

# THROUGH THE EYES OF TRAVELLERS

## STUDY NOTES

- During the medieval period, many foreign travellers came to India and wrote their accounts.
- The most important among them were Al-Biruni who came from Uzbekistan, Ibn Battuta from Morocco and a Frenchman named Francois Bernier.
- In 973, the great scholar Al-Biruni was born in Khwarizm presently known as Uzbekistan. During that period, Khwarizm was an important centre of learning and Al-Biruni got the best education available at that time.
- He was familiar in many languages such as Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Sanskrit. He was also familiar with the works of Plato and other Greek philosophers.
- He came to Ghazni in 1017 when Sultan Mahmud Ghazni invaded Khwarizm. Al-Biruni developed liking for the Ghazni city and spent rest of his life there until his death at the age of 70 years.
- He developed interest for India at Ghazni. He travelled widely in Punjab and parts of north India. He spent many years in the company of Brahmana priests and scholars, learning Sanskrit as well as studying religious and philosophical texts.
- From the eighth century onwards, Sanskrit works on astronomy, mathematics and medicine had been translated into Arabic.
- Arabic literature was known for its travel, for instance, this literature dealt with lands as far apart as the Sahara desert in the west to the River Volga in the north.
- The most outstanding work of Al-Biruni is *Kitab-ul-Hind*. This work is written in Arabic and it is a voluminous text which is divided into 80 chapters on subjects like religion and philosophy, festivals, astronomy, alchemy, manners and customs, social life, weights and measures, iconography, laws and metrology.
- Though Al-Biruni wrote in Arabic yet, he was familiar with the translations and adaptations of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit texts into Arabic, these works ranged from fables to astronomy as well as medicine works.
- Another important foreigner traveller to India was Ibn Battuta.
- This Moroccan traveller was born in Tangier. His family was highly educated and known for their expertise in Islamic religious law or *shari'a*.
- Ibn Battuta's book of travels named *Rihla*, was written in Arabic. This book provides information about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.
- Battuta loved travelling and explored many new places. In 1333, he reached Sind and there he heard about Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Sultan of Delhi.
- He was lured by Tughlaq's reputation as a generous patron of arts and letters and hence, he set off for Delhi.
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq was impressed by Ibn Battuta and appointed him the *qazi* or judge of Delhi. Battuta served the position of *qazi* for several years, however, he was later thrown into prison. But once, misunderstanding was cleared between him and the Sultan, Battuta was restored to imperial service.
- In 1342, Battuta was ordered to proceed to China as the Sultan's envoy to the Mongol ruler.
- In his work, Ibn Battuta carefully recorded his observations about new cultures, peoples, beliefs, values, etc.
- According to Ibn Battuta, travelling was insecure as he was attacked several times by a band of robbers. Hence,

he preferred travelling in caravan while there were incidents of caravan attack also, for example, Battuta's caravan was attacked when he was travelling from Multan to Delhi.

- In about 1500, the Portuguese arrived in India. Many Portuguese travellers wrote detailed account about the Indian social customs and religious practices. Some Portuguese travellers such as Jesuit Roberto Nobili translated Indian texts into European languages.
- Duarte Barbosa, was the well-known Portuguese writer. He wrote a detailed account of trade and society in south India.
- The famous French jeweller named Jean-Baptiste Tavernier travelled to India at least six times. He compared India to Iran and the Ottoman Empire.
- An Italian traveller named Manucci had finally settled down in India and never returned to Europe.
- A French traveller named François Bernier who was a doctor, political philosopher as well as historian came to the Mughal Empire in search of opportunities.
- He was the physician of Prince Dara Shukoh who was the eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan.
- Bernier stayed in India for about 12 years, that is, from 1656 to 1668.
- Bernier toured to several parts of India and wrote in his accounts what he saw. He usually compared the situation of India with Europe.
- Bernier's major writing were dedicated to the king of France named Louis XIV.
- In 1670-71, Bernier's works were published in France and translated within the next five years into English, Dutch, German and Italian.
- Between 1670 and 1725 Bernier's account was reprinted eight times in French. By 1684, it had been reprinted three times in English.
- The great traveller Al-Biruni faced many obstacles in the subcontinent. The greatest being the language problem as according to him, Sanskrit was very different from Arabic and Persian.
- The second problem that Biruni faced was the difference in religious beliefs and practices. The third problem was self-absorption and consequent insularity of the local population.
- Al-Biruni was depended on the works of Brahmanas, often citing passages from the Vedas, the Puranas, the *Bhagavad Gita*, the works of Patanjali and the *Manusmriti*, to understand the Indian society.
- Sanskrit texts laid down the rules of caste system from the point of view of Brahmanas. However, in reality the caste system was not so rigid.
- In the fourteenth century, Ibn Battuta arrived Delhi which has become a global network of communication that stretched from China in the east to north-west Africa and Europe in the west.
- Ibn Battuta had extensively travelled India visiting sacred shrines, spending time with learned men and rulers, often officiating as *qazi*, and enjoying the cosmopolitan culture of urban centres.
- Ibn Battuta described in his account about Delhi as a vast city, with a great population and according to him, it was the largest city in India. The bazaars were not only places of economic transaction but also places of social and cultural activities.
- Generally, bazaars had a mosque and a temple. In some bazaars, places were marked for public performances by dancers, musicians and singers.
- According to Ibn Battuta, Indian agricultural was very productive due to the fertility of soil which allowed farmers to cultivate two crops in a year.
- He further noted that the subcontinent was well integrated with inter-Asian networks of trade and commerce, with Indian manufactures being in great demand in both West Asia and Southeast Asia. Consequently, the artisans and merchants fetch huge profit.



