
BANGLADESH STUDIES

0449/01

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

May/June 2015

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 **8** printed pages 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) What does Mir Mosharraf Hossain's masterpiece *Bishad Shindhu* tell the story of?
 A The Battle of Plassey (Palashi)
 B The Battle of Karbala
 C The Battle of Panipat
 D The Battle of Sandvip [1]
- (ii) What is the title of Jasimuddin's first book of poems published in 1927?
 A The Grave (Kabar)
 B Shepherd (Rakhali)
 C The Poet of the Countryside (Palli Kabi)
 D Creation of Women (Nari-Sristi) [1]
- (iii) Kazi Nazrul Islam was arrested in 1922 and imprisoned for a year. How did he protest about this?
 A By writing a play
 B By burning his clothes
 C By a hunger strike
 D By joining the Communist Party [1]
- (iv) Begum Rokeya's first story was written in 1905 and published in 1908. What was it called?
 A Sultana's Dream
 B The Secluded Women
 C The Fruit of Knowledge
 D Bengali Nights [1]
- (v) What is the subject of Zainul Abedin's painted scroll *Manpura*?
 A The countryside of Bengal
 B Famine victims
 C The War of Liberation
 D The devastation of the cyclone of 1970 [1]

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

- (i) Describe the life and work of Lalon Shah. [5]
 (ii) Explain why he is so important in the culture of Bangladesh. [3]

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

- (i) Explain the importance of the following in the cultural life of Bangladesh.
 • The development of literature
 • Folk culture [8]
- (ii) Which of these do you think has made the more important contribution to the cultural life of Bangladesh? Explain why. [4]

[Total: 25]

Choose TWO of questions 2 to 4.

Answer ALL parts of the two questions you choose.

Question 2: The Mughal Period

The Emperors Humayan and Akbar



The tomb of Sher Shah in Sasaram, Bihar

Humayan succeeded his father and faced severe resistance from Sher Shah (also known as Sher Khan), an Afghan, who had taken Bengal and Bihar. Sher Shah had captured Gaur. When the Sultan of Bengal refused to pay tribute, Sher Shah overthrew him. The Mughal Emperor Humayan then invaded Bengal with a large force, but was defeated in 1539. Another defeat forced the Emperor to flee in 1540, and for five years Sher Shah ruled the Empire, making significant changes and reforms. After Sher Shah's death, Humayan returned, and both he and his son Akbar restored Mughal power.

5

Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i) Who was Humayan's father? (line 1) | [1] |
| (ii) When did Sher Shah capture Gaur? (line 2) | [1] |
| (iii) What was the name of the Sultan overthrown by Sher Shah? (line 3) | [1] |
| (iv) Where was Humayan defeated in 1539? (line 4) | [1] |
| (v) Where did Humayan flee to? (line 5) | [1] |

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

- (i) Describe how Akbar restored the authority of the Mughal Emperor 1556–1605.
- (ii) Explain how Sher Shah was able to defeat the Emperor Humayan.

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

- (i) Explain the importance of the following elements of Sher Shah's rule 1540–45.
 - His measures to improve trade, communications and finance
 - His religious and charitable work

[8]
- (ii) Which of these was more important for his people? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

Question 3: The British Period

Events Leading to Independence



The Founders of the Muslim League

British rulers brought about problems when they tried to make changes. These often increased hostility between Muslims and Hindus in Bengal. The Partition of 1905 led to the formation of the Simla Demands of 1906 and to the All-India Muslim League. However, there was co-operation between Muslims and Hindus for political reform during the First World War, and a pact was signed in 1916. Muslims and Hindus were both disappointed by the reforms of 1919. The Khilafat movement was supported by people from both religions. The Nehru Report resulted from an all-party conference. From 1937 the Muslim League re-organised itself, and its leader put forward a 'Two Nation' theory that was to lead to the creation of an independent Muslim state after the Second World War.

5

Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) Which British viceroy partitioned Bengal? (line 2) [1]
- (ii) Name the pact between Muslims and Hindus in 1916. (line 4) [1]
- (iii) What were the reforms of 1919 known as? (line 5) [1]
- (iv) Name the leader of the Muslim League. (line 7) [1]
- (v) In what year was an independent Muslim state created? (line 8) [1]

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

- (i) What were the demands of the Nehru Report? [5]
- (ii) Explain the importance of the Partition of Bengal in 1905 for Muslims in Bengal. [5]

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

(i) Explain the political importance of the following after 1937.

- AK Fazlul Huq and the KPP
- The Muslim League

(ii) Which of these affected the people of Bengal more? Explain your answer.

[2]

[Total: 25]

Question 4: From Pakistan to Bangladesh**Problems facing the new nation of Pakistan****Refugees during the period of the Partition of India and Pakistan**

After the second partition of Bengal, despite the efforts of the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hindu-majority West Bengal was separated from the Muslim East Bengal. East Bengal was separated from the rest of the new state of Pakistan by a considerable distance. There was a large amount of communal violence, and many refugees fled into the new states. It was more difficult for Pakistan to become a new country than for India. There were geographic and economic problems and disputes with India. Also, there were problems about social issues, particularly concerning language. In 1948 there was an announcement by the Governor General that there would be a single language, which led to unrest in East Pakistan.

5

Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) Who was the Chief Minister of Bengal? (line 1) [1]
- (ii) Approximately what distance separated East Bengal and West Pakistan? (lines 2–3) [1]
- (iii) Which territory caused the most important dispute with India? (line 6) [1]
- (iv) What was the name of the Governor General who announced the single language in 1948? (line 7) [1]
- (v) Name the common language. (line 8) [1]

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

- (i) Describe the migration of refugees into Pakistan after independence. [5]
- (ii) Why was the language issue so important for East Bengal between 1948 and 1952? [5]

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

(i) Explain the importance of the following to the new state of Pakistan.

- Economic problems
- The division of financial and military assets between India and Pakistan

(ii) Which of these do you think had the greater importance for the people of Pakistan? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

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