

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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TEST COPY

MUKUND SINGH CHAHAR

AIR - 273
(CSE 2022)

HISTORY OPTIONAL

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GS SCORE

History Test Series 2022

TEST - 04

HISTORY

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

$$\frac{72\frac{1}{2}}{250}$$

- There are Eight questions divided in two Sections.
- Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each Section.
- The number of marks caarried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized 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 authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Illustrate your answers with suitable sketches/maps and diagrams, wherever considered necessary. These shall be drawn in the space provided for answering the question itself.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.

Name MUKUND SINGH CHAHAR

Mobile No. - _____

Date - _____

Signature - _____

1. Invigilator's Signature _____

2. Invigilator's Signature _____

Section - A

1. (a) Trace the development of Urdu Language in India. Do you think it had Indian influence or Persian influence in its development as a language?

(150 Words) (10)

"Urdu" emerged as the primary language of communication during Sultanate - Mughal period & developed gradually since 13th C. onwards.

* Development of Urdu in India :

- 1) Originated during 13th C. in military camps to communicate between Hindu - Mughal people.
- 2) Amir Khuro contributed significantly by authoring works & popularizing it in Mughal ~~courts~~ Sultanate courts.
- 3) Gradually it prospered & spread pan-India under Mughal patronage leading to new works.

★ Indian - Persian influence on Urdu:

1) Andrey Trushke: suggested that Urdu emerged as a middle path between "Persian" (Mughals) and "Sanskrit" (Indians) leading to influences from both.

2) Indian influence:

- use of Hindi - Sanskrit root words in Urdu.
- Hindi authors like Kabir also enriched Urdu.

3) Persian influence:

- Use of ornate style & "court" style vocabulary in Urdu.

21/10 write elaborately Sabag-i-
Thus, Urdu emerged from influences of both contributing to the "composite culture" of India.

1. (b) Evaluate the status of Balutedars in south Indian society in medieval period.
(150 Words) (10)

"Balutedars" emerged as a key social group in S. India who further contributed to the hierarchical division of S. Indian Medieval society.

★ Status of Balutedars in Medieval India

- 1) Balutedars were rich landowners who dominated a significant chunk of land.
- 2) They further provided revenue collection services to the central rulers.
- 3) They were frequently autonomous & enjoyed a great amount of power.
- 4) They occupied the top most rung in the hierarchical S. Indian village society.

- 5) Their wealth, prosperity & control on troops allowed their superior status.
- 6) However, they frequently caused menace to the central authority by starting revolts & rebellions.

Thus, Balutedars were a dominant social class in S. India who controlled significant wealth & power & even ^{historically} challenged the authority of central rule.

2 1/2
10

write proper history

1. (c) What was the status of women in the Mughal agrarian society? (150 Words) (10)

Mughal agrarian society comprised of a structured village hierarchy, & women were a crucial group in this structure which contributed immensely to agriculture.

* Status of women in Mughal agrarian society: [sources: Ain-i-Akbari, Bernier]

1) Social status:

- Lacked ownership of land & were frequently employed as menial workers.
- Allowed to work & earn their incomes, but remained subjugated.
- Social evils like sati, Tauhar, polygamy further limited their growth.

2) Political status:

- Did not hold any powerful posts, controlled by male dominated.

society.

→ Lacked political representation & remained
aloof from "Agrarian Policy making".

3) Economic status:

→ Allowed to retain "Stridhana", but
remained excluded from inheritance
of property.

→ Dependent on males for economic
subsistence.

→ Allowed menial jobs, but higher
caste women were not allowed
employment.

Thus, women of Mughal Agrarian
society were restricted in utilizing their
full potential by a male dominated
structure, which persists till today in
Independent India.

1. (d) Why should the sixteenth century be regarded as the period of Indian Renaissance?
(150 Words) (10)

"Renaissance" refers to a "rebirth of society", & Indian society experienced a socio-cultural "rebirth" during the 16th c.

* Indian Renaissance in 16th century:

- 1) Rise of Bhakti-Sufi Movement:
- i) Bhakti : → emerged in 13th - 14th c. in North India.
 - Propagated "love of god", "concept of atma" - Boahma" & aimed at reforming orthodox religious structure of Vedic India.
 - Scholars like "Shankaracharya", "Ramanuja", "Kabir", "Mirabai" contributed to rich philosophy texts (ex: Bijak) & music & art (ex: Santirtana).

