



Cambridge O Level

BANGLADESH STUDIES

7094/01

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

May/June 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total:
 Answer Question 1.
 Answer **two** other questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 75.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

You must answer **all** parts of Question 1.

1 The Culture and Heritage of Bangladesh

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

(a) This question tests your knowledge.

(i) Which did Alaol **not** write?

- A *Padmavati* (an adaptation)
- B *Sati Mayna O Lorchandrani*
- C *Sojan Badiar Ghat*
- D *Saptapaykar* (a translation)

[1]

(ii) Kazi Nasrul Islam was a renowned poet. What else was he renowned as?

- A a songwriter
- B an international artist
- C a radio performer
- D a political party leader

[1]

(iii) For which of the following is Rabindranath Tagore remembered?

- A books about life in the cities of Bengal
- B religious works
- C qualities as a political leader
- D contribution to the national anthem of India

[1]

(iv) Which of the following applies to the Jasimuddin Literary Award?

- A It was for the best poem competition.
- B It was for the most published writer.
- C It was as an annual award.
- D It was given by Bangla Academy.

[1]

(v) In what field did Zainul Abedin contribute to the cultural life of Bangladesh?

- A painting
- B dance
- C music
- D poetry

[1]

(b) This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

(i) Describe how Lalon Shah contributed to art and culture in Bangladesh. [5]

(ii) Explain how Begum Rokeya is said to have 'changed the lives of women'. [3]

(c) This question tests your understanding and judgement.

(i) Explain how each of the following contribute to people's understanding of how the people of Bengal lived in the past:

- fairs
- festivals

[8]

(ii) Which of these two does more to contribute to people's understanding of how people lived in the past? [4]

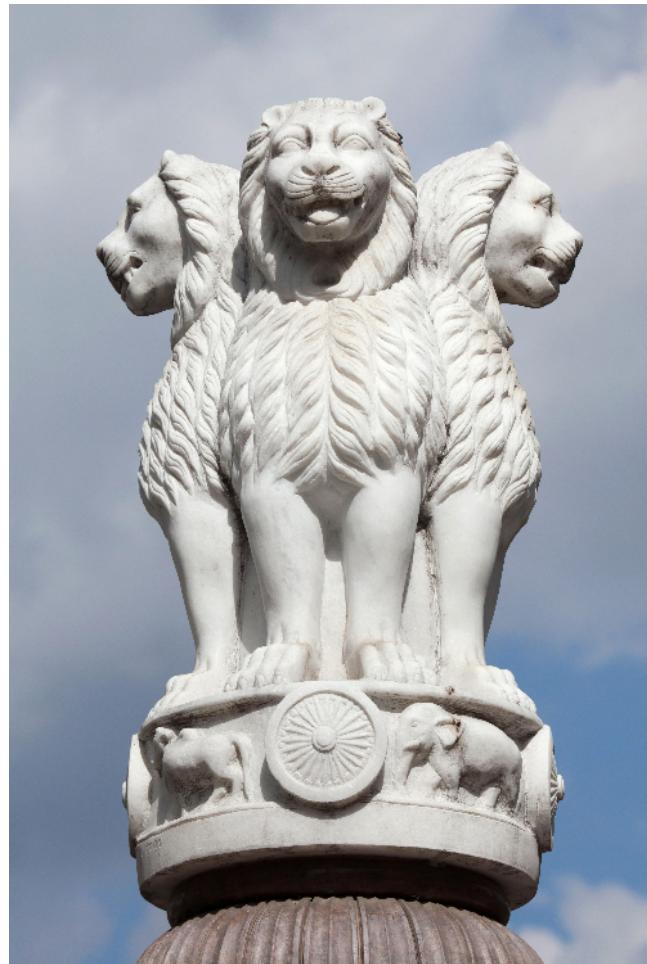
[Total: 25]

Choose **two** of Questions 2 to 4.

Answer all parts of the **two** questions you choose.

2 Pre-Mughal Bengal

Ashoka from Sarnath erected in front of the India House at Budapest Zoo in Budapest, Hungary



Bengal before 1100 AD

The Gupta period is sometimes called the 'golden age' of India. However, towards the end of the sixth century AD, Gupta rule in Bengal weakened and a military officer of the Guptas, Sasanka, became ruler. Sasanka's rise marked a new era in the history of Bengal. He established his authority in north-west Bengal, where he made his capital. Between 500 and 1100 AD, a number of independent kingdoms flourished in south-east Bengal. 5

After the death of Sasanka, there was a time described as matsyanyaya. Following this, the Pala dynasty established itself and ruled Bengal for nearly 400 years. The dominance of the Palas ended with the death of Devapala and the Pala empire shrank due to successful foreign attacks. In the eleventh century, however, territories lost in northern and western Bengal were recaptured and Pala rule was restored once more. 10

(a) This question tests your knowledge.

