



HISTORY

BOOKS - FULL MARKS HISTORY (HINGLISH)

THROUGH THE EYES OF TRAVELLERS

Ncert Textbook Questions Solved

1. Write a note on the Kitab-ul-Hind.



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2. Compare and contrast the perspective from which Ibn Battuta and Bernier wrote their accounts of their travels in India.



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3. Discuss the picture of urban centres that emerges from Bernier's account.



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4. Analyse the evidence for slavery provided by Ibn Battuta.



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5. What were the elements of the practice of Sati that drew the attention of Bernier?



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6. Discuss Al-Birunii's understanding of the caste system.



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7. Do you think Ibn Battuta's account is useful in arriving at an understanding of life in contemporary urban centres? Give reasons for your answer.



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8. Discuss the extent to which Bernier's accounts enables historians to reconstruct contemporary rural society.



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9. Read this excerpt from Bernier:

Numerous are the instances of handsome pieces of workmanship made by persons destitute of tools, and who can scarcely be said to have received instruction from a master. Sometimes they imitate so perfectly

articles of European manufacture that the difference between the original and copy can hardly be discerned. Among other things, the Indians make excellent muskets, and fowling pieces, and such beautiful gold ornaments that it may be doubted if the exquisite workmanship of those articles can be exceeded by any European goldsmith. I have often admired the beauty, softness, and delicacy of their paintings. List the crafts mentioned in the passage. Compare these with the descriptions of artisanal netivity in the chapter .



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Ncert Textbook Questions Solved Map Work

1. On an outline map of the world, mark the countries visited by Ibn Battuta. What are the seas that he may have crossed?



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Ncert Textbook Questions Solved Project Work

1. Interview any one of your older relatives (mother/father/grandparents/uncles/aunts) who has travelled outside your town or village.

Find out

(i) where they went, (ii) how they travelled (iii) how long did it take (iv) why they travel (v) and did they face any difficulties.

List as many similarities and differences that they may have noticed between their place of residence and the place they visited, focusing on language, clothes, food, customs, buildings,

roads, the lives of men and women. Write a report on your findings.



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2. For any one of the travellers mentioned in the chapter, find out more about his life and writings. Prepare a report on his travels, noting in particular how he described society, and comparing these descriptions with the excerpts included in the chapter.



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Additional Questions Solved | Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name any traveller who came to India during the medieval period (11th to 17th century).



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2. What were the Al-Biruni's objectives to come India?



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3. Al-Biruni depended only on Sanskrit texts for his information and understanding of Indian society. Explain.



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4. Name the plants found in India which amazed Ibn-Battuta.



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5. What was the more complex social reality which Bernier's noticed in the Mughal empire?



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6. How has the term Hindi' derived? Does its expression indicate religious identity of the people?



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7. What was the important work of Ibn-Battuta? Why was it important?



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8. How are the accounts of Francois Bernier different from the accounts of earlier travellers?



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9. What are the comparisons that Ibn-Battuta makes to give his readers an idea about coconuts looked like?



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10. The bird leaves its nest, which traveller was the term used for?



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11. Mention the names of two travellers who followed the footsteps of Ibn Battuta.



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12. Al-Biruni was a scholar of languages and had translating abilities. Justify as the great resources.



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13. What is Rihla?

OR

What do you mean by Rihla?



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14. What were the hazards likely to be faced by travellers in medieval times?



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15. Who was Jean-Baptiste Vernier?



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16. Who took Al-Biruni in his captivity and when?



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17. Write any two objective of Al-Biruni behind writing Kitab-ul-Hind.



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18. Write any two features described by Al-Biruni about caste system.



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19. What were the opinion expressed by Al-Biruni about India's political condition?



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20. In which year Battuta decided to travel to India? Who was the ruler of India at that time?



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21. Which post was offered to Ibn Battuta by Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq? In which year he was offered this post?



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22. Who was appointed to help Ibn Battuta while he was writing his accounts of travel, Rihla'?



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23. List any two features expressed by Ibn Battuta about Delhi.



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24. "Ibn Battuta was fond of travels". Write any two arguments to justify your answer.



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25. What do you know about Tarabad?



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26. "Ibn Battuta was an invaterate traveller".

How?



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27. Name a famous book written by Francois Bernier. In which language was it written?



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28. When and where was "Travels in the Mughal Empire' published? To whom Francois Bernier dedicate this book?



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29. What were the opinions expressed by Bernier regarding Indian Revenue system?

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30. What do you know about Abdur-Razzaq?

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31. Who was Antonio Monserrate?





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32. Women were not limited to the private spaces of their homes in the 17th century. Mention any two reasons.



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33. Did Al-Biruni consider caste system unique to India?



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34. Mention the names of Portuguese writer who came to India.

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35. What did rural society of India consist of?