- ii) Sufism : → emerged in 13th c. North India.
 → Proposed "unity of being", - Pir-Murid
tradition, & aimed at reforming Islamic
orthodoxy.
 → Contributed to art & culture (ex:
 Makhtab, Malfuzat, Tajkeeras).

2) Cultural growth in 16th c.

↓
Religious harmony
 under AKbar
 (ex: Din-i-Ilahi)

↓
Architectural
excellence
 (ex: Humayun's
tomb)

↓
Growth
of
regional
culture
 (ex: Marathi
reform under
Ekknath)

Thus, ^{distinctive} 16th c. India was a picture
 of ^{perfect} ~~the~~ cultural harmony leading
 to Renaissance & formation of a
syncretic culture.

1. (e) Assess the development of Science and Technology in the Mughal period.
(150 Words) (10)

Mughal period is marked with revolutionary technological innovations that contributed to socio-economic prosperity of Mughal India.

★ Development of Science & Technology in Mughal Period :

1) Weapon technology : → Popularized use of Gunpowder (ex: Babur)

→ Creation of "mobile artillery" & "cannon" with greater mobility.

→ Use of Iron stirrups, armour development.

2) Trade & commerce technology :

→ Mughal Karkhanas emerged as innovation hubs for textile technology (ex: under Akbar)

→ Use of "screw" to innovate "ship-building".

3) Agricultural technology →

→ use of "Gear system" to promote improved irrigation through "Rahat".

4) Civil engineering:

→ use of double domes pietra-dura in architecture. (ex: Taj Mahal)

→ use of "water-cooling" technology in buildings to keep them cool.

5) Translation of scientific texts to promote innovation (ex: Lilavati translated by Faizi)

Thus, ^{Faizi}Mughal India saw a great leap to ^{abundance} greater science & technology leading to ^{Faizi} prosperity & culture of innovation.

2. (a) The rise of the Marathas movement during the seventeenth century was not only a political incident but also had a social background. Comment. (200 Words) (15)

Maratha movement of the 17th-18th century was a complex result of socio-political developments leading to the dominance of Maratha state & its rise as a major power of Medieval India.

* Factors behind rise of Maratha Movement:

- 1) Social factors:
 - i) "Jadunath Sarkar" claims that Maratha movement was the "reaction" of Hindu Marathas against Muslim conquerors (ex: Mughals, Deccan rulers)
 - ii) However, this view is critiqued on basis of connection • Marathas strong Muslim indicating its largely

secular nature (ex: employed muslim archers, allied with Bijapur & Golconda)

iii) Further, there were other "social elements" that contributed to rise of Marathas:

→ "Maharashtra Dharma" propounded by Eknath, Tukaram, Ramdas contributed to "enhanced Maratha unity"

→ "low social divisions" & "egalitarian" nature of society led to cohesiveness.

2) Political factors:

i) Imperialistic outlook of "shivaji": A strong military leader who wished to expand territory.

ii) Reaction to Aurangzeb's challenge:

Post 1666, Maratha movement became

hostile with aim to rebut Mughal imperialism

iii) Deccan politics : Surrounded by hostile Deccan sultanates, ~~Mughals~~ Marathas became a "warring state" → Satish Chandra.

3) Other factors :

* Fig. Maratha State in 17th-18th c.

Mughal challenge

Economic backward due to rough terrain leading to unity

Isolated Geography

for Guerrilla warfare

Hostile Deccan neighbours (ex: Bijapur, Golconda, Khandesh)

Wrote about history of Shivaji

Thus, Marathas emerged as the dominant power of 17th-18th c. on the back of complex socio-economic-political-geographical factors

2. (b) Examine the Mansab and Jagir system by Akbar, as responsible institutions for establishment of Mughals in India. (200 Words)

Mansabdari system was a system of ranking Mughal officials on the basis of dual ranks: zat & sawar, which contributed heavily for setting up the platform for Mughal domination.

★ Role of Mansab & Jagir in establishment of Mughals in India: (source: Ain-i-Akbari)

1) Political role:

→ Imperialism: allowed Mughals to conquer new areas through troops provided by Mansabdars.

→ Law & order: allowed Mughals to control "rebellions" in far-flung areas through network of Mansabdars.