- He states that the Indian textiles, especially, cotton cloth, fine muslins, silks, brocade and satin, were in great demand, for instance, a certain variety of fine muslin were so expensive that they could be worn only by the nobles and very rich people.
- As evident from the accounts of Ibn Battuta, the Indian postal system was very efficient.
- While Ibn Battuta described in his accounts everything that impressed him whereas, the French traveller François Bernier compared and contrasted everything he saw in India with Europe and France in particular. He compared the Mughal India with contemporary Europe, and emphasised the superiority of the latter.
- According to him, the basic difference between the Mughal India and Europe was the lack of private property in land in the former.
- On the contrary, none of the Mughal official documents suggest that the state was the sole owner of land, for example, Abu'l Fazl, official chronicler of Akbar's reign, describes the land revenue as "remunerations of sovereignty", that is, a claim made by the ruler on his subjects for the protection he (ruler) provided rather than as rent on land that he owned. However, the European travellers might have misinterpreted it as rent.
- From the eighteenth century onwards, western theorists were highly influenced by Bernier's description.
- For example, Montesquieu used this account to develop the idea of oriental despotism.
- In the 19th century, Karl Marx used this account to develop the Asiatic mode of production.
- According to Bernier in the Mughal state, the artisans had no incentive to improve the quality of their manufactures, since profits were appropriated by the state. Consequently, manufacturers were on the verge of decline.
- But at the same time, he mentions that the world's precious metals flowed into India, as manufactures were exported in exchange for gold and silver. He also mentions a prosperous merchant community which was engaged in long-distance exchange.
- In the seventeenth century, in the Mughal India almost 15 percentage of the population reside in town.
- Despite this, Bernier described Mughal cities as "camp towns", that is, towns that owed their existence as well as are depended for their survival on the imperial camp.
- There were all kinds of towns like manufacturing towns, trading towns, port-towns, sacred centres and pilgrimage towns.
- The different merchant groups included *mahajans*, *sheth* and *nagarsheth*. The other urban profession classes were physician, doctor, lawyer, painters, architects, musicians, calligraphers, etc.
- Like any other commodities, slaves were openly sold in the market as well as exchanged as gift.
- The accounts of Ibn Battuta indicates that there was considerable difference amongst the slaves. He mentions that female slaves were employed by the Sultan to keep a watch on the nobles.
- Bernier wrote in detail about the practice of 'Sati'.
- Women's labour was crucial in both agricultural and non-agricultural production.
- Women from merchant families participated in commercial activities.
- Travellers' accounts provide us important information of that period but many aspects of social life remained unnoticed by them.

## QUESTION BANK

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Al-Biruni was born in

(a) Khwarizm

(b) Sind

(c) Multan

(d) Persia

2. In which year, Al-Biruni went to Ghazni?

(a) 1016

(b) 1017

(c) 1020

(d) 1022

3. Al-Biruni was well versed in many languages. Select the correct option.

- (a) Syriac and Sanskrit (b) Arabic and English (c) Hebrew and Urdu (d) Sanskrit and English

4. Consider the following statements.

- I. It was in Ghazni that Al-Biruni developed an interest in India.  
II. Al-Biruni spent years in the company of Brahmana priests.  
III. Al-Biruni's *Kitab-ul-Hind*, written in Persia.

Choose the incorrect statement(s).