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**Additional Questions Solved li Short Answer Type
Questlons**

1. What were the barrier's discussed by Al-Biruni that obstructed him in understanding India?

OR

What problems did Al-Biruni face in understanding Indian customs and practices.



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2. What do you know about the life of Al-Biruni?

OR

Explain the description of Al-Biruni's life.

OR

How did Al-Biruni complete his life?



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3. What has Ibn Battuta described about Delhi?

OR

In which way Ibn Battuta described Delhi?

OR

How did Ibn Battuta describe Delhi?



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4. Who is known as globe-trotter and why?

OR

Why is Ibn-Battuta called as globe-trotter?



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5. What were What has Ibn-Battuta written about the the main features of accounts left by travellers?

OR

What did travellers write about?



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6. How does Bernier provide the detailed account of the working of the imperial Kharkhanas and convey a sense that although there was a great deal of activity, there was a little progress?



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7. Explain the unique system of communication in India which amazed Ibn Battuta with special reference to the postal system.

OR

What has Ibn-Battuta written about the postal system prevalent in India?



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8. What has Ibn Battuta written about the evidence of agriculture and trade prevalent in

the Indian society?



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9. Why travel accounts of foreigners are important for studying medieval times?



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Additional Questions Solved Iii Long Answer Type Questions

1. Give details about Francois Bernier and other writers who visited India after the 15th century.



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2. Who was Al-Biruni? What light hjs he thrown on India of the 11th century?

OR

Who was Al-Biruni? Which information his book of travel provides us ?





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3. What did Ibn Battuta write about India in his book Rihla?



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Additional Questions Solved Iv Source Based Questions

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The bird leaves its nest

This is an excerpt from the Rihla:

My departure from Tangier, my birthplace, took place on Thursday.. I set up alone, having neither fellow-traveller... nor caravan whose party I might join, but swayed by an overmastering impulse within me and a desire long-cherished in my bosom to visit these illustrious sanctuaries. So I braced my resolution to quit all my dear ones, female and male, and forsook my home as birds forsake their nests.. My age at that time was twenty-two years. Ibn Battuta returned home in 1354,

about 30 years after he had set out.

What do you know about 'Rihla'?



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2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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Why did Battuta renounce his house?



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3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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their nests.. My age at that time was twenty-two years. Ibn Battuta returned home in 1354, about 30 years after he had set out.

Why did Battuta find difficult to travel in India?

Give two reasons.



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Why did Battuta compare himself with a bird?



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What did Battuta say about Indian towns?



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6. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Education and Entertainment

This is what Ibn Juzayy, who was deputed to write what Ibn Battuta dictated, said in his introduction: A gracious direction was transmitted (by the ruler) that he (Ibn Battuta) should dictate an account of the cities which he had seen in his travel, and of the interesting events which had clung to his memory, and that he should speak of those whom he had met of the rulers of countries, of their distinguished men of learning, and their pious saints. Accordingly, he dictated upon these subjects a narrative which gave

entertainment to the mind and delight to the ears and eyes, with a variety of curious particulars by the exposition of which he gave edification and of marvellous things, by referring to which he aroused interest.

What instruction was given to Ibn Battuta by the king?



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7. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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entertainment to the mind and delight to the ears and eyes, with a variety of curious particulars by the exposition of which he gave edification and of marvellous things, by referring to which he aroused interest.

In which language the book Rihla was written?



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ears and eyes, with a variety of curious particulars by the exposition of which he gave edification and of marvellous things, by referring to which he aroused interest.

What was the impact of the narrative of Ibn Battuta on the author?



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ears and eyes, with a variety of curious particulars by the exposition of which he gave edification and of marvellous things, by referring to which he aroused interest.

How did his account prove fruitful?



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10. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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particulars by the exposition of which he gave edification and of marvellous things, by referring to which he aroused interest.

Write any one problem faced by him during his travel.



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11. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The system of Varnas

This is Al-Biruni's account of the system of

varnas:

The highest caste are the Brahmana, of whom the books of the Hindus tell us that they were created from the head of Brahman. And as the Brahman is only another name for the force called nature, and the head is the highest part of the ... body, the Brahmana are the choice part of the whole genus. Therefore, the Hindus consider them as the very best of mankind. The next caste are the Kshatriya, who were created, as they say, from the shoulders and hands of Brahman. Their degree is not much below that of the Brahmana. After them follow

the Vaishya, who were created from the thigh of Brahman. The Shudra, who were created from his feet... Between the latter two classes there is no very great distance. Much, however, as these classes differ from each other, they live together in the same towns and villages, mixed together in the same houses and lodgings.

Explain in brief Biruni's accounts of the system of varnas.



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12. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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This type of division is not justified. Why?



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13. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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mixed together in the same houses and lodgings.

Which two classes lived together in both cities and vil'ages?