(i) What is the name of the north-west region of Bengal where Sasanka 'made his capital'?
[line 4] [1]

(ii) Name one of the kingdoms that flourished in south-east Bengal between 500 and 1100 AD. (lines 5-6) [1]

(iii) What religion did Sasanka follow? [1]

(iv) What does the term 'matsyanyaya' mean? (line 7) [1]

(v) Which king recaptured lost territories and 'Pala rule was restored once more' in the eleventh century AD? (line 11) [1]

(b) This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

(i) Describe living and working in Bengal during the Maurya Empire. [5]

(ii) Why is the Gupta period sometimes called the 'Golden Age of India'? [5]

(c) This question tests your understanding and judgement.

(i) Explain the impact of the following kings on the establishment and growth of an empire in Bengal.

- Gopala
- Dharamapala
- Devapala

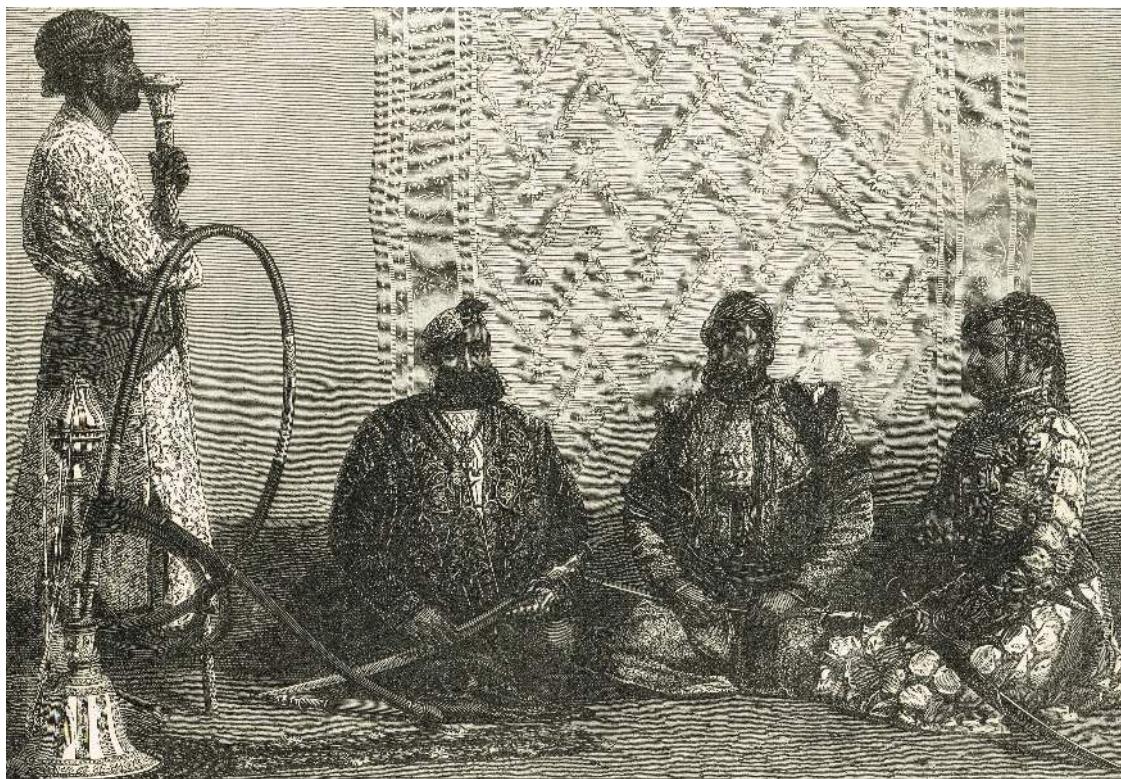
[8]

(ii) Which of these three Kings had the greater lasting impact on Bengal? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

3 The British Period

Zamindars and Rajas of the Northern provinces of Hindustan, India in the nineteenth century



Rule from Britain

The East India Company developed British interests in the subcontinent. However, the impact of the Great Famine 1769-70 was so severe that the British Government was forced to try to improve the situation there. Following a period of Dual Administration, the British Government took direct control of its possessions in the subcontinent. New positions were to be created: a Governor-General, provincial Governors and a Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. There was to be a Civil Service.

5

New laws controlling land ownership were introduced. Zamindars, subject to meeting the terms of their contracts, were made permanent owners of the land. While this system created an aristocracy loyal to the British Government, it did nothing to improve farming.

British rule did not show understanding of how society in the subcontinent worked. Britain did not understand the traditional relationship between Zamindars and farmers. In fact, it understood little about traditions at all.

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(a) This question tests your knowledge.

(i) Identify **one** cause of the Great Famine. (line 2) [1]

(ii) What was meant by Dual Administration? [1]

(iii) What was the law of 1793 that created a new role for Zamindars? (line 7) [1]

(iv) What service did Zamindars provide to Britain in order to own their land? (line 8) [1]

(v) Identify **one** role of the Civil Service. (line 6) [1]

(b) This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

(i) Describe the reasons for Britain's interest in the subcontinent. [5]

(ii) How did the way that Britain ruled the subcontinent change under Lord Cornwallis?

[5]

(c) This question tests your understanding and judgement.