→ Ensured steady supply of troops, horses

Remarks

1) strengthen military prowess of Mughals
 (ex: Akbar's "Dah Bishti" ensured 2 horses
 for each soldier → ensuring well
 trained troops + "Dagh" & "chehra"
 to monitor & assess troops).

2) Economic role:

- Revenue collection: Allowed steady supply of income as Mansabdars collected revenue on behalf of state.
- Law & order ensured stable conditions for "trade" & "commerce".

3) Social role:

- Rajput policy: expanded base of Mughal nobility & allowed easy integration of Rajputs. (ex: Man Singh was granted 7000 rank under Mansabdari system).

* Limitations of Mansabdari system:

- 1) Under weaker rulers post Aurangzeb, Mansabdar became "rebellious" & "autonomous".
- 2) "Jagirdari crisis": Satish Chandra suggests shortage of jagirs post Aurangzeb led to crumbling of system.
- 3) Loyalty of soldiers was divided between Mansabdar & ruler.
- 4) Corruption (ex: inflated Jama) & liberal monitoring of troops led to weakened army.

Despite shortcomings, Mansabdari system laid the foundation for Mughal rule as Mansabdar became "able partners" of Mughal rulers.

2. (c) Assess the condition of peasantry during 13th to 18th centuries CE.

(250 Words) (20)

Peasantry remained a subjugated, exploited social class from 13th - 18th centuries which served as the platform for the great Sultanate & Mughal Empires.

* Condition of peasantry during 13th - 18th century : (Sources: Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi, Ain-i-Akbari)

I. Sultanate Period :

1) Iltutmish : no significant changes in condition of peasantry, Iqtodars emerged as new dominating class over peasantry (Source: Tabakat-i-Nasiri)

2) Alauddin Khilji : Market reforms and "Masahat" system coupled with revenue demand ↑ (~50%) led to severe

exploitation of peasantry, although peasantry around Delhi benefitted from price control.

3) Mohammad bin-Tughlaq: Failed experiments (shift of capital, Doab cultivation experiment) & higher revenue demand led to "migration of peasantry" & thorough ruin of Agriculture (Source: Rehla)

4) Firoz Shah Tughlaq: Peasants benefitted from "irrigation canal network" & "Diwan-i-kohi" leading to "improved status".

II. Mughal Period :-

1) Akbar: "Ain-i-Dahsala" system & classification of land on the lines

of Sher Shah led to agricultural
revolution leading to improved incomes
for peasants

2) Aurangzeb: "Izaratari system" destroyed
agriculture as exploitation of zamindars
ruined peasants.

* Conclusion: General trends of peasantry:

↓
High revenue
demand
($\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$
of
produce)

↓
Exploitation
by zamindar
- jagirdars

↓
Natural
disasters
leading
to
ruin
(ex: drought
in 1337)

↓
Improper
assessment
leading
to
struggle
+
lack of
innovation

Thus, it can be summarized that though
Md. Habib claims this period as "rural
revolution", Bernier's depiction that peasantry
lacked even basic necessities rings more
true.

true. However, the period also saw
"surplus" growth which contributed
 to "urbanization", trade & commerce

of the age.

$\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{20}$

while ~~to~~ sources and
historiography

3. (a) Discuss the evolution and development of Hindi literature in Medieval India.
(200 Words) (15)

Medieval India saw a rich culture of literary prowess & Hindi also saw its pinnacle through patronage by central & regional powers.

* Evolution & Development of Hindi literature in Medieval India:

- 1) Hindi emerged as a preeminent language during "Bhakti" - "Sufi" movement.
- 2) Contributions from scholars like Amir Khusro, Abdul Rahim Khana-i-Khana, Kabir, Malik Mohammad Jaisi etc contributed to its enrichment.
- 3) It received active central patronage

under Mughal rulers (ex: Akbar) leading to its vibrant growth.

4) The period saw creation of exquisite "Biographical", "philosophical", "religious" texts written in Hindi, for ex:

→ Malik Md. Jaisi's "Padmaavat"

→ Kabir's "Bijak", works of Surdas.

→ Rahim Khan-i-Khana's & Kabir's philosophical "Dohas".

→ Ornate texts like "Under Sringaar".

→ Mirabai's "Bhakti devotional songs".

