



AB TUTORIALS

(Bhatara Institute)

2013

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

KIT II (A) (Sample)

History and Indian National Movement

***NB: This is not the complete module but only
some selected portion for website purpose.***

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ANCIENT INDIA

The Prehistoric Period

The prehistoric period in the history of mankind can roughly be dated from 200000 BC to about 3500-2500 BC, when the first civilizations began to take shape. The history of India is no exception. The first modern human beings or the Homo sapiens set foot on the Indian subcontinent anywhere between 200000 BC and 40000 BC and they soon spread throughout a large part of the subcontinent, including peninsular India. They continuously flooded the Indian subcontinent in waves after waves of migration from what is present-day Iran. These primitive people moved in groups of few 'families' and lived mainly on hunting and gathering.

Stone Age

The age when the prehistoric man began to use stones for utilitarian purpose is termed as the Stone Age. The Stone Age is divided into three broad divisions – Paleolithic Age or the Old Stone Age (from unknown till 8000 BC). Mesolithic Age or the Middle Stone Age (8000 BC-4000 BC) and the Neolithic Age or the New Stone Age (4000 BC-2500 BC) on the basis of the specialization of the stone tools, which were made during that time.

Mesolithic Age

In the Mesolithic Age, the stone tools began to be made more pointed and sharp. To ensure a life that had abundance of food and clothing, the stone tools began to appear in increasingly specialized way.



MEDIEVAL INDIA

Muslim rule began in 8 when Mohammad Qasim conquered Sindh and Multan in Southern Punjab.

Mahmud Ghajni, ruler of Ghazni in Afghanistan, his motive was to loot and plunder and not expand the empire. Mohamed Ghori was the real founder of Muslim rule in India after his assassination Indian empire remained in the hands of his viceroy Qutub-ud-din-aibak.

THE DELHI SULTANATE

Slave Dynasty (1206-1290 AD)

- Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206-1210 AD), also called Lakh Baksh, founded the first Independent Turkish Empire in northern India; constructed two mosques: *Quwat-ul-Islam* at Delhi and *Adhai-din-ka-Jhopra* at Ajmer, and started construction of Qutub Minar (in honour of Sufi saint Khawaja Qutub-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki).
- **Iltutmish (1211-36 AD):** Real founder of Delhi Sultnate, made Delhi his capital, saved Delhi from the attack of Chengiz Khan who appeared at the North-West borders in 1221, completed Qutub Minar and organised, the Iqta system. He also introduced a silver coin called 'tanka'. He set up a group of nobility called 'Chahalgani' (group of forty). Founder of Turkish Empire.



MODERN INDIA

ASCENDENCY OF THE BRITISH

East India Company and the Bengal Nawabs

Siraj-ud-Daula (1756-57)

- He laid siege to the English factory at Kasimbazar. On June 20, 1756, Fort William was surrendered but Robert Clive recovered Calcutta in Jan. 1757.
- On Jan. 2, 1757, *Treaty of Alinagar* was signed, whereby Siraj conceded practically all the demands. The British then captured *Chandernagore*, the French settlement, on March 1757.
- *Battle of Plassey* was fought on June 23, 1757. Owing to the conspiracy between his Ministers and the British, the Nawab was defeated.

The following betrayed the Nawab: *Mir Jafar*-Mir Bakshi, *Manikchand*-Officer in charge of Calcutta, *Aminchand* - Rich Merchant, *Jagat Seth*-Biggest banker of Bengal, *Khadim Khan*- Commanded a large number of Nawab's Troops.

Mir Jafar (1757-60)

- The Company was granted undisputed right to free trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In return the British received the Zamindari of 24 Parganas. Mir Jafar, however, fell into arrears and was forced to abdicate in favour of his son-in-law, Mr Qasim.



Some Important Events

Partition of Bengal (1905) : The Whitehall rejected a proposal of the government of India to give the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal an Executive Council, because it meant delegation of power and authority. Another suggestion to divide the province on ethnic and linguistic grounds met the same fate, apparently in difference to the wishes of its Bengali-speaking civil servants. The more popular interpretation, however, is that partition was the most effective way of breaking the unity of the Hindus, widening the gulf between them and the reboldened public press. The partition, officially announced on July 19, 1905, came into effect on October 16, 1905.

Anti-Partition Movement (1905-08) : It began in Bengal under the moderate leaders, but soon spread to other parts of India under the Extremist leaders. It involved programmes like boycott of government service, promotion of *swadeshi* goods, promotion of national education through the establishment of national schools and colleges, *etc.* Its initial objective was the annulment of the partition of Bengal, which was, however, soon superseded by the greater objective of attainment of India's Independence. The movement was suppressed by the British through repressive measures like imprisonment and deportation of many of its leaders 1908.

Lucknow Merger: At the Lucknow session in 1916, the extremists were, however, welcomed back into Congress by the Moderates due to the rapidly changing political situation in the country as well as the sincere efforts of Mrs. Annie Besant to forge unity among the nationalists.



SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES I

MODERN INDIA - ADVENT OF EUROPEAN

Portuguese: The cape route was discovered by Vasco da Gama from Europe to India.

Afonso de Albuquerque: arrived as the Governor of Portuguese in India in 1509.

Dutch: 1602 Dutch East India Company was formed with powers. The Dutch set up factories at Surat in 1616. Dutch replaced the Portuguese; Poilecat was their main centre in India till 1690.

English East India Company: Was formed by a group of merchants known as 'Merchant Adventurers' in 1599.

East India opened a factory at Surat: 1608.

The first factory was built at **Surat in 1608**. Later Bombay replaced Surat as Head Quarters of Company in 1687.

French East India Company: Formed by Colbert under state patronage in 1664. The first French factory was established at Surat by Francois Caron in 1668. A factory at Masulipatam was set up in 1669.



VERY IMPORTANT POINTS JUST BEFORE EXAMINATION

Who proposed the Preamble before the drafting committee of the Constitution	Jawaharlal Nehru
The boundary between India and Pakistan was demarcated by	Cyril Radcliffe
The advocate of the famous INA, Trials was	Bhulabhai Desai
The Governor-General of India who initiated the introduction of English in India was	Lord Bentick
Quit India Movement was adopted by the INC at	Bombay
The communist of India who played a notable role in the World Communist Movement was	M.N.Roy
Gandhiji founded Satyagraha Sabha in 1919 to protest against the	Rowlett Act.
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath in the year	1892
When the Simon Commission was appointed, the Viceroy of India was	Lord Irwin
The main leaders of the Swarajist Party were	Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das
Who attended all the three Round Table Conferences	B.R. Ambedkar