



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**BANGLADESH STUDIES**

**7094/01**  
**0449/01**

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

**May/June 2009**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **three** questions.

Answer **Question 1** and **two** other questions.

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on each question.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

\* 2 5 0 0 2 7 4 1 4 1 \*

You MUST answer this question. Answer ALL parts.

**Question 1: The Culture and Heritage of Bangladesh**

**Part (a)**

(i) Which important cultural figure was born in Jhenidah district in 1772?

- A Alaol
- B Begum Rokeya
- C Kazi Nazrul Islam
- D Lalon Shah

[1]

(ii) What tribute was paid to Mir Mosharraf Hossain?

- A A statue was erected in his memory
- B A university was named after him
- C He was given an important award by his local town
- D He was knighted by the King of England

[1]

(iii) How old was Rabindranath Tagore when he wrote his first rhyme?

- A 7
- B 17
- C 27
- D 37

[1]

(iv) Whose patriotic songs inspired the freedom fighters during the War of Liberation?

- A Begum Rokeya
- B Jasimuddin
- C Kazi Nazrul Islam
- D Zainul Abedin

[1]

(v) Which of the following statements about Alaol is **not** true?

- A He has a literary award named after him
- B His father was killed by pirates
- C His masterpiece is called *Padmavati*
- D His parents were very poor

[1]

**Part (b)**

How has architecture contributed to the development of Bangladeshi culture? Explain your answer by referring to any period of your choice. [8]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following do you think has made the most important contribution to the development of the culture of Bangladesh? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. You must give examples of their work to support your answer.

- Jasimuddin
- Rabindranath Tagore
- Zainul Abedin

[12]

Choose TWO of questions 2 to 4.

Answer ALL parts of the two questions you choose.

### Question 2: Pre-Mughal Bengal

#### From Ancient Bengal to the arrival of Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji

After the fall of the Mauryas the Guptas rose to power in the Indian sub-continent. By the mid-fourth century AD they had brought most of Bengal's independent states under their control. Bengal prospered as part of Gupta Empire. One visitor described a great Gupta trading emporium that was located on the banks of the Ganges in West Bengal. 1

Around 600 AD Shashanka became ruler of Bengal. After his death Bengal came under attack from foreign invaders until Gopala established the Pala dynasty in the middle of the eighth century. Four centuries later the rule of the Palas ended when the Sena dynasty was established. Until the arrival of the Senas a number of independent kingdoms existed in south-eastern Bengal. 5

The political influence of Islam began to spread in Bengal with the arrival of Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji, who attacked the Sena capital city in 1204 AD. 10

#### Part (a)

- (i) Which Gupta leader 'brought most of Bengal's independent states' under his control by the mid-fourth century AD? (line 2) [1]
- (ii) Where was the 'great Gupta trading emporium that was located on the banks of the Ganges in West Bengal'? (lines 3-4) [1]
- (iii) Which Sena ruler ended 'the rule of the Palas'? (line 7) [1]
- (iv) Name one of the independent kingdoms which existed in south-eastern Bengal under the Palas. (line 8) [1]
- (v) Which 'Sena capital' did Muhammad Bakhtiyar attack in 1204 AD? (line 11) [1]

#### Part (b)

- (i) Write what you know about the Sufis in pre-Mughal Bengal. [5]
- (ii) Explain why Lakshmana Sena has been called a great leader. [5]

#### Part (c)

Which of the following do you think was the most important in the history of Pre-Mughal Bengal? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. [10]

- The empire of Shashanka
- The rule of Dharmapala
- The arrival of Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji

### Question 3: The Mughal Period

#### The Rule of the Mughals

In 1526 Babur won a great victory over the Sultan of Delhi and began establishing the Mughal dynasty in India. Babur then entered Bengal and forced the Sultan to conclude a treaty promising not to oppose him.

The Mughal advance met strong resistance from the Afghans, however, and Sher Shah not only captured Bengal, but also forced the Mughal emperor to flee to Persia. Although the Mughals returned after Sher Shah's death, local resistance prevented the Mughals having total control of Bengal. Isa Khan won several victories, but his successors were defeated when a new Mughal governor brought Bengal under control and established a new capital.

The Mughals remained in power until the British took control almost two centuries later. Perhaps the most famous of the Mughal rulers was Aurangzeb, though he had a great struggle to win the throne and not all his policies were popular.

#### Part (a)

- (i) Which 'great victory' did Babur win in 1526? (line 1) [1]
- (ii) Which Sultan of Bengal did Babur force to 'conclude a treaty promising not to oppose' the Mughals? (line 2-3) [1]
- (iii) Which Mughal emperor did Sher Shah force to 'flee to Persia'? (line 5) [1]
- (iv) Which 'new Mughal governor brought Bengal under control?' (lines 7-8) [1]
- (v) Where was the 'new capital' the new governor established? (line 8) [1]

#### Part (b)

- (i) Write what you know about how Aurangzeb became emperor. [5]
- (ii) Why was Aurangzeb's rule unpopular with some of his subjects? [5]

#### Part (c)

Do you agree that the strength of the British was more important than the weaknesses of the Mughals in bringing about the end of the Mughal Empire? Give **both sides** of the argument in your answer. [10]

**Question 4: The British Period****British government in the sub-continent in the Twentieth Century**

The British faced opposition to their rule in the sub-continent and frequently introduced reforms in a bid to prevent such opposition. In 1905 they hoped to win support by partitioning Bengal, but there was such opposition that the Viceroy was forced to reverse the partition. Muslims and Hindus sometimes co-operated to oppose British rule. In 1916 they signed a famous Pact agreeing to work together and also signed the Bengal Pact in 1923.

5

However, co-operation was short-lived and during the 1930s Muslims and Hindus grew further apart. Following elections in 1935, Congress formed governments. Muslims complained bitterly about their treatment and celebrated when the Congress governments resigned in December 1939.

Following the end of the Second World War, and further opposition to their rule, the British decided to leave the sub-continent. Despite the efforts of the Chief Minister of Bengal, Bengal was partitioned once more when the British left.

10

**Part (a)**

- (i) Which Viceroy 'was forced to reverse the partition' of Bengal? (line 3) [1]
- (ii) Where was the 'famous Pact' between Hindus and Muslims signed in 1916? (line 4) [1]
- (iii) Which politician persuaded Muslim leaders to sign the 'Bengal Pact in 1923'? (line 5) [1]
- (iv) What name did Muslims give to a special day of celebrations when 'the Congress governments resigned'? (line 8) [1]
- (v) Which 'Chief Minister of Bengal' tried to stop the partition of Bengal? (line 11) [1]

**Part (b)**

- (i) Write what you know about the Nehru Report of 1928. [5]
- (ii) Why did the British introduce the Cabinet Mission Plan in 1946? [5]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following do you think was the most important in raising the prestige of Muslims in India under British rule? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. [10]

- The formation of the Muslim League
- The Khilafat Movement
- Direct Action Day 1946





