

## Chapter 9. Tracing Changes through Thousands of Years

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### Very Short Q&A:

**Q1: Dvarsamudri was the language spoken in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Karnataka

**Q2: Into how many periods does the British historians divided the history of India?**

**Ans:** three periods

**Q3: India got its name in the 13th century. True/ False**

**Ans:** True

**Q4: In which century the teachings of the holy Quran first came to India?**

**Ans:** 7th century

**Q5: According to Sanskrit Prashasti, the eastern limit of Giyasuddin Balban's Empire was extended to Bihar. True/ False**

**Ans:** False

**Q6: Name the language that was considered as the elite class language.**

**Ans:** Sanskrit

**Q7: Name the two sects of Islam.**

**Ans:** Shia and sunni

**Q8: Who is Cartographer?**

**Ans:** Cartographer is the one who makes maps and analyses them and thus helps us in understanding the spread of trade and empire.

**Q9: Who was Al-Idrisi?**

**Ans:** An Arabic geographer

**Q10: Minhaj-us-Siraj used the term 'Hindustan' to refer the areas of Punjab, Haryana and \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Doab of Ganga-Yamuna



**Q11:** Babar used the term 'Hindustan' to specify geography, flora, fauna and cultures of the entire Indian subcontinent. True/ False

**Ans:** True

**Q12: What does the term 'foreigner' meant in the past?**

**Ans:** The one who was not a part of a specific social unit like village or city etc

**Q13: Name some sources that gave information about our past.**

**Ans:** coins, inscriptions, accounts of travellers, art and architecture

**Q14: When did Ziyauddin Barani first wrote his chronicle?**

**Ans:** 1356

**Q15: Amir Khusrau described Mabari as the language of \_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Tamil Nadu

**Q16: What is archives?**

**Ans:** Archives are the place where all old and new documents and manuscripts are kept.

**Q17: In early medieval period, manuscripts were copied by \_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Hands

**Q18: Between 700 to 1750, various socio-cultural changes took place, what was the important reasons for this?**

**Ans:** Interaction with people from different parts of the world

**Q19: Early medieval period saw worship of new \_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Deities

**Q20: Who divided the history of India into Hindu period, Muslim period and British period in 19th century?**

**Ans:** British historians

**Q21: Name the paintings that were used in manuscripts.**

**Ans:** miniature paintings

**Q22: Babar used the term 'Hindustan' in political sense. True/False**

**Ans:** false

**Q23: In Map 1, modern Kanauj was represented by the word \_\_\_\_.**



**Ans:** Qanauj

**Q24: Who all used the Map 2?**

**Ans:** European sailors and merchants.

**Q25: Guillaume de l'Isle belonged to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** France

**Q26: The 'Persian wheel' was used in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Irrigation

**Q27: What was the meaning of term Shikaste?**

**Ans:** a writing style

**Q28: Name the Sultan of Delhi, who was praised in the prashasti written in Sanskrit.**

**Ans:** Balban

**Q29: Who were the Ulemas?**

**Ans:** Theologians and Jurists

**Q30: Name the state where Awadhi is predominantly spoken.**

**Ans:** Uttar Pradesh

**Q31: Name the state where Dvarsamudri is spoken.**

**Ans:** Karnataka

**Q32: Ajnabi is a \_\_\_\_\_ word.**

**Ans:** Persian

**Q33: Name the Hindi word used to describe a foreigner.**

**Ans:** Pardesi

**Q34: The learned theologians and jurists in Islam are known as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Ulama

**Q35: Name the famous poet who used the word 'Hind' for the first time.**

**Ans:** Amir Khusrau

**Q36: According to Khusrau, Telangani is spoken in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Andhra Pradesh



**Q37: Name the eastern extent of the empire of Ghiyassuddin Balban.**

**Ans:** Bengal

**Q38: Name the state where Ma Bari language is spoken.**

**Ans:** Tamil Nadu

**Q39: Why forest dwellers were forced to migrate?**

**Ans:** due to the change in their habitat.

**Q40: What was the ancient name of Bengal?**

**Ans:** Gauda

**Q41: Name the book written by Shihabuddin Umari.**

**Ans:** Masalik al- Absar fi Mamalik al- Amsar

**Q42: Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, a major work on medieval India was written by \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** Ziauddin Barani

**Q43: Name the warrior clan that became popular between 8th and 14th centuries.**

**Ans:** Rajputs

**Q44: Define a patron?**

**Ans:** An influential wealthy individual who supports another person - an artist, a crafts person, a learned man, or a noble is called a patron.

