



1. Which ruler first established his or her capital at Delhi?

Answer: The Tomara Rajputs were the first rulers who established their capital at Delhi.

2. What was the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans?

Answer: It was Persian.

3. In whose reign did the Sultanate reach its farthest extent?

Answer: The Sultanate reached its farthest extent during the reign of Muhammad Tughluq.

4. From which country did Ibn Battuta travel to India?

Answer: Ibn Battuta belonged to Morocco, Africa and travelled to India.

5. According to the 'circle of justice' why was it important for military commanders to keep the interests of the peasantry in mind?

Answer: Peasantry was the backbone of the entire kingdom. The king could not do anything without it because it was the source of revenue. The soldiers got the salaries which came from this revenue. Hence, it was necessary to keep the peasants prosperous and happy because only then they could be able to pay revenue. Now, it becomes clear why the military commanders kept the interests of the peasantry at top.

6. What is meant by the 'internal' and 'external' frontiers of the Sultanate?

Answer: The 'internal' frontier means the hinterland of the garrison town.

The 'external' frontier means the areas beyond the hinterland of the garrison towns.

7. What were the steps taken to ensure that muqtis performed their duties? Why do you think they may have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans?

Answer: The steps taken are given below:

- Accountants were appointed by the state to check the amount of revenue collected by the
- Care was taken that the muqti collected only the taxes prescribed by the state and not more than that.
- It was also taken care that he kept only the required number of soldiers.

The muqtis may have wanted to defy the orders to the Sultans because their appointment was not hereditary. Also, their job was transferable. What is more, the conditions of service were severely imposed on them which they did not like.

8. What was the impact of the Mongol invasions on the Delhi Sultanate? Ans. The Delhi Sultanate mobilised a large standing army in Delhi. It posed a big administrative challenge.

- Alauddin Khalji constructed a new garrison town at Siri for his soldiers. He imposed taxes on land to feed the army at the

rate of 50 percent of peasant's yield. He began to pay the soldiers in cash.

- Muhammad Tughluq shifted people of Delhi to Daulatabad in south and thus converted Delhi into a garrison town. He also disbanded the army. He also paid the soldiers in cash.

9. Do you think the authors of tawarikh would provide information about the lives of ordinary men and women?

Answer: I don't think like that. It is because the authors of tawarikh lived in cities mainly Delhi. They were not in touch of village people. They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards. They had nothing to do with common mass. Hence, it was obvious that the information provided by them would lack ordinary men and women.

10. Raziyya Sultan was unique in the history of the Delhi Sultanate. Do you think women leaders are accepted more readily today?

Answer: Yes, I think like that. The situation has changed today. Due to the spread of education people now realise the potential of women. So, they have started accepting them as leaders. Even in rural areas now we see women Sarpanches and Councillors.

11. Why were the Delhi Sultans interested in cutting down forests?

Does deforestation occur for the same reasons today?

Answer: The Delhi Sultans cleared the forests in the Ganga-Yamuna doab and gave these lands to peasants in order to encourage agriculture. They also established new fortresses and towns in these lands to protect trade routes and to promote regional trade. No, deforestation does not occur for the same reasons today. Nowadays, vegetation cover is being reduced due to over-population, urbanisation and commercialisation.

12. Find out whether there are many buildings built by the Delhi Sultans in your area. Are there any other buildings in your area that were built between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries? Describe some of these buildings, and draw sketches of them.

Answer: Students are suggested to visit their city and prepare the list themselves. They can take help of their parents.

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