

History Class 12 Important Question Chapter 5 Through the Eyes of Travellers

Q1: Who was appointed as a qazi or judge of Delhi.

Ans: Ibn-Battuta.

Q2: Who was ordered to proceed to china as the Sultan's envoy to the Mongol Ruler.

Ans: Ibn-Battuta.

Q3: Which French traveller travelled to India at least six times?

Ans: Tavernier.

Q:4 What was the profession/ occupation of Tavernier?

Ans: Jeweller.

Q5: What was the profession of Bernier?

Ans: He was a doctor, political philosopher & historians.

Q6: Who was the doctor of Prince Dara Shikoh?

Ans: Bernier.

Q7: Which traveller finally settled down in India?

Ans: Italian Doctor Manucci.

Q8: Description of Daulatabad was given by which traveller?

Ans: Ibn – Battuta .

Q9: Name any two travellers who came India during the medieval period (11th to 17th C.E.)?

Ans.

- Al Biruni (11th Century) from Uzbekistan
- Ibn-Battuta (14th Century) from Northwestern Africa, Morocco.

Q10: What was Al-Biruni's objective to come to India?

Ans. help those who want to discuss religious questions with them.

Q11. Name the plant found in India which amazed Ibn-Battuta.

Ans.

- **Coconut** – He wrote that the nuts of coconut resembles a man's head.
- **Paan** – He wrote about Paan that the betel has no fruit and is grown only for the sake of his leaves...

Q12. When was Al-Biruni born.

Ans. Al-Biruni was born in 973 C.E..

Q13. Name two Portuguese writers who came to India.

Ans.

- Jesuit Roberto Nobili – in 16th Cen.
- Duarte Barbosa

Q.14. Name of the book which is written by Al-Biruni .

Ans. Kitab-ul-Hind” also known as “Tahkik-a-Hind”

3 Marks Questions

Q15. What were the elements of the practice of Sati that drew the attention of Bernier?

Ans.

- According to Bernier, the treatment of women in western and Eastern societies has a lot of difference.
- Child widows were forcefully burnt screaming in agony.
- Duarte Barbosa – Wrote about trade & society of Southern India.

Q16. What does AL-Beruni write about the administration of justice in India?

Ans.

- The administration of Justice in India was as follows
- Crude and primitive in many ways – but also liberal and humane.
- Written complaints, cases were decided on the testimony of witnesses.
- Criminal Law was mild.
- Brahmanas were exempted from taxation and capital punishment.

Q17. Give any one feature of the writing of the foreign travellers to India during the medieval period.

Ans.

- To some extent, the personal prejudices and interests of the travellers colour the versions given by them.
- In associating the historical data, the writer has to be extremely impartial.
- They wrote about social & cultural life in India during medieval period.

Q.18 .Mention any three shortcomings of Ibn-Battuta's account.

Ans.

- He didn't take notes of everything which he saw daily.
- Many things out of his memory.
- He also wrote those things which he heard from his friends.
- So in his account one finds such terrible mistakes as "wrong routes" and "wrong names" of the rulers.

Q19. How did Ibn Battuta describe Indian cities?

Ans.

- Indian Cities were densely populated.
- Very prosperous
- Streets were crowded.
- Markets were bright and colorful & had a variety of goods.
- The Market were the hub of social & cultural activities and economic transactions.
- They had both a mosque and a temple.
- They had spaces for public performers

Q20. Compare and contrast the perspectives from which Ibn Battuta and Bernier wrote their accounts of their travels in India.

Ans. Ibn Battuta's

Perspectives –

Narrative style.

Highlighted anything that was unfamiliar and different.

(b) Bernier's Perspective –

- He belonged to a different intellectual tradition.
- He was concerned with comparing and contrasting things in India with

Europe.

- He emphasized the superiority of Europe.
- He perceived differences hierarchically and shows India was inferior to the western world.

Q21. Analyze the evidence for slavery provided by Ibn Battuta.

Ans. Evidence for Slavery –

- Slaves were openly sold in Market.
- Different types of slaves.
- Female slaves in the service of Sultan.
- Slaves were used for different kind of domestic work.
- Female slaves were appointed to keep an eye on the nobles of the Sultan.
- It was tradition to present slaves as a gift.

Q22. Write a note on Kitab-UI-Hind.

Ans.- It's written by AL-Biruni in Arabic.

- It's simple, lucid and easy to understand.
- It has 80 chapters.
- Varied topics e.g. religion, philosophy to customs, social life, metrology.
- Most of chapters beginning with a Questions followed by a description and concluded with a comparison with other culture.

Q23. Describe the Social condition of India as described by Al-Biruni in the 12th Century.

Ans.

Social Condition of India.

- Child marriage.
- Widows were not allowed to remarry.
- Practice of Sati was in vogue.
- Uncultured people were polytheists, but the cultured classes' believed in one god.
- No one popular Religion of India at that time.
- About 42 religions in the country.
- Hinduism was divided into number of sects.

Q24. According to Bernier, What were the evil-effect of the crown ownership of land?

Ans.

- Absence of ownership of land,
- landholders could not pass on their land to their children.

8 Marks Questions

Q25. Describe the extent to which Bernier's account enables historians to reconstruct contemporary rural society.

Ans.

- In the Mughal Empire all land was owned by the emperor.
- Lack of Private property.
- Crown ownership was disastrous for both economy and society.
- Land couldn't be inherited by their heirs.
- Land holders ignored the improvement in land.
- Resulted – decline in agricultural yields, oppression of the peasantry, decline in living standards of all sections of society.
- There were only two classes – rich ruling class and poor class – no middle class existed in India.
- Many European travellers were influenced by Bernier's view. But this presents an erroneous picture.

Q26. Discuss Al-Baruni's is understanding of the caste system.

Ans.

- Caste System was influenced by Sanskrit texts.
- There were four Vernas i.e. Brahman, Kshatriya, vaishya and shudra.
- He pointed out about ancient Persian society which was also divided into four categories.
- He was against the notion of pollution.
- According to the law of nature anything which becomes impure, ultimately becomes pure again.
- He realized that the caste system was not as rigid as portrayed in Sanskrit text.
- Untouchables were expected to provide inexpensive labour to peasants and zamindars.