★ Limitations :

1) Hindi literature faced multiple challenges like:

→ Orthodox rulers like Aurangzeb curbed patronage to Hindi & focussed exclusively on "Persian-Urdu".

→ Lack of funds for patronage led to inferior literature developed in provincial states.

→ Hindi texts were mostly patronized for "political purposes" to gain legitimacy & seldom received support for true cultural growth.

5/2
13
Despite limitations, Hindi literature grew by leaps & bounds on a pan-India basis gradually emerging as one of the "official languages" of Modern India.

the major works and contributions

3. (b) What are the various approaches to study the nature of Mughal state? (200 Words)

Nature of Mughal state has been at the centre of heated "debate" among scholars, leading to multiple theories regarding it.

* Approaches to study Nature of Mughal state :

1) Religious approach :

i) Colonial scholars like V.A Smith claim that Mughal state was a "theocratic" entity based on Islam.

ii) This theory proposes that Islamic Mughal state actively promoted religion and "religious ulama" were central to policy making.

iii) However, multidimensional scholars

like Satish Chandra & Trojan Habib suggest that Mughal state was only Islamic formally, with rulers often disregarding advice of ulema (ex: Akbar's promulgation of "infallibility decree")

2) Political approach:

1) Centralised state: scholars like Athar Ali suggest that Mughal Empire was completely centralized based on evidence (ex: uniform currency & taxation, transfer & control of mansabdars)

2) Decentralised state: Chetan Singh claims that Mughal Empire was loosely structured & lacked central control (ex: mansab transfers were not frequent, local elements influenced policies)

iii) Patrimonial bureaucracy : J-F Richards claims that Mughal empire was based on "imperial authority" & "strong bureaucracy" at centre.

iv) Segmentary state : Burton Stein suggests that central "ritual authority" of Mughals was complimented by peripheral segments like Rajputs & Jagirdars.

Though there are multiple theories to decipher nature of Mughal state, its actual nature remains largely a mystery. However, the Manabdari system & successful central control does indicate "strong" central control.

4/2
15

successful
smooth
major
central control

Remarks

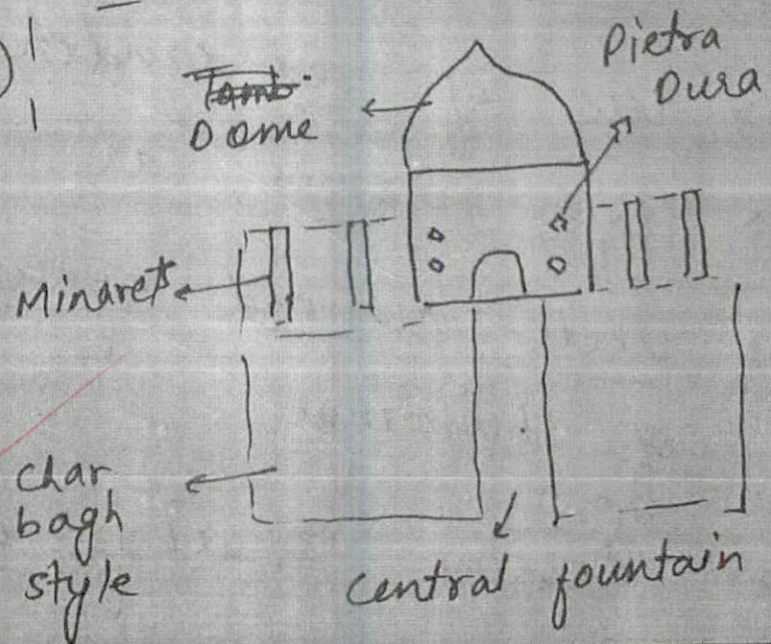
3. (c) Examine the basic features of Mughal architecture with special reference to the Mughal tomb architecture.
(250 Words) (20)

Mughal architecture enriched the rich composite culture of India by combining regional - Persian elements to create true architectural marvels.

★ Features of Mughal Architecture :

- 1) Arc & Dome architecture : (i) Mughals perfected the dome style of Persia & managed to create lofty, pleasing skyline to their architecture (ex: Taj Mahal)!

★ Fig. : Taj Mahal & basic features →



ii) Basic features like symmetrical Minarets, Pietra Dura (i.e. ornamentation by precious stones), charbagh style division of gardens, etc. became prominent features of Mughal architecture.

