

Answer key for the exercises in the lesson

Exercises for Summative Assessment

I. Fill in the blanks.

1. Qutbuddin Aibak was the first sultan of Delhi.
2. Chengiz Khan was the leader of the Mongols who attacked India during the rule of Iltutmish.
3. The only woman monarch of Delhi was Razia Sultana.
4. Balban entertained the grandson of Chengiz Khan as an envoy.
5. The able general of Alauddin Khalji who led a campaign into the south was Malik Kafur.
6. Amir Khusrau was a poet in Alauddin Khalji's court.
7. Ziauddin Barani was an Indian historian who spent 17 years in the court of Mohammad bin Tughlaq.
8. Mohammad bin Tughlaq shifted his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad.
9. The last sultan of Delhi was Ibrahim Lodi.

II. True or false?

1. Iltutmish belonged to the Slave Dynasty. (T)
2. Feroze Shah founded the Tughlaq Dynasty. (F)

3. Malik Kafur attacked Madurai and Rameswaram. (T)
4. Sikander Lodi shifted his capital from Delhi to Agra. (T)
5. Ibrahim Lodi was killed by Timur. (F)

III. Answer in brief.

1. Name the five dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate.

- The Slave Dynasty
- the Khaljis
- the Tughlaqs
- the Sayyids and
- the Lodis

2. Why is the Slave Dynasty called so?

- The Turkish rulers depended on specially chosen slaves who were trained to excel in both military and intellectual fields.
- These slaves often rose up the political and military ladder to become rulers of their land.
- The dynasty established by Qutbuddin Aibak was a slave and hence it was called the Slave Dynasty.

3. What were the major victories of Iltutmish?

- He crushed the revolt of the nobles.
- He defeated Yaloz and occupied Lahore and Punjab.
- He defeated Qabacha, the governor of Sind.
- He then subdued the Rajput chiefs of Ranthambore, Ajmer, and Gwalior.
- He brought Bengal and Bihar under his control.

4. Why did Mohammad bin Tughlaq's plan to shift his capital fail?

- Mohammad bin Tughlaq shifted his capital from Delhi to Devagiri or Daulatabad, a city located 1400 km from Delhi, since he felt that it was at the centre of his vast empire.
- This project failed because of two reasons. First, he ordered the entire population of Delhi to shift to Daulatabad. This caused great hardships to the people.

- Second, it left the north-western frontiers of the empire exposed to attacks from the Mongols.
- He realised his mistake, and once again shifted the capital back to Delhi, once again causing great hardship to the people.

5. Write a short note on the system of iqtas.

- Iltutmish had divided his empire into several large and small pieces of land called iqtas, which he gave to his officials, nobles and religious leaders as payment for their services instead of a salary.
- The officials, or iqtedars, had to pay the king a portion of revenue they collected from the land.
- They also had to maintain a body of troops. Since the sultan was dependent on this supply of troops, the iqtedars became powerful.
- The stronger sultans, like Mohammad bin Tughlaq, tried to break the power of the iqtedars by redistributing the iqtas. But during the rule of the relatively weak Feroz Shah, iqtas became hereditary, and finally became the base of powerful fiefdoms.

6. Write a short note on Timur.

- In 1398 CE, during the rule of the last major Tughlaq ruler, Mohammad bin Tughlaq, the Delhi Sultanate was attacked by Timur.
- Timur was a Central Asian Turk who had embraced Islam and set up a kingdom in Samarkand.
- As Timur marched towards Delhi, he was met with little resistance. Timur destroyed Delhi and left it in ruins.
- He also ransacked Meerut and Jammu. The Tughlaq Empire never recovered from this blow.

IV. Answer in detail.

1. Write a note on Razia Sultana.

- Razia Sultana was the first and last woman who sat on the throne of Delhi.
- She was the daughter of Iltutmish, a former slave who occupied the throne of Delhi.
- According to historian Siraj, 'she was a great monarch—wise, just and generous'.