- (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Only III (d) Both I and III

5. Name the foreign traveller who came to India in the seventeenth century.

- (a) Ibn Battuta (b) Al-Biruni (c) François Bernier (d) Duarte Barbosa

6. From the pairs given below find out the incorrect match.

- (a) Jesuit Roberto Nobili - England (b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier - France  
(c) Manucci - Italy (d) Ibn Battuta - Morocco

7. The Turks referred to the people east of the Indus as

- (a) Muslim (b) Hindu (c) Hindustani (d) None of these

8. Which of the following statements about the book *Kitab-ul-Hind* is incorrect?

- (a) It is simple and lucid. (b) It is a voluminous text.  
(c) It is divided into 80 chapters. (d) It is written in Persia.

9. Al-Biruni translated Patanjali's work on grammar into

- (a) Persian (b) Sanskrit (c) Arabic (d) Hebrew

10. Ibn Battuta's book of travels, called

- (a) Rihla (b) Rhila (c) Al-Hind (d) Kitab-ul-Hind

11. Which of the following foreign traveller belong to Uzbekistan?

- (a) François Bernier (b) Al-Biruni  
(c) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (d) Ibn Battuta

12. Read the below clue carefully and identify the name of foreign traveller.

This Moroccan traveller was born in Tangier into one of the most respectable and educated families known for their expertise in Islamic religious law or *shari'a*.

- (a) François Bernier (b) Al-Biruni (c) Manucci (d) Ibn Battuta

13. Consider the below statements in the context of Ibn Battuta and select the incorrect option.

- (a) Ibn Battuta received literary and scholastic education when he was quite young.  
(b) He considered experience gained through books to be a more important than travel.  
(c) He loved travelling and went to far-off places.  
(d) In 1332-33, he set off for India.

14. Read the below passage and answer the question.

Once the misunderstanding between him and the Sultan was cleared, he was restored to imperial service, and was ordered in 1342 to proceed to China as the Sultan's envoy to the Mongol ruler.

Who is 'he' in the above passage?

- (a) Al-Biruni (b) Muhammad Tughlaq (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Bernier

15. Who was the physician of Prince Dara Shukoh?

- (a) Francois Bernier (b) Ibn Battuta (c) Al-Biruni (d) Manucci

16. Identify the below image.



- (a) A painting depicting Tavernier in Indian clothes. (b) A painting depicting Bernier in Indian clothes.  
(c) A painting depicting Al-Biruni in Indian clothes. (d) A painting depicting Battuta in Indian clothes.
17. Who described Delhi as a vast city, with a great population, the largest in India?  
(a) Francois Bernier (b) Al-Biruni (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Duarte Barbosa
18. How much per cent of the population resided in the towns during the seventeenth century?  
(a) 20 per cent (b) 18 percent (c) 16 per cent (d) 15 per cent
19. Read carefully the following statements in the context of the slaves.  
I. Female slaves in the service of the Sultan were experts in music and dance.  
II. Female slaves were employed by the Sultan to keep a watch on his queen.  
III. The price of slaves, particularly female slaves required for domestic labour, was very high.  
**Choose the correct option**  
(a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Only III (d) Both I and II
20. Who was appointed by Muhammad Tughlaq as *qazi* or judge of Delhi?  
(a) Ibn Battuta (b) Bernier (c) Al-Biruni (d) Manucci
21. According to Ibn Battuta, the distance from Daulatabad to Delhi was covered in  
(a) fifty days (b) twenty days (c) thirty nine days (d) forty days
22. Name the most famous French jeweller who travelled to India at least six times.  
(a) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (b) Manucci  
(c) Jesuit Roberto Nobili (d) Francois Benier
23. Name the well-known Portuguese writer who wrote a detailed account of trade and society in south India.  
(a) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (b) Manucci  
(c) Duarte Barbosa (d) Jesuit Roberto Nobili
24. Which traveller dedicated his major writing to Louis XIV, the king of France?  
(a) Al-Biruni (b) Francois Bernier (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Manucci
25. Consider the following statements in the context of Bernier's work.  
I. Bernier's works were translated into English, Dutch, German and Italian.  
II. Between 1670 and 1725 his account was reprinted two times in French.  
III. By 1684 it had been reprinted four times in English.  
**Choose the incorrect option.**  
(a) Only I (b) Only III (c) Both I and II (d) Both II and III