2) Tomb architecture:

i) Mughals created multiple tombs to immortalize the ulers & their memories (ex: Humayun's tomb).

ii) Basic features of these tombs:

→ use of red sandstone.

→ lofty domes, arc style gateways.

→ well planned, symmetrical division of buildings.

→ massive charbagh style gardens,

fountains surrounding tombs.
 → use of Arabic calligraphy for ornamentation.

3) other architecture:

i) Mughals created architecture for multiple purposes (ex: royal celebrations, palaces).

ii) Basic features:

→ Integration of Persian - Indian elements (ex: Chajja, Chattris, Talis used profusely)

→ Creation of "grand", "lofty" buildings (ex: Fatehpur Sikri complex).

→ Massive Gateways (ex: Facade of Buland Darwaza)

→ Use of red sandstone, use of marble to create pleasing

colour combination.

→ Religious places (ex: Taj Mahal)
with massive space for prayer,
great stairways etc.

Thus, Mughals constructed
like titans, and embellished like

Jewellers leading to glorious
architecture.

contribution to Indian

6 1/2
20

write of

Art
Percy

Brown

Section - B

5. (a) Cartaz system was result of the greed of Portuguese. Discuss. (150 Words) (10)

Cartaz system was a political device to establish control over Indian seas but led to the downfall of Portuguese.

★ Aim & features of Cartaz system :

1) Aim : To satisfy Portuguese greed of establishing "Monopoly" over Indian trade & commerce.

2) Features :

- It involved "creation of boundaries" on Indian seas.
- It included a "permit system" for trading in Indian Ocean as Indian & Arab traders were asked to pay revenue to cross Indian Ocean.

→ Enforced by forts on Indian coast & strong Portuguese navy, it aimed at removing Indo-Arab traders from the equation.

★ Consequences:

- 1) Initially, it ensured enhanced dominance of ~~Portuguese~~ over Indian trade as indigenous navies were lacking.
- 2) Gradually, attempts to "convert people coupled with efforts to monopolize trade ultimately led to stronger reaction from ~~Indo-Arab traders~~ & indigenous rulers ~~by the Portuguese~~.

2/2
10
The ~~the~~ ^{castar} ~~element~~ ^{intro} ~~duced~~ ^{by} system proved that Portuguese efforts to monopolize trade ^{resulted in} ~~displacement~~ ^{displacement} by Indigenous & British forces.

5. (b) Write about the Sufi influence during the Mughal period.

(150 Words) (10)

Sufism emerged as a socio-political reform movement of 13th - 16th century which had "multidimensional influence" during Mughal period.

★ Sufi influence during Mughal period:

1) Political influence:

→ Akbar's "sulh-i-kul" i.e. peaceful coexistence of all was largely a result of syncretic culture created by Sufis.

→ Mughal "Rajput policy" was influenced by Sufi secular elements.

→ Sects like chishtis & Suhrawardi's actively influenced policy making.

2) Social influence:

- Attacked orthodox religions & promoted religious reform, simplicity & devotion
- Created "secular-syncretic" culture during Mughal age.

3) Cultural influence :

- led to creation of new texts (ex: Maktubat, Mafuzat), & new art (ex: ghazals, Sufi devotional songs).

* Limitations of Sufi influence :

↓ <u>Lack of institutional structure</u>	↓ <u>Nomadic nature of Sufi sects</u>	↓ <u>Limited geographical expanse</u>
---	--	--

These limitations restricted Sufi socio-cultural impact, yet it created conditions for emergence of Modern & secular India.

2/10
Mention
Major

Remarks

5. (c) The Rajput policy of Akbar was more influenced by strategic considerations rather than a liberal approach. Discuss. (150 Words) (10)

Akbar's Rajput policy was a careful mix of "pragmatism" & "liberalism" that laid the foundation of Mughal Empire.

