

O-Level History Notes

Pakistan Studies Paper 1

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Title	O-Level History Notes
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Published by	MS Books (042-35774780)
Legal Advisor	Ashir Najeeb Khan (Advocate High Court) AKBAR LAW CHAMBERS 39-40, 1 st Floor, Sadiq Plaza, The Mall, Lahore 042-36314839, 0307-4299886
For Complaints/Order	MS Books 83-B, Ghalib Market Gulberg III Lahore (042-35774780),(03334504507),(03334548651)

Preface

My “ O Level Notes on Islamiyat and Pakistan Studies “ are the result of my rich teaching experience, my constant interaction with the CIE and the results of my brilliant students many of whom managed to be enlisted among the HIGH ACHIEVERS/DISTINCTION HOLDERS in both the subjects. These notes will be updated every year in view of the changes in the style and content of the questions in the CIE examinations. Soon some sort of “ Practice Books” will also be published to make these subjects as interesting as possible. Almost all the topics have been covered in Question-Answer format so that students may not only learn these answers but also feel their thinking skills stimulated that will induce curiosity and minimize the element of rote learning.

When students are capable of “making “new questions, I feel my mission accomplished.

Students as well as teachers should feel free in contacting me as and when required.

Wishing all my students best and praying for their excellent grades.

Good Luck

Dr. Iftikhar-ul - Haq

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1 (1600 - 1900)

Sr No.	Topic	Page No
1.	Decline of Mughal Rule	7
2.	British Govt Replacing EIC	13
3.	1857 – war of Independence	23
4.	Reformers	31
5.	Sir Syed Ahmed Khan	42
6.	Languages	49

Section 2 (1900 - 1947)

Sr No.	Topic	Page No
7.	Partition of Bengal	58
8.	Foundation of Muslim League	65
9.	Morley Minto Reforms	69
10.	World war 1	71
11.	Lucknow Pact	73
12.	Mont – Ford Reforms	75
13.	Khilafat Movement	82
14.	Simon Commission	89
15.	Nehru Report	92
16.	Jinnah's 14 Points	96
17.	Round Table Conferences	99
18.	Govt of India 1935 Act.	103
19.	1937 Elections	108
20.	Indian National Congress Rule	110
21.	Allama Iqbal & Ch. Rehmat Ali	116
22.	Pakistan / Lahore Resolution	121
23.	WW2	124
24.	Quit India Movement	126
25.	Gandhi, Jinnah Talks	128
26.	Simla Conference	131
27.	1945 Elections	136
28.	Cabinet Mission Plan	138

Section 3 (1947 - 1999)

Sr No.	Topic	Page No
29.	Problems of Partition	145
30.	Kh Nazim ud din, M G M, Iskandar Mirza	153
31.	Ayub Khan	162
32.	Separation of E-Pakistan	171
33.	Z.A Bhutto	178
34.	Zia – ul – Haq	188
35.	Benazir Bhutto	196
36.	Nawaz Sharif	203
37.	Foreign Relations	213

Section 1 (1600-1900 and Languages)

Decline of the Mughal Rule

Reasons:

Three major factors, with many sub-factors:

A. The nature of the empire:

- Weak administration: Huge empire; no effective means of communication b/w the centre (Delhi) & far off territories; news of rebellions reached the emperor very late; gradually failing Mansabdari system, esp by the time of Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb's policies: religious intolerance, e.g., demolition of Hindu temples, re-imposition of Jiziya, ban on art, painting, music; his Deccan campaigns; 25 years against the Marathas & on his return exhaustion of straight treasury.
- Heavy military costs to suppress revolts; diverse regional & cultural groups, often against the Mughal rule; also, foreign invaders, e.g., Afghans, Persians (Ahmed Shah & Nadir Shah) & then the Europeans.

Failures in Delhi:

- Grouping of courtiers; palace conspiracies, usually due to the succession wars; no written law of succession; fight among princes on death of emperor, & division of courtiers (ministers) in support of different princes; e.g., four sons of Shah Jehan fought over power even when he was alive; A.zeb divided empire between three sons but still succession disputes.

B. Complacency due to success

- Military inefficiency: No advancement in military skills & weapons due to a false sense of being invincible/indomitable; no organized navy; corruption affected military officers, as it did the rulers; this emboldened the rebel groups _____ Sikhs in the north and Marathas in the south grew stronger with time.
- Pleasure seeking/weak later Mughals: rulers & noble's fell into luxurious life style _____ finest garments, expensive jewelry, lavish spending, all as a result of fabulous wealth accumulated by the early Mughals; all successors of A.zeb proved corrupt & inefficient; heavy spending on monumental buildings (e.g., the Taj, Agra), but no scientific research, exploitation of resources and public welfare schemes.
- Weak control: highly powerful court nobles and ministers; difficult for weak rulers to control them; neglect of the Mansabdari system led to administrative inefficiency; state revenue began to decline.

C. The Arrival of the British:

- The British EIC was already looking for an opportunity to replace the Mughals; benefits of the Industrial Revolution, large scale manufacture of cheap goods brought huge wealth; all this resulted in acquiring enough military strength; British were able not only to accelerate the process of decline but also to take control of India.