26. What do you understand by the term *antyaja*?
- (a) Born outside the caste system (b) Born within the caste system  
(c) People of higher caste (d) People of lower caste
27. 'Travels in the Mughal Empire' is the work of which one of the following foreign travellers?
- (a) Ibn Battuta (b) Al-Biruni (c) Francois Bernier (d) Duarte Barbosa

28. Choose the correct option.

**Assertion (A):** Ibn Battuta was amazed by the efficiency of the postal system.

**Reason (R):** Almost all trade routes were well supplied with inns and guest houses.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
(d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.
29. Ibn Battuta was amazed by the efficiency of the postal system. Choose the appropriate statement(s) to justify the statement.
- (a) The postal system allowed merchants to dispatch goods required at short notice.  
(b) The news reports of spies would reach the Sultan through the postal system in just fifteen days.  
(c) It took fifty days to reach Delhi from Sind.  
(d) Almost all trade routes were well supplied with inns and guest houses.

30. Consider the below statements in the pretext of Francois Bernier and choose the incorrect statement.

- (a) He compared and contrasted what he saw in India with the situation in Europe in general and France in particular.  
(b) His idea seems to have been to influence policy-makers.  
(c) His account contains discussions trying to place the history of the Mughals within some sort of a universal framework.  
(d) He constantly compared Mughal India with contemporary France, generally emphasising the inferiority of the latter.

31. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with regard to Bernier's landownership between Mughal India and Europe?

- I. According to Bernier, there was lack of private property in land in Mughal India while there was not such private ownership of land in Europe.  
II. Bernier thought that in the Mughal Empire the emperor owned all the land and distributed it among his nobles, and that this was fruitful for the economy and society.  
III. The absence of private property in land had, therefore, prevented the emergence of the class of "improving" landlords with a concern to maintain or improve the land.

**Option**

- (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Only III (d) Both I and III

32. Who had confidently asserted: "There is no middle state in India."?

- (a) Ibn Battuta (b) Francois Bernier (c) Al-Biruni (d) Manucci

33. Name the sixteenth-century official chronicler of Akbar's reign, who describes the land revenue as "remunerations of sovereignty".

- (a) Abu'l Fazl (b) Faizi (c) Abdul Hamid Lahori (d) None of these

34. Read the below statements carefully regarding women slaves in the Mughal India and choose the incorrect statement.

- (a) Women labour was crucial in both agricultural and non-agricultural production.  
(b) Women from merchant families participated in commercial activities.

- (c) According to Bernier, all women seemed to embrace death cheerfully.  
 (d) Female slaves were employed by the Sultan to keep a watch on his nobles.
35. Al-Biruni was born in \_\_\_\_\_, in Khwarizm in present day Uzbekistan.  
 (a) 973 (b) 979 (c) 980 (d) 977
36. Al-Biruni spent years in the company of  
 (a) Kshatriyas (b) Brahmana priests (c) scholars (d) Both (b) and (c)
37. Al-Biruni, who wrote in \_\_\_\_\_, probably intended his work for peoples living along the frontiers of the subcontinent.  
 (a) Arabic (b) Persian (c) Sanskrit (d) Hebrew
38. Name the foreign traveller who considered experience gained through travels to be a more important source of knowledge than books.  
 (a) Al-Biruni (b) Bernier (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Manucci
39. Choose the correct option.  
**Assertion (A):** According to Ibn Battuta, travelling was more insecure.  
**Reason (R):** He was attacked several times by bands of robbers.  
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
 (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
 (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
 (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.
40. When Ibn Battuta reached Sind he purchased “horses, camels and slaves” as gifts for  
 (a) Mahmud Ghazni (b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq  
 (c) Nasiruddin (d) Aibak
41. Contemporary European travellers and writers often highlighted the treatment of women as a crucial marker of difference between  
 (a) Hindu and Muslim societies (b) Western and Eastern societies  
 (c) Hindu and Christian societies (d) Indian and Christian societies
42. Choose the correct option.  
**Assertion (A):** Merchants often had strong community.  
**Reason (R):** The existence of different towns is an index of the prosperity of merchant communities and professional classes.  
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
 (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
 (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
 (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.
43. In urban centres such as Ahmedabad the mahajans were collectively represented by the chief of the merchant community who was called  
 (a) sheth (b) pundit (c) mulla (d) nagarsheth
44. Consider the following statements and choose the incorrect option.  
 (a) Most female slaves were captured in raids and expeditions.  
 (b) Travellers who left written accounts were generally men who were interested in and sometimes intrigued by the condition of women in the subcontinent.  
 (c) Sometimes, travellers took social equities for granted as a “natural” state of affairs.  
 (d) Slaves were openly sold in markets, like any other commodity, and were regularly exchanged as gifts.