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Was his caste system rigid in real life? Write your argument.



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15. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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Why did Al-Biruni not accept the notion of pollution?



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16. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

On horse and on Foot

This is how Ibn Battuta describes the postal system:

In India the postal system is of two kinds. The horse post, called ulug, is run by royal horses

stationed at a distance of every four miles. The foot-post has three stations per mile, it is called dawa, that is one-third of a mile... Now, at every third of a mile there is a well-populated village, outside which are three pavilions in which sit men with girded loins ready to start. Each of them carries a rod, two cubits in length, with copper bells at the top. When the courier starts from the city he holds the letter in one hand and the rod with its bells on the other, and he runs as fast as he can. When the men in the pavilion hear the ringing of the bell they get ready. As soon as

the courier reaches them, one of them takes the letter from his hand and runs at top speed shaking the rod all the while until he reaches the next dawa. And the same process continues till the letter reaches its destination. This foot-post is quicker than the horse-post, and often it is used to transport the fruits of Khurasan which are much desired in India.

Name the two kinds of postal system.



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17. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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Explain how foot post worked.



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Do you think that two post system could have operated throughout the subcontinent?



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19. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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the next dawa. And the same process continues till the letter reaches its destination. This foot-post is quicker than the horse-post, and often it is used to transport the fruits of Khurasan which are much desired in India.

Give an example to show that postal system of that period was unique system of communication.



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destination. This foot-post is quicker than the horse-post, and often it is used to transport the fruits of Khurasan which are much desired in India.

How did the state encourage the merchant in the 14th century? Write two ways.



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21. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The Poor Peasant

An excerpt from Bernier's description of the peasantry in the countryside:

Of the vast tracts of country constituting the empire of Hindustan, many are little more than sand, or barren mountains, badly cultivated, and thinly populated. Even a considerable portion of the good land remains untilled for want of labourers, many of whom perish in consequence of the bad treatment they experience from Governors. The poor people, when they become incapable of discharging the demands of their rapacious lords, are not only often deprived of the

means of subsistence, but are also made to lose their children, who are carried away as slaves. Thus, it happens that the peasantry, driven to despair by so excessive a tyranny, abandon the country. In this instance, Bernier was participating in contemporary debates in Europe concerning the nature of state and society, and intended that his description of Mughal India would serve as a warning to those who did not recognise the "merits" of private property.

Write any two problems about cultivating land.



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22. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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Why did the peasantry abandon the land?



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Explain in brief the reasons given by Bernier for the exploitation of the peasants.



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Mughal India would serve as a warning to those who did not recognise the "merits" of private property.

Name two European thinkers influenced by Bernier observation.



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25. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: The child Sati

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 towards 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...

What do you know about sati system?



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26. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: The child Sati

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 towards 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...

How was a widow performed sati?



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27. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: The child Sati

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 towards 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...

Why were women sacrificed as sati?



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Additional Questions Solved V Project Work

1. Ibn Battuta' visited India and many other countries . He described about the slaves. Make a project on the different aspects of slaves.



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2. Develop project about the journey and the voluminous text "The kitab-ul-Hind".



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Previous Years Board Questions Solved

1. Name the famous book written by Al-Biruni.

Which distinctive method he adopted while writing this text?



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2. While writing about the description of India, which languages did Al-Biruni faced?

OR

Write any two problems faced by Al-Biruni while writing Kitab-ul-Hind.



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3. Name the famous work written by Bernier.

What did he write about sati system?



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4. Explain the distinctive features and structure of Al Biruni's writings. Why did he want to improve the works translated from Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit into Arabic?



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5. Name the book written by Ibn Battuta. What was his observation about female slaves in the

sub-continent ?



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6. Why did the travellers who came to India, sometimes take social inequalities for granted as a natural state of affairs? Explain.



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7. What was Ibn-Battuta's impression of Indian cities?



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8. Explain how the prosperity of India has been explained by the historians on the basis of Ibn-Battuta's observation.



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9. Explain the views of the Bernier about more complex social reality in the Mughal empire.

OR

Examine how Bernier's description occasionally hints at a more complex social reality.

OR

What was the more complex social reality which Bernier noticed in the Mughal Empire?



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10. Mention the book written by Al-Biruni. Mention its language and content.



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11. Mention any two characteristics of the cities in Indian sub-continent as described by Ibn Battuta.



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12. Give a brief introduction on Francois Bernier. How long he remained in India?



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13. How had Bernier described a complex social reality of artisans under the Mughal? Give two reasons.



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14. Examine why Bernier was against the idea of crown ownership of land in Mughal India.



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15. Examine the causes that made Al-Biruni visit India.

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16. "India had a unique system of communication during the fourteenth century." Examine the statement of Ibn Batuta.

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17. Examine why Bernier described the Mughal towns as the 'Camp Towns'.



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