(i) Explain how each of the following caused difficulties for the British:

- the Fakir-Sanyasi movement
- the Faraizi movement

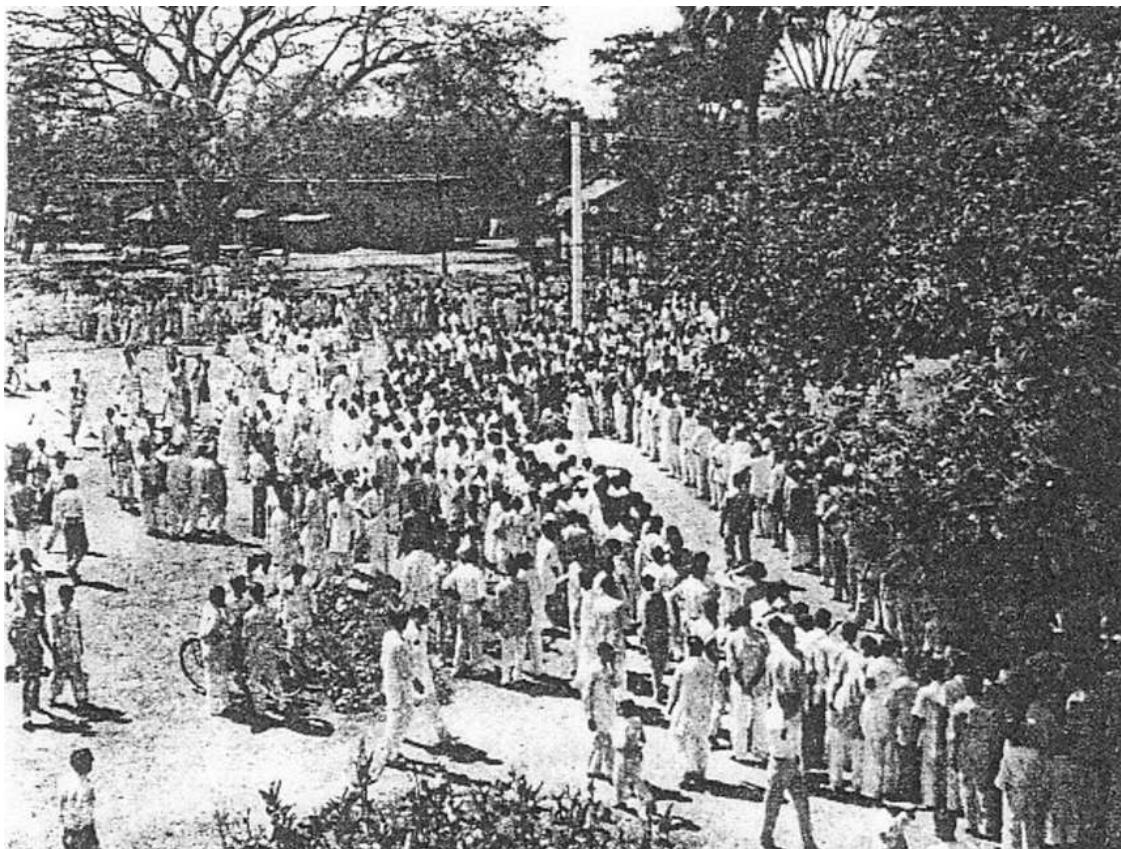
[8]

(ii) Which of these had greater impact on the British? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

4 From Pakistan to Bangladesh

A photograph of a meeting taken during the Language Movement



An unsettled time for Bengal

Decisions made in 1947 did not make for a settled and confident Pakistan. Nor did they establish one united country of Pakistan. Pakistan was one country in name and in government, but in most other respects it was two countries, separated by almost 1000 miles and with few cultural, language or economic characteristics in common. The decision taken in 1948 by Jinnah to make one national language for Pakistan did not reduce the political unrest in East Pakistan.

There were political attempts to demonstrate to West Pakistan that East Pakistan should not be ignored. The Awami Muslim League was highly respected and very successful in East Pakistan. Opposition parties joined forces to gain more say in national political decisions. In the end, however, it was the people's demand for a homeland, rather than any political campaign, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.

5

10

(a) This question tests your knowledge.

(i) What was the national language of Pakistan, chosen by Jinnah in 1948? [1]

(ii) Who was the first president of the Awami Muslim League? (line 8) [1]

(iii) What was the union of opposition parties called in 1954? [1]

(iv) Name the conspiracy case which caused Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's arrest in 1968. [1]

(v) Name the condition that Bhutto laid down in February 1970 before agreeing to meet with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [1]

(b) This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

(i) Outline the main aims of the United Front of 1953. [5]

(ii) Why was the United Front **not** more successful in achieving its aims? [5]

(c) This question tests your understanding and judgement.

(i) Explain the importance of **both** of the following to Bengal/ East Pakistan.

- The Language Movement 1948-1952
- The Mass Uprising of 1969

[8]

(ii) Which do you think had the greater importance in bringing about an independent Bangladesh? Explain your answer. [2]

[Total: 25]

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