

Class XII - History

Chapter 5: Through the Eyes of Travellers

Assignment (CBSE PYQs)

I. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs - 1 Mark)

1. Al-Biruni came to India from which country? (CBSE 2019, 2023)
(a) Morocco (b) Uzbekistan (Khwarizm) (c) France (d) Italy
2. What was the original language of the text 'Kitab-ul-Hind'? (CBSE 2020)
(a) Persian (b) Arabic (c) Turkish (d) Urdu
3. What is the name of Ibn Battuta's travelogue? (CBSE 2018, 2024)
(a) Safarnama (b) Rihla (c) Tazkira (d) Humayunnama
4. What was François Bernier, the 17th-century French traveller, by profession? (CBSE 2022 Term-1)
(a) Physician and Philosopher (b) Military Officer (c) Merchant (d) Religious Preacher

II. Short Answer Questions (3/4 Marks)

1. What were the main barriers Al-Biruni identified in understanding Indian society? (CBSE 2017, 2020, 2023)
2. How did Ibn Battuta describe the Indian postal system? Mention its key features. (CBSE 2018, 2021)
3. Describe François Bernier's account of landownership in Mughal India. (CBSE 2019, 2024)

III. Long Answer Questions (8 Marks)

1. "Ibn Battuta found Indian cities full of exciting opportunities, dense populations, and prosperous trade." In light of this statement, analyze his description of urban centers in India. (CBSE 2018, 2022, 2024)
2. How did François Bernier compare conditions in Mughal India with those in contemporary Europe in his book *Travels in the Mughal Empire*? Explain. (CBSE 2016, 2020, 2023)

IV. Source-Based Question (4 Marks)

Source (CBSE 2020):

"Al-Biruni wrote about the caste system: 'The highest caste are the Brahmana... after them follow the Kshatriya... then the Vaishya and the Shudra.' Al-Biruni disapproved of the notion of pollution. He remarked that everything that becomes impure strives and succeeds in regaining its original condition of purity..."

- (a) According to Al-Biruni, what were the four main Varna categories in Indian society? (1 Mark)
- (b) Why did Al-Biruni reject the concept of 'pollution'? (2 Marks)
- (c) To which other ancient civilization did Al-Biruni compare the Indian caste system? (1 Mark)

V. Map Work (PYQ)

On the outline map of India/South Asia, locate and label the following:

- Khwarizm or Sindh (Entry route of Ibn Battuta) (CBSE 2019)
- Daulatabad (Described by Ibn Battuta as a rival city to Delhi) (CBSE 2023)