45. What gift did Ibn Battuta purchased for Muhammad bin Tughlaq when he reached Sind?  
 (a) horses, camels and slaves (b) slaves, elephants and horses  
 (c) camels, elephants and slaves (d) camels, spices and slaves
46. In western India, the merchant groups were known as  
 (a) sheth (b) mahajans (c) nagarsheth (d) shrenis
47. Name the traveller whose account is often compared with that of Marco Polo?  
 (a) Biruni (b) Bernier (c) Abu'l Fazl (d) Ibn Battuta
48. Who visited China as well as India from his home base in Venice in the late thirteenth century?  
 (a) Marco Polo (b) Peter Mundy (c) Francois Bernier (d) Antonio Monserrate
49. Who was the eldest son of Shah Jahan?  
 (a) Aurangzeb (b) Dara Shukoh (c) Shah Shuja (d) Murad
50. Who was known as an inveterate traveller?  
 (a) Marco Polo (b) Bernier (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Al-Biruni
51. Consider the following statements about Bernier's view on the Mughal Empire.  
 I. The Mughal king was the king of "beggars and barbarians".  
 II. The Mughal cities and towns were ruined and contaminated with "ill air".  
 III. The Mughal fields, "overspread with bushes" and full of "pestilential marishes".  
 Choose the correct option.  
 (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Only III (d) All of these
52. Name the French philosopher who used Bernier's account to develop the idea of oriental despotism.  
 (a) Montesquieu (b) Karl Marx  
 (c) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (d) Duarte Barbosa
53. Who took Al-Biruni to Ghazni after invading Khwarizm?  
 (a) Sultan Ghazni (b) Muhammad Ghori (c) Alauddin (d) Muhammad Tughlaq
54. Read the clue and identify the person.  
 He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for the city, where he spent the rest of his life until his death at the age of 70.  
 (a) Ibn Battuta (b) Bernier (c) Al-Biruni (d) Tavernier
55. For his Brahmana friends, Biruni translated the works of Euclid into  
 (a) Hindi (b) Arabic (c) Urdu (d) Sanskrit
56. Name the book of foreign traveller which provides a rich and interesting detail about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.  
 (a) Kitab-ul-Hind (b) Rihla  
 (c) The Travels (d) Travels in the Mughal Empire
57. Ibn Battuta returned home in \_\_\_\_\_ about 30 years after he had set out.  
 (a) 1354 (b) 1355 (c) 1356 (d) 1366
58. According to Ibn Battuta, it took \_\_\_\_\_ days to travel from Multan to Delhi.  
 (a) Forty days (b) Fifty days (c) Ten days (d) Twenty days
59. In spite of his acceptance of the Brahmanical description of the caste system, Al-Biruni disapproved of the notion of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Pollution (b) Caste system (c) Idol worship (d) Untouchability
60. Who informs that certain varieties of fine muslin were so expensive that they could be worn only by the nobles and the very rich?  
 (a) Ibn Battuta (b) Al-Biruni (c) Bernier (d) Tavernier



61. Consider the following statements and select the correct statement.

- (a) According to Ibn Battuta, the nut of the coconut tree looked similar to a man's head.
- (b) According to Bernier, the Indian peasantry was exploited by the landlords.
- (c) Abdur Razzaq is perhaps the only historian who provided a detailed account of the working of the imperial karkhanas.
- (d) Ibn Battuta gave a detailed account of slavery in India.

62. Read the following statements in the context of Ibn Battuta.

- I. Ibn Battuta found cities in the subcontinent were densely populated and prosperous.
- II. From his accounts it appears that most cities had crowded streets and bright and colourful markets.
- III. He describes Delhi as a vast but least populated city.

Choose the incorrect option.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only III
- (d) Both I and II

63. Whose travelogue is an interesting mixture of emotions and perceptions.

- (a) Al-Biruni
- (b) Ibn Battuta
- (c) Abdur Razzaq
- (d) Tavernier

64. Name the foreign traveller who was more preoccupied with comparing and contrasting what he saw in India with the situation in Europe and France.

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Ibn Battuta
- (c) Al-Biruni
- (d) Bardosa

65. Name the Dutch traveller who was shocked to see the widespread poverty in the subcontinent.

- (a) Pelsaert
- (b) Ibn Battuta
- (c) Al-Biruni
- (d) Bardosa

66. Name the official chronicler of Akbar's reign who described the land revenue as "remunerations of sovereignty", a claim made by the rulers on his subjects for the protection he provided rather than as rent on land that he owned.