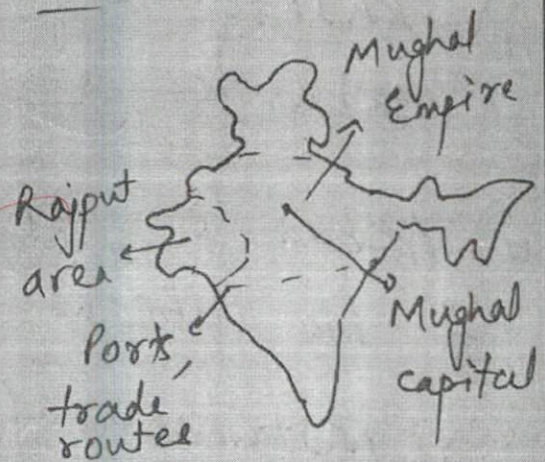
* Factors influencing Akbar's Religious Rajput Policy:

1) Strategic considerations:

i) Political:

→ Proximity of Rajputs to Mughal capital (i.e. Agra)

→ Rebellious nature & strong military force of Rajputs.



* Fig.: India during Akbar.

ii) Economic:

→ Proximity to port on western coast (ex: Khambhat).

→ Danger to trade routes from Gujarat due to Rajput proximity (ex: horse trade from Central Asia).

iii) Structural:

→ Need of stable allies to ensure imperialistic needs of Mughal empire.

2) Liberal considerations:

i) Bhakti-Sufi syncretic culture influenced Akbar's secular approach.

ii) Akbar's upbringing with Rajputs led to his liberal approach Rajput.

iii) Matrimonial alliances further influenced his liberal approach.

$\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}$ to write about the Thurians Akbar's strategic requirement of stability of Mughal empire liberal outlook contributed to his Rajput Policy.

5. (d) The historiography of the Mughals is well established on the basis of Persian literature. Comment critically. (150 Words) (10)

Mughal age is marked with excellent historiography due to court patronized Persian scholars (ex: Abul Fazl: Ain-i-Akbari, Baburnama, Humayunnama, Padehahinama) providing source for tracing Mughal history.

* Contribution of Persian literature in establishing Mughal historiography:

1) Chronology: Persian sources provide insights of succession, reign of multiple rulers leading to clear chronology of rulers.

2) Political insights: (ex: Ain-i-Akbari) provides details of Akbar's administration

2) Social insights: Persian works provide religious - social policies of Mughal rulers in intricate details (ex: Baburnama describes Babur's early 'Jihad spirit' for establishing empire)

★ Issues & Limitations:

1) Biased view: Patronized by rulers, court authors often neglected true picture (ex: Bernier suggests poor condition of peasantry but no such mention in Persian texts).

2) Filled with exaggerations & core-centric ^{other} view.

3) Focus ^{of then} on political history, neglect social history from below.

Despite issues, Persian sources show excellent historiography skills & are crucial to trace Mughal age

Remarks

2 1/2
10

While importance of Persian literature almost always overshadowed by Mughal historiography

5. (c) Outline the differences between the Mughal and Rajput styles of painting.
(150 Words) (10)

Mughal & Rajput styles influenced each other, yet showed various differences leading to their categorizations as separate painting schools.

* Differences between Mughal & Rajput styles of painting:

MUGHAL

i) Popular around U.P. Delhi belt

ii) Focus on "court" and "royal activities" (ex: court proceedings)

iii) show European influence &

RAJPUT

i) Emerged in Rajasthan - Gujarat

ii) Focus on "religious" themes, themes of music & "seasons" (ex: Krishna - Radha Dalliance)

iii) Lacks European influence & mostly

depict innovations like
"depth of perception"
(ex: Jahangir's portraits)

influenced by
regional art

iv) Depicts influence
of Persian - Indian
themes (ex: Painters
like Abdus Samad
came from C. Asia)

iv) Focus on
"indigenous"
artists &
themes

v) Emerged strongly
in 15th - 16th c
& declined under
Aurangzeb.

v) Prospered post
17th c. as more
artists migrated
to Rajasthan.

vi) Famous ex:
Tutinama
Hamzanama

vi) Famous examples:
Bani Thari,
Nal - Damyanti

Multiple differences but both contribute
in enrichment of Indian art & culture.

Remarks

2/10
Wrote

his ~~history~~ ^{history of} ~~the~~ ^{like}
~~historians~~ ^{Rajput}
~~multiple~~ ^{multiple} ~~differences~~ ^{differences}

6. (a) Draw a picture of development in painting throughout the Mughal period with special reference to European contribution. (200 Words) (15)

Mughals strongly patronized art & culture leading to stellar development in painting throughout the Mughal period.