- She had to face many challenges, the main one being that she was a woman in a 'man's world'. She faced opposition from the 'group of forty', the Turkish nobles and military leaders who controlled the politics of Delhi.
- The special liking she had for Yakud, an Abyssinian slave also caused resentment among the nobles. The refusal of these nobles to accept a woman as a ruler led to her downfall.

2. Describe the administration of Alauddin Khalji.

- Alauddin Khalji was an efficient administrator.
- He increased the size of the army to protect his empire. To meet the expenses of maintaining this huge army, he devised ways to add to his revenue.
- He confiscated all rent-free landholdings that had been given to priests and government officials. The officials were forbidden to collect extra taxes from peasants. The peasants paid revenue in kind directly to the state.
- The land revenue was raised to half the total produce. In this way he was able to build a rich treasury.
- He also put a check on the price of commodities, so that the soldiers could live within their income.
- To prevent conspiracies among the nobles, Alauddin banned all banquets and assemblies.
- He also enlarged the system of espionage and spread his spies across the empire.
- Alauddin transformed the markets of Delhi by setting up different markets for food grains, horses, cattle, and imported goods. The weights and balances of the merchants were checked regularly.
- Alauddin also made arrangements for storing large quantities of grain to be used in times of need.

3. Write an essay on the strengths and weakness of Mohammad bin Tughlaq as a ruler.

- Mohammad bin Tughlaq is known in Indian history as a confused genius.

He was a capable administrator and a commander, and a good scholar.

- He was a person who thought 'ahead of his times' and hence people could not understand him properly. His plans and intentions were good but carried out thoughtlessly and in a hurry, which resulted in their failure.
- For example, his plan to shift his capital from Delhi to Devagiri was, no doubt, a good move. But the way he forced the entire population of Delhi to shift to Devagiri caused a lot of hardship to the people. Also, this left the northern frontier of the empire exposed to attacks from the Mongols, which proved disastrous.
- Secondly, when he needed money to carry out his various plans, he increased the land tax in the fertile Ganga-Yamuna doab, and also introduced new taxes. But once again, the measure proved to be ill timed, since the doab was then passing through a great famine. Farmers suffered untold miseries and riots broke out. He was forced to withdraw his order.
- His next exercise of issuing token currency also ended in a fiasco. Since there was no proper check, it led to many counterfeit copper coins being minted. Chaos resulted in trade and commerce.
- His last experiment of an expedition to China and Qarachil in the Kumaon Garhwal region of the Himalayas was also equally disastrous.
- All these schemes were basically sound, but suffered from lack of proper planning.

4. Discuss in detail the nature of administration under the Tughlaqs. How was it different from that of Alauddin Khalji?

- The Tughlaqs followed the administrative structure that was followed from the time of Iltutmish.
- Iltutmish had divided the empire into several small pieces of land called iqtas, which were given to his nobles, officers and religious leaders instead of salary.
- The officials, or the iqtedars, had to pay the king a portion of the revenue they

collected from the land. They also had to maintain a body of troops.

- Since the sultan was depended on this supply of troops, it made the iqtedars powerful. The stronger sultans, like Mohammad bin Tughlaq, tried to break the power of the iqtedars by redistributing the iqtas. But during the rule of the relatively weak Feroz Shah, iqtas became hereditary, and finally became the base of powerful fiefdoms.

Differences in administration from Allauddin Khalji

- Land tax under the Tughlaqs varied from ruler to ruler. Ghiasuddin Tughlaq reduced the land tax raised by Alauddin Khalji, while Mohammad bin Tughlaq raised it again, especially in the Doab.
- All the Tughlaq sultans, however, tried to improve the condition of the people. They built irrigation canals to improve

agriculture. They also opened hospitals and almshouses and encouraged scholars through donations.

- The Tughlaqs had an efficient system of spies which helped them in suppressing any rebellion.

Multiple Choice Questions

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| 1. a | 2. a | 3. c | 4. c |
| 5. b | 6. d | 7. b | |

Value-based Question

- Being courageous and brave
- Being determined to face challenges
- Having the will power to succeed in a foreign land
- Being resolute
- Being resourceful and adjusting to a new environment