- (a) Abdur Hamid Lahori
- (b) Ibn Battuta
- (c) Al-Biruni
- (d) Abu'IFazl

67. Consider the following statements regarding women slaves.

- I. Some female slaves in the service of the Sultan were experts in music and dance.
- II. Ibn Battuta enjoyed women performance at the wedding of the Sultan's sister.
- III. Female slaves were employed by the Sultan to keep a watch on his neighbouring rulers.

Select the correct option.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only III
- (d) Both I and II

68. Who described a girl child performing sati in India?

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Al-Biruni
- (c) Ibn Battuta
- (d) Nasiruddin

### Input Text Based MCQ's

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (69 to 71):

*This is perhaps one of the most poignant descriptions by Bernier:*

*At Lahore I saw a most beautiful young widow sacrificed, who could not, I think, have been more than twelve years of age. The poor little creature appeared more dead than alive when she approached the dreadful pit: the agony of her mind cannot be described; she trembled and wept bitterly; but three or four of the Brahmanas, assisted by an old woman who held her under the arm, forced the unwilling victim toward the fatal spot, seated her on the wood, tied her hands and feet, lest she should run away, and in that situation the innocent creature was burnt alive. I found it difficult to repress my feelings and to prevent their bursting forth into clamorous and unavailing rage ...*

69. In the above source, about which practice Bernier is talking?

- (a) Child sati
- (b) Child marriage
- (c) Women slaves
- (d) None of these

70. Female slaves were also employed by the Sultan to keep a watch on his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) queens (b) people (c) enemies (d) nobles

71. Slaves were generally used for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) carrying palanquins (b) domestic labour (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (72 to 73):

*Robbers were not the only hazard on long journeys: the traveller could feel homesick, or fall ill. Here is an excerpt from the Rihla:*

*I was attacked by the fever, and I actually tied myself on the saddle with a turbancloth in case I should fall off by reason of my weakness ... So at last we reached the town of Tunis, and the townsfolk came out to welcome the shaikh ... and ... the son of the qazi ... On all sides they came forward with greetings and questions to one another, but not a soul said a word of greeting to me, since there was none of them I knew. I felt so sad at heart on account of my loneliness that I could not restrain the tears that started to my eyes, and wept bitterly. But one of the pilgrims, realising the cause of my distress, came up to me with a greeting ...*

72. Who is the author of the book *Rihla*?

- (a) Al-Biruni (b) Francois Bernier (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier

73. In which language the book *Rihla* was written?

- (a) Persian (b) Arabic (c) Urdu (d) English

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (74 to 75):

*Al-Biruni described Sanskrit as follows:*

*If you want to conquer this difficulty, you will not find it easy, because the language is of an enormous range, both in words and inflections, something like the Arabic, calling one and the same thing by various names, both original and derivative, and using one and the same word for a variety of subjects, which, in order to be properly understood, must be distinguished from each other by various qualifying epithets.*

74. According to Biruni, there were several "barriers" that obstructed understanding. The first amongst these was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) writing (b) language (c) religious beliefs (d) All of these

75. The second barrier he identified was the difference in

- (a) religious beliefs and practices (b) Arabic and Persian ideas  
 (c) insularity of the local population (d) language

## ANSWERS

### Multiple Choice Questions

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a)  | 2. (b)  | 3. (a)  | 4. (c)  | 5. (c)  | 6. (a)  | 7. (b)  | 8. (d)  | 9. (c)  | 10. (a) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (d) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) | 16. (a) | 17. (c) | 18. (d) | 19. (b) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (b) | 25. (d) | 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (b) | 29. (a) | 30. (d) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (b) | 33. (a) | 34. (c) | 35. (a) | 36. (d) | 37. (a) | 38. (c) | 39. (a) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (b) | 43. (d) | 44. (c) | 45. (a) | 46. (b) | 47. (d) | 48. (a) | 49. (b) | 50. (c) |
| 51. (d) | 52. (a) | 53. (a) | 54. (c) | 55. (d) | 56. (b) | 57. (a) | 58. (a) | 59. (a) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (c) | 62. (c) | 63. (c) | 64. (a) | 65. (a) | 66. (d) | 67. (d) | 68. (a) |         |         |

### Input Text Based MCQ's

69. (a) 70. (d) 71. (b) 72. (c) 73. (b) 74. (b) 75. (a)