Summary of the Decline of the Mughals

- Vastness of the empire
- Wars of succession
- Weak and corrupt later Mughals
- Military inefficiency; no strong Navy
- Internal revolts & foreign invasions
- Aurangzeb's policies: religious intolerance, e.g., demolition of Hindu temples, re-imposition of Jiziya, ban on art, painting, music; his Deccan campaigns; 25 years against the Marathas & on his return exhaustion of straight treasury.
- Arrival of the British with stronger weapons & better skills
- Failure to advance in science and technology

Reasons for Europeans being attracted to India

- Splendour & wealth of Indian rulers, especially, the Mughals; wealth needed for various industries in Europe in the wake of the Industrial Revolutions; metalwork of India & gold & diamond were in great demand in Europe.
- Discovery of sea routes to India helped trade flourish b/w Europe & India; trade of spices, cotton, cloth, opium, gold etc; highly profitable trade, for both Indians & Europeans, in the beginning.
- Mughal rulers & Indian traders welcomed the Europeans, 16th century onwards.
- British first tried spice trade in the East Indies (Indonesia), but the Dutch were already established there; the British EIC turned towards India, decided to oust the Dutch, Portuguese & French in order to enjoy monopoly.

Reasons for the British replacing the Mughals / Conquering Indians:

A mix of weaknesses of Indian & strengths of the British:

1) Indian Weaknesses:

- Highly divided Indians
- Diverse ethnic groups; tribes, states; religious, linguistic & regional divisions.
- No common identity or uniting force; often fought with each other, many seeking British help against rivals
- Rich, luxury – loving rulers, least interested in protecting their “homeland.”

2) British strengths:

- Militarily & technologically superior to Indians, due to the Industrial Revolution, 16th century onwards; superior weapons & fighting skills; disciplined army & better means of communication.
- Brought benefits to Indian, e.g., network of roads & railways, irrigation of 20 million acres of land; built educational & health institutes, King Edward Medical College, Lahore; universities in Lahore, Calcutta, Bombay.
- Rich sense of superiority of, not only weapons, but also, culture; strong belief of progress & victory, together with a strong sense of patriotism
- Successful use of their strategy of “divide & rule” ,& by threatening, outsmarting, bribing Indian rulers & princes.

Q: Who were the Mughals?
or
Describe the Mughal Rule.

(4)

Ans. The Mughal rule was founded by Babur in 1526. Six great rulers, from Babur to Aurangzeb, expanded and consolidated their rule 1526 to 1707. During this period they excelled in literature, music, painting and architecture, building several monuments like the Taj in Agra. After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, there were corrupt and inefficient rulers who failed to run the affairs of a huge empire. The process of decline continued till the British overthrew them after the 1857 War of Independence. The last Mughal ruler, Bahadur Shah Zafar, was exiled to Rangoon and imprisoned. The British thus replaced the Mughals to make India their colony.

Q: Describe what the Marathas did.

(4)

Ans. Marathas were a ferocious and militant Hindu community living in the Deccan, south India. They excelled in guerrilla warfare, and offered stiff resistance to the Mughals. They were especially organised under their dynamic leader Shivaji who laid the foundation of a Maratha Empire in the 1670s. Aurangzeb fought against them for about 25 years but failed to crush them. So, they became a reason of the decline of the Mughals. They defeated a huge Mughal army outside Delhi in 1737, and later occupied it in 1760. They were defeated by the Afghan army of Ahmed Shah Abdali in 1761, in the third battle of Panipat.

Q: What were Aurangzeb's religious policies?

(4)

Ans. Aurangzeb was an orthodox Mughal ruler. During his reign, 1658-1707, he earned hostility and opposition by his non-Muslim subjects. He re-introduced the Jiziya, a tax levied on non-Muslims that had earlier been abolished by Akbar. He also destroyed some Hindu temples and tried to ban the old Hindu custom of Suttee, burning a widow alive on the cremation ceremony of her husband. He also showed strictness in enforcing Islamic law and tried to fix the length of the beard Muslim men were required to keep. Thus, he became a controversial figure for the historians. Many tried to defend him while others blamed him for religious intolerance.

Q: Who was Shivaji?

(4)

Ans: Shivaji was a ferocious Marathan fighter and founder of the Marathan Empire in Bijapur, southern India. He was crowned Chhatrapati(monarch)in 1674.He innovated military tactics, including guerrilla warfare, and revived old Hindu traditions. He fought the Mughals from 1657 to 1668.He was arrested by Aurangzeb's army but escaped soon cleverly. He enjoyed peaceful relations with Aurangzeb 1668, and conquered several South Indian territories. He died in 1680.

BY IFTIKHAR UL HAQ

Q: Explain why the Mughal Empire declined following the death of Aurangzeb. (7)

Ans. Aurangzeb's successors were inefficient. They proved to be lazy, corrupt and luxury-loving and left the state affairs to their courtiers and ministers who were usually selfish. These weak successors became victim to an extravagant lifestyle as a result of which they failed to run and defend the huge empire effectively. State resources were spent on personal comfort and so, the empire suffered from financial inefficiencies. One of the later Mughals was Muhammad Shah who, because of his colourful lifestyle, was titled as 'Rangeela'. He could not defend his empire against the Persian invader Nadir Shah Durrani.

There was no law of succession due to which the princes often fought for the throne on the death of the emperor. These wars of succession led to a division of the army with various lobbies supporting various princes. Succession was usually decided by the ability of the individual princes and the support and strength they could get from the courtiers and the army. This infighting incurred huge loss to the state exchequer that should have been spent on the public welfare schemes and consolidating the empire. Aurangzeb had divided the empire among his three sons, but they too, ended up fighting with each other.

Invasions by the Persians, Afghans and Europeans further accelerated the process of decline. Nadir Shah Durrani sacked many cities in 1739, and Ahmed Shah Abdali repeatedly attacked India 1748 onwards. Gradually, fighting wars became expensive and the military was stretched and suffered from inefficiency and skills. It became hard to defend a vast empire with an orthodox and outdated weapons and fighting tactics. The British, who had been developing their army, fully exploited these weaknesses of a very rich Mughal Empire that they overran with their advanced weapons, warfare and clever strategies.

