border areas. It can be termed as an appeasement policy.

- The Ahoms had to introduce this system because it was very difficult to fight against the hill tribes due to hilly terrain and dense jungles.
- This provided security to the borders from tribals as well as any other external forces, due to the tribals being allied with the Ahoms.

This was among the many reforms introduced by Pratap Singha to help expand the control of Ahom kingdom and improve the conditions of the people in the kingdom.