★ Development in painting through Mughal period:

i) Humayun's reign:

→ Humayun brought Persian painters Abdus Samad & Mir Sayyid who introduced "Persian elements" to Indian paintings.

→ The period saw paintings on court proceedings, royal culture & themes of hunting.

(i) Akbar's reign :

→ Akbar patronized "Daswanth" & "Basawan" who contributed to paintings.

→ He established separate "kutbana" for paintings.

→ The period saw "illustration" of prominent works like Persian tales, Ramayan & Mahabharata (ex: Tutiama).

(ii) Jahangir's reign :

→ Jahangir was a keen art enthusiast & an artist himself.

→ He promoted "European influence" in paintings leading to new developments like:

- use of finer brush strokes &

lighter colours

- "Portraits" of royal rulers
- Focus on "depth of perception" & "shadones"

→ He also patronised "nature" themes, leading to beautiful images of flora - fauna.

→ "Golden colours" became most prominent in Mughal paintings depicting "prosperity".

Thus, Mughal age saw significant growth in paintings leading to rich integration of Indian-Persian-European themes & rise of a stellar painting tradition.

Emphasise more European

6. (b) The Institutional factors were more responsible for the decline of Mughals. Critically analyse. (200 Words)

Mughal decline has been at the centre of "debate" by multiple scholars who propose multiple theories to explain it.

★ Factors responsible for decline of Mughals:

i) Institutional factors:

→ Over-centralisation: Excess dependence on central ruler led to disintegration when weaker rulers came post Aurangzeb.

→ Military state: Continuous warring led to depletion of military.

→ Succession disputes: Poorly followed hereditary law of succession

resulted in massive wear & depletion of strength (ex: Battle of Dharmat)

(i) Other factors:

→ Aurangzeb's policies: Jadunath Sarkar suggests that Aurangzeb's extreme orthodox attitude & Deccani ulcer led to decline.

→ "Jagirdari crisis": Satish Chandra contends that shortage of fertile Jagirs led to constant wear & factionalism leading to disintegration.

→ "Agrarian crisis": Irfan Habib proposes that "excess revenue" demand, lack of agricultural innovation led to decline in productivity.

→ Technology: Ali blames backwardness: Other technological limitations

for decline.

→ Monetary Anasmita crisis: Shireen
Mousvi proposes that decline in
 value of silver followed by excess
 coinage led to inflation & subsequent
 economic crisis.

Thus, it can be concluded
 that multiple factors were at
 play i.e. socio-political-economic
- technological is institutional which
 ultimately ^{caused} led to Mughal decline.

3/15
 Proper
 required

6. (c) Evaluate Akbar as a social reformer and its importance to get the legitimacy for the Mughals in India. (250 Words) (20)

Akbar is known as a "social-political innovator" whose advanced policies ensured stability & prosperity of Mughal Empire.

* Evaluating Akbar's reforms:

1) Social reforms:

- Abolished "Jaziya" on Hindus & liberalised oppressive taxation.
- Stopped Enslavement of Prisoners of war & allowed their liberal treatment.
- Abolished "Forced Sati" & attempted to eradicate social evils.
- Formulated secular "Rajput policy"

leading to stability.

2) Religious reforms :

i) Created doctrine of "Sulh-i-Kul" i.e. peaceful coexistence of all.

ii) Created pantheistic sect of "Din-i-Ilahi" with desirable values of all religions.

iii) Promoted "Ibadatkhana" discussions & promulgated "Mahzar"

★ Consequences of Akbar's reforms :

PROS :

i) Provided much needed "legitimacy" to Mughal rulers as they were

now perceived as "benevolent rulers"
and not conquerors.

ii) Expanded "social base of Nobility"
& ~~count~~ promoted harmony.

iii) Countered dominance of Ulemas
& Irani-Turani nobles.

CONS :

i) V.A Smith called "invalidity
decree" a "silly policy" showing
"unrestrained autocracy".

ii) Akbar's social reforms were
viewed as "unfair interference"
in Indian social traditions (ex: Sati)

iii) Akbar's legacy remained short
lived as Aurangzeb reversed his

policies to create an orthodox
Islamic state.

Despite limitations & short
lived nature, Akbar's reforms
undoubtedly improved perception
of Mughals & created conditions
of peace & stability for Mughal
Empire to be grown.

61/20
Answer should be
based on source
historiography