



VII - SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASS WORK NOTES

1. TRACING CHANGES THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS

I. Technical Words

1. Medieval Period - Relating to Middle Ages dated between CE700 to 1750
2. Cartography - The Science of drawing maps
3. Epigraphy - Study of inscriptions on coins, buildings, Pillars and rock edicts
4. Manuscripts - A Literacy work which is written by hand
5. Numismatics - The Study of Coins, bank notes and even Decorative medals
6. Scribe - A Person who copied the manuscripts by hand
7. Archives - A repository of public records or manuscripts
8. Jatis - Subcastes
9. Pan-Regional - A View of diverse regions
10. Caliphs - The Successors of Prophet Muhammad

II. VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Who was considered a 'foreigner' in the past?

Ans. A stranger who was not familiar with the villagers of town dwellers was a foreigner in the past.

Q. 2. What are the literary sources of history of the medieval period of India ?

Ans. Manuscripts related to religions, chronicles, autobiographies, biographies, travelogues and documents are the literary sources of history of medieval period of India.

Q. 3. List some of the technological changes associated with the medieval period.

Ans. Some of the technological changes associated with the medieval period are

- (i) introduction of the Persian wheels in irrigation
- (ii) use of spinning wheel in weaving
- (iii) use and making of firearms for war

Q. 4. What do you mean by the term, pan-regional empire?

Ans. Pan-regional empire means the empire spanning diverse regions. It encloses or encompasses the distinct linguistic and cultural characteristics of the regions.

III. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. How does the geography influence the history of a region ?

Ans. The geography influences the history of a region because it determines the development of a particular area. The area where the environment is favourable it is densely populated and their culture is also affected by outside influences or foreign travellers. If the area has unfavourable environment, it is sparsely populated. The culture developed there is not much affected by outside influences as few travellers go there

Q. 2. Describe any two archaeological sources of the medieval period in India.

Ans. We know archaeological sources are mainly buildings and the objects found in the ground. Thus buildings, paintings, coins, sculptures and inscriptions of the medieval period are the important sources of the history of this period. Among the buildings Buland Darwaza, Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Qutb Minar etc. are of this period. While paintings like court of Akbar from Akbarnama is another source of archaeology of this period.

Q. 3. Describe some important chronicles of history of the medieval period in India.

Ans. The records of the rule of kings and their lives at the court are chronicles.

Some important chronicles of medieval period in India are:

(i) **Rajatarangini** : It is a Sanskrit composition written by Kalhana. This contains the history of the kings of Kashmir.

(ii) **Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi** : It is written in Persian and Arabic. It is written by Zia-ud-din Baruni. It has the history of Sultans of Delhi.

(iii) **Khazain-ul-futuh** : It is composed by Amir Khusrau. It describes the regions of Khaljis.

(iv) **Tughluqnama** : It is also written by Amir Khusru. It describes the reigns of Tughluqs.

Q. 4. “The medieval period has marked significant changes in religious conditions of India.” Discuss.

Ans. The medieval period has marked significant changes in religious conditions of India. During this period Hinduism and Islam religions had developed. In Hinduism new deities came to be worshipped as some tribal and forest groups were absorbed into Hindu Society. Due to this tribal ideas of worship were brought in Hindu religion. Temples construction had become an important activity among Hindu rulers. The importance of Brahmanas and priests grew. The Idea of Bhakti was emerged during this period. Bhakti movement attracted people from all sections.

While Islam emerged as a new religion during this period. Islam believes in Allah as one God and teachings of Prophet Muhammad. These teachings of Muhammad are in the holy book Quran. Many rulers were patrons of Islam. After Prophet Muhammad's death a Khalifa succeeded him as the religious and political head of Muslims community. Later Muslim Community split into two

sects Shia and Sunni. For Shia Ali was legitimate leader while Sunni accepted Khalifas as head of community. Hanafi and Shafi schools became popular in Islamic law in India. Thus, these two religions *i.e.*, Hinduism and Islamic brought a great change in religious conditions of India during medieval period.

IV. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. How has the meaning of the term, 'Hindustan' changed over the centuries ?

Ans. The meaning of the term, "Hindustan" changed over the centuries in many ways. By a famous Persian writer and historian Minhaj-i-Siraj Hindustan meant the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. He had used this word in a political sense for lands which came under the Delhi Sultanate. While Babur in the 16th century used word Hindustan to describe the geography, the fauna and culture of the inhabitants of the subcontinent. Amir Khusrau used the word Hind in similar way but did not have political meaning. Now a days, Hindustan is a modern nation state. The word carries political and national meaning.

Q. 2. In what ways were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Ans. Jatis or sub-castes were ranked on the basis of their backgrounds their profession or occupations. These were different according to the power, influence and resources controlled by Jati members. The status of same jati could vary from region to region.

Their affairs were regulated in the following ways :

(i) Each Jati framed its own rules and regulations to manage the conduct of its members.

(ii) The Jati Panchayat which was an assembly of elders enforced these regulations.

(iii) They had to follow the rules of their own village also.

(iv) Several villagers were governed by a chieftain. This way their affairs were regulated.

Q. 3. Mention the various difficulties that historians face in using manuscripts.

Ans. The difficulties which the historians face in using the manuscripts are as follows :

(i) Manuscripts are substantially different from one another as the manuscripts were written by hand as there was no printing press at that time. The changes in the beginning were small but these kept on growing over centuries so brought a change for which one has to think what could be written originally.

(ii) Chronicles were revised by their respective authors or others and the revision had brought changes from each other this brought a confusion to historians.

Historians have to be careful about the term they use as they might have different meanings in past

Q. 4. What were some of the major religious developments during the medieval period ?

Ans. During the medieval period some of the major religious developments were as follows :

- It saw the development of Hinduism and Islam as major religions.
- In Hinduism new deities came to be worshipped.
- Some tribal ideas of worship were brought into Hinduism as some tribal and forest groups were absorbed in Hindu society.
- Among Hindu rulers construction of temples became an important activity.
- Brahmins and priests got more importance due to their knowledge of Sanskrit. They became more powerful and wealthy.
- Brahmins used their powers to make rigid religious rules and rigid castes.
- Bhakti Movement emerged and many people were attracted towards it.
- A new religion Islam emerged. People of Islam religion believe in Allah and teachings of last prophet Muhammad.
- Teachings of Muhammad are contained in the holy book called Quran.
- Many rulers were patrons of Islam.
- Muslim community split into Shia and Sunni.

Hanafi and Shafi became popular schools of Islamic Law

Q. 5. How do historians divide the past into periods ? Do they face any problem in doing so ?

Ans. Many Britishers in the 19th century divided the history of India into three periods *i.e.*, Hindu, Muslims and British as they were very critical of Indian culture. This division had drawbacks as it was based on the religion of the rulers. They ignored important historical developments of the society, economy and culture. They also ignored the diversity of the Indian subcontinent.

Thus to have the clear picture of important changes in history, the other historians divided the past into three periods *i.e.*, the Ancient or Early Past, The Medieval or Middle Period and The Modern Period. The Medieval Period is further divided into two periods

- (i) Early Medieval Period (8th—12th Century AD)
- (ii) Later Medieval Period (13th—18th Century AD)

Yes, the Historians face many problems in dividing the past into ancient, medieval and modern periods as a period is often contrasted with the other period like medieval period with modern period