
BANGLADESH STUDIES

0449/01

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

May/June 2016

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **three** questions.

Answer **Question 1** and **two** other questions.

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on each question.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.



This document consists of **7** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** insert.

You MUST answer this question. Answer ALL parts.

Question 1: The Culture and Heritage of Bangladesh

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this question.

Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) Which of the following was a translation by Alaol of a Hindi poem?
 A Saptapaykar
 B Ragtlnama
 C Padmavati
 D Sikandarnama [1]
- (ii) Lalon Shah's songs were
 A folk songs
 B spiritual songs
 C songs about town life
 D songs about travel [1]
- (iii) Which of Mir Mosharraf Hossain's works is about the Battle of Karbala?
 A Madinar Gaurab
 B Bibi Khodejar Bibaha
 C Zamindar Darpan
 D Bishad Shindhu [1]
- (iv) Which of the following did Begum Rokeya **not** write?
 A poems
 B songs
 C novels
 D essays [1]
- (v) Kazi Nasrul Islam wrote in order to
 A support the struggle against the British
 B encourage women's rights
 C entertain his battalion's soldiers
 D promote the cause of the Muslim League [1]

Part (b): This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) Describe the life and work of Rabindranath Tagore. [5]
- (ii) Explain his importance to the culture of Bangladesh. [3]

Part (c): This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain the importance of **each** of the following to the culture of Bangladesh:
 • journalism
 • music of the British period [8]
- (ii) Which of these do you think has made the more important contribution to our knowledge of the history of Bangladesh? Explain your answer. [4]

[Total: 25]

Choose TWO of questions 2 to 4.

Answer ALL parts of the two questions you choose.

Question 2: Pre-Mughal Bengal

Sonargaon



The early kingdoms in Bengal

It was the Sena dynasty that had brought the whole of Bengal under one central rule. The defeat of Lakshmana Sena in 1204 and the weakness of his two sons were both part of the story of the Turkish advance towards India. The Sena capital and Gauda both fell to the Turkish invaders. The new rulers of Bengal became almost independent as the Delhi Sultanate itself saw internal conflict. Tughral declared independence from Delhi towards the end of the 13th Century, but it was a short-lived status as the Sultan of Delhi reasserted his authority by military force. Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah took control of Sonargaon and proclaimed himself Sultan. He was strong enough to withstand the Sultan of Delhi's opposition. There followed almost 200 years of rule in Bengal independent of Delhi. It was during this period that Sufism became important in Bengal and rulers extended their right to rule over the whole of Bengal. The arts also became important at this time. 5 10

Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) At which battle was Lakshmana Sena defeated by Turkish forces? (lines 1–2) [1]
- (ii) Who led the Turkish army against him? [1]
- (iii) Which Sultan sent an army against Tughral? (lines 5–6) [1]
- (iv) What was Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah's title? (lines 6–7) [1]
- (v) What title did Haji Ilyas claim? (lines 9–10) [1]

Part (b): This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) How was Muslim rule established in Bengal in the 13th century? [5]
- (ii) Explain how Sufis spread Islam in Bengal. [5]

Part (c): This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain how each of the following contributed to art and culture in Bengal:
 - the Ilyas Shahi dynasty
 - the Hussain Shahi dynasty
 [8]
- (ii) Which of these had greater importance for the people of Bengal? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

Question 3: The Mughal Period

Reasons for the decline of the Mughal Empire



Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb is known as the last great Mughal, even though his Empire began to decline before his death in 1707. Defeating his brothers when their father was too ill to continue to rule, Aurangzeb went on to extend the Empire greatly. However, this desire to increase his power led to weaknesses developing because of long absences away from his capital. Instead of supporting him by ruling in his absence, noblemen became divided, weak and corrupt. Administrators overtaxed the workers and caused agriculture to decline. Outsiders from Persia saw their opportunity to attack the Mughal Empire in search of wealth. The navy was neglected and became unable to prevent the British from settling in India.

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Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) Name Aurangzeb's father. (line 2) [1]
- (ii) Which brother did Aurangzeb defeat at Khajwa (now Uttar Pradesh)? (line 2) [1]
- (iii) Who was made Viceroy of Bengal for his support of Aurangzeb at Khajwa? [1]
- (iv) Who led the Persian army against the Mughal Empire? (line 7) [1]
- (v) Name one of the areas settled in by the British as a result of the success of the 1688 blockade. (line 8) [1]

Part (b): This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) How was Bengal ruled in the early 18th century? [5]
- (ii) Explain how religious policy weakened Aurangzeb's Empire. [5]

Part (c): This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain the importance of each of the following in bringing about the decline of the Mughal Empire:
- Aurangzeb's Deccan policy
 - the condition of the Mughal army at the time of his rule
- [8]

- (ii) Which of these was the more important in causing the decline of the Mughal Empire? Explain your answer.
- [2]

[Total: 25]

Question 4: The British Period

Events leading to independence in 1947



Sepoys at war

The Muslim League and Congress were both calling for self-government by 1913. The Muslim League, however, had to be careful: if the British left India before safeguards were in place, Muslims would not gain self-rule. They would be dominated by the Hindus and could expect little say in how they were governed. Congress had to be convinced that they needed to work with the Muslim League in order to win their support in the search for self-rule. In December 1916 the first and only meeting was held between the leaders of the Muslim League and Congress, which led to a joint proposal to put in front of the British.

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Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) Who chaired the meeting at which the All-India Muslim League was established? [1]
- (ii) Why did Indians expect Britain to listen to them in 1916? [1]
- (iii) What was the Muslim League demanding from Congress by 1916? (line 5) [1]
- (iv) Where was the 1916 meeting between Congress and the Muslim League held? (line 6) [1]
- (v) Why is this meeting known as the 'high watermark' of Hindu-Muslim relations? [1]

Part (b): This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) What were the aims of the All-India Muslim League? [5]
- (ii) Describe the system of dyarchy as established in the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms of 1919. [5]

Part (c): This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain what each of the following demonstrates about the development of Hindu-Muslim relations:
- The Khilafat movement
 - The Round Table Conferences 1930–32 [8]
- (ii) Which do you think had the greater importance for Muslims? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

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