**Q45: Who made Maps in 1154 AD?**

**Ans:** The Arab geographer Al-Idrisi made maps in 1154 AD.

## Short Q&A:

**Q1: What were the major developments in the religious traditions between 700 and 1750?**

**Ans:** Period between 700 and 1750 witnessed major developments in religious traditions.

- During this period, some important changes occurred in Hinduism. Worship of new deities and construction of temples by Kings began. The importance of Brahmanas and priests increased. They became dominant groups in the society.
- Another major development was emergence of the idea of Bhakti in which devotees did not require the aid of priests or elaborate rituals to reach their personal deity.
- During this period, new religions also appeared in the subcontinent. Teachings of the Holy Quran were brought to India in the 7th century by merchants and migrants.

**Q2: Who were the Rajputs?**

**Ans:** The name Rajput is derived from "Rajaputra", the son of a ruler. Between the eighth and fourteenth centuries, a body of warriors who were Kshatriya by caste was termed as Rajputs. The Rajputs were not just rulers and chieftains, but also soldiers and commanders who served in the armies of different monarchs all over the subcontinent. This group of people became important in this period. Poets and bards of these Rajput rulers ascribed some great qualities, such as great valour and immense sense of loyalty, to these rulers.

**Q3: In the Medieval period, for whom was the term foreigner used?**

**Ans:** In modern times, the term foreigner is used for someone who is not an Indian. But in the medieval period, a "foreigner" was any stranger who was not a part of a particular society or culture. Therefore, a forest-dweller might have been regarded as a "foreigner", by a city-dweller. But two peasants living in the same village were not foreigners to each other, even though they may have had different religious or caste backgrounds.

**Q4: What were 'jatis'? How were the affairs of jatis regulated?**

**Ans:** As society became more differentiated, people were grouped into jatis or sub-castes. They were ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and occupations. The status of same jati could vary from area to area. Jatis framed their own rules and regulations to administer the behaviour of their members. An assembly of elders, described in some areas as the jati panchayat, enforced these regulations. Besides they had to follow rules of their village. Several villages were governed by a chieftain.

**Q5: Why did Brahmanas become important in Hindu society in the early 8th century?**



**Ans:** Brahmanas became important during this period due to the following reasons:

- They had knowledge of Sanskrit texts, which made them respectable in the society.
- They had support of their patrons, who were new rulers and searching for prestige.

**Q6: Describe the major developments in religion and the religious traditions?**

**Ans:** During this period many changes were witnessed in religion. Peoples belief in the divine was sometimes personal and at other times collective. Other changes occurred in what we call 'Hinduism' today, as Brahmins earned a lot of respect in society. There was an emergence of the idea of 'Bhakti' of a loving, personal deity that devotees could reach without the aid of priests or elaborate rituals.

**Q7: Compare the value of paper in the thirteenth and fourteenth century?**

**Ans:** In the thirteenth century if a scholar wanted to copy a book, but he did not have enough paper, he washed the writing of a manuscript, he did not want and dried the paper and used it again. In the fourteenth century, there was a shortage of paper and the condition was that, if you bought some food from the market you might be lucky if the shopkeeper wrapped it for you in some paper.

**Q8: Describe the difficulties faced by historians in using manuscripts?**

**Ans:** There was no printing press in those days so the writers copied manuscripts by hands. As a result of copying there occurred small but significant differences in the manuscripts. Small changes were introduced- a word here, a sentence there. Reading these manuscripts over the centuries proved to be difficult and the historians had to face difficulties.

**Q9: Describe the different languages used in this period?**

**Ans:** In this period, various languages were used, in every region. Sindhi, Lahori, Kashmiri, Dvarsamudri, Telangani, Gujarati, Awadhi and Hindawi.

**Q10: State the difference between Shia and Sunni.**

**Ans:** The Shia Muslims went by the Prophet's son-in-law Ali, and Sunni Muslims accepted the authority of the early leaders or the "Khalifas".

**Q11: Who coined the term "Hindustan" in the thirteenth century and which areas were covered under it?**

**Ans:** The term Hindustan which we use as India- a modern nation state was first used by Minhaj-i-Siraj, a chronicler who wrote in Persian. The areas that he used this term for



were Punjab, Haryana, and the lands between Ganga and Yamuna. He used the term in political terms for the land that came under the Delhi Sultanate.

**Q12: What are sources? How are sources helpful to historians?**

**Ans:** Sources are important to trace the ancient records. Different types of sources are coins, inscriptions, architecture and textual records. References to historical events and traditions are scattered in many ancient Indian texts. Historians use these sources to learn about the past depending upon the period of their study and the nature of their investigation.

**Q13: Why was there a dramatic increase in the variety of textual records between 700 to 1750 CE?**

**Ans:** During this period, paper became cheaper and widely available. This resulted in a dramatic increase in the variety of textual records between 700 to 1750 CE. People started using paper to write holy texts, chronicles of rulers, letters and teachings of saints, petitions and judicial records and for registers of accounts and taxes.

**Q14: How has been the meaning of Hindustan changing?**

**Ans:** In the modern sense the term Hindustan is used to refer to the whole independent India with its different states. That is to identify with the whole nation and its states. But during the 13th century Minhaj-i-Siraj, Persian Chronicler, used it indicate the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between Ganga and Yamuna. He used it in political sense to locate the areas, which were under the control of the Delhi Sultan. But during the 16th century Babur used it to mean the whole subcontinent.

**Q15: Mention the vegetables, beverages and technologies that came to Indian subcontinent from other continents?**

**Ans:** Vegetables such as corn, chilies, potatoes, and beverages such as tea and coffee and new technologies like Persian wheel for irrigation and spinning wheel in textile industry and firearms to be used in battle came to the subcontinent from other continents

**Q16: Why the British Historians periodization of Indian history is not correct one?**

**Ans:** The British Historians periodized Indian history as Hindu India, Muslim India and British India. This periodization focused only on the religions of the ruler and rejected the rich diversity of the Indian subcontinent. It did not serve the very purpose of the periodization. That is to say, to capture the characteristics of each periods in the history. Apart from this, to study history from religious perspective is not a rational and scientific way. That is why Indian historians have shifted the periodization to non-religious periodization- Ancient, Medieval and Modern periods.

**Q17: What do you understand by the Discontinuity in historical Sources?**



**Ans:** Historians use coins, inscriptions, and manuscripts for reconstructing the history of ancient period. Very few original manuscripts are available and manuscripts which are available are the reproduction of scribes and some times information provided in these sources are not reliable. As scribe fails to understand the information given in the Historical text which led to the misinterpretation of facts. And moreover there is a lack of continuity as text do not follow time line. In Medieval period use of paper to issue Royal orders began instead of inscriptions. As paper has less durability than inscription caused the discontinuity in the availability of historical source.

### Long Q&A:

**Q1: Describe the Social changes that took place in the years between 700 and 1750 AD**

**Ans:** The social changes that took place in the ten years led to the society becoming more complex. New technology like the persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving and the firearms in combat were developed. New foods and beverages like potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee were introduced. These innovations were brought by travellers who came and settled in new lands. People were grouped into jatis, or sub-caste on the basis of their backgrounds and their occupations. The Rajputs became most powerful and a chivalric code of conduct was developed. Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms and Kayasthas also became important.

**Q2: Why was the information from the manuscripts difficult to use during the thousand years?**

**Ans:** During this period, there was no printing press so the manuscripts were copied by the scribes by hand. The copying of the manuscripts relied upon the accuracy of the scribes. While copying the manuscripts, the scribes made unintentional errors. At times, scribes would also correct the spelling, grammar and alter what they believed to be mistakes inherent in the text. They amended apparent historical and geographical errors. These small differences grew over centuries of copying until manuscripts of the same text became substantially different from one another. As a result, historians find it difficult to use the information from the manuscript and have to read different manuscript versions of the same text to guess what the author had originally written.

**Q3: What changes did technology bring about in the lives of people from 700 CE to 1750 CE?**

**Ans:** Technology revolutionised the lives of people within a span of thousand years. People started travelling long distances in search of opportunities. New food crops arrived in the Indian sub-continent due to new technological inventions in agriculture. There were Persian wheels used in irrigation and spinning wheel in weaving. Gradually forests were cleared and agriculture extended through modern mechanical tools. Many forest dwellers began to migrate and started tilling land, acquiring the title of 'peasants'.





These peasants were influenced by the regional market dynamics and priests. As a result, society became more differentiated and people were grouped into caste and sub-castes depending upon their occupation and background.