



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**BANGLADESH STUDIES**

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

**7094/01**

**May/June 2012**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **three** questions.

Answer **Question 1** and **two** other questions.

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

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

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This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



You MUST answer this question. Answer ALL parts.

**Question 1: The Culture and Heritage of Bangladesh**

**Part (a):** This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) What is Mir Mosharraf Hossain's work *Udashin Pathikir Moner* an example of?
- A Satire  
B Poetry  
C Drama  
D Textbook [1]
- (ii) What is Kazi Nazrul Islam known as?
- A The Singer of the City  
B The National Poet of Bangladesh  
C The Muse of Music  
D The Bengali Dreamer [1]
- (iii) The *nabanna* was made by Zainul Abedin in 1970? What was it?
- A A large portrait on canvas  
B A large sculpture  
C A long scroll  
D A long tapestry [1]
- (iv) What was Jasimuddin's first career?
- A A doctor  
B A journalist  
C A collector of folk literature  
D A playwright [1]
- (v) What did Begum Rokeya start in 1916?
- A A political party for Bengali Muslim women  
B An association for Bengali Muslim women  
C A music club for Bengali Muslim women  
D A teacher training college for Bengali Muslim women [1]

**Part (b):** This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Why is Rabindranath Tagore considered to be such an important cultural figure in Bangladesh? Explain your answer. [8]

**Part (c):** This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain why **each** of the following has made an important contribution to the development of the culture of Bangladesh.
- Literature
  - Music
  - Architecture [8]
- (ii) Explain which one of these has made the **most** important contribution, and why. [4]

**[Total: 25]**

Choose TWO of questions 2 to 4.

Answer ALL parts of the two questions you choose.

**Question 2: Pre-Mughal Bengal**

**Ancient Bengal**

The evidence for the early history of Bengal is limited, but there were probably six territorial units. The first well-established empire was that of the Mauryas. There is evidence of a capital city and of the influence of Buddhism. Trade was of some importance and is referred to in Greek and Latin texts. Evidence of another empire comes from the 4th century AD with the Guptas. Historians have to rely on non-written evidence to a large extent for knowledge of this period, but there are indications of a powerful trading state and economic prosperity. Various religions were practised and the 'Golden Age' lasted until around 600 AD which saw the beginning of the period of independent kingdoms in Bengal. 5

**Part (a):** This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) What was the name given to the six territorial units of ancient Bengal? (lines 1–2) [1]
- (ii) What was the name given to the capital of Bengal during the time of the Mauryas? (lines 2–3) [1]
- (iii) What was the main trade in the Maurya period (line 3)? [1]
- (iv) Which ruler established Gupta rule in the 4th century AD? (line 4) [1]
- (v) Who became ruler of Bengal around 600 AD, ending the rule of the Guptas? (line 7) [1]

**Part (b):** This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) What historical evidence exists about ancient Bengal? [5]
- (ii) Explain the importance of the Mauryan period in the history of Bengal. [5]

**Part (c):** This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain why **each** of the following was important in making the Gupta period a 'Golden Age'.
  - Trade and commerce
  - Religion
  - Political stability
 [8]
- (ii) Explain which one of these was the **most** important, and why. [2]

**[Total: 25]**

### Question 3: The Mughal Period

#### The Decline of the Mughals in Bengal

For all his greatness, Aurangzeb weakened the Empire by his religious policies and by his annexation policies in the Deccan. The annexation of Marwar and the rebellion of the Marathas both caused serious problems. These worsened after Aurangzeb's death when a lack of strong central direction led to a weak administration, the decline of the army and peasant unrest.

Mughal weaknesses were exploited by foreign invaders and the battle of Panipat in 1761 may be seen as a turning point, opening the way for the British to extend their power and influence. Aurangzeb's successors were weak, but much of the blame for the subsequent decline of the Empire must be attributed to Aurangzeb himself. 5

**Part (a):** This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) In what year did Aurangzeb die? (line 3) [1]
- (ii) Name an area annexed by Aurangzeb in the Deccan (line 2) [1]
- (iii) Who were driven to oppose Aurangzeb by the annexation of Marwar? (line 2) [1]
- (iv) Who defeated the Mughal Empire at Panipat? (line 5) [1]
- (v) In the reign of which Mughal emperor had the British been given permission in 1620 to build forts and to trade? [1]

**Part (b):** This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) Describe the struggles for the Mughal throne between Aurangzeb's sons. [5]
- (ii) Why did Aurangzeb's policies weaken his empire? [5]

**Part (c):** This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain why **each** of the following was important in causing Mughal decline after 1712.
  - The power of the nobles
  - The weakness of the army
  - Foreign invaders
 [8]
- (ii) Explain which one of these was the **most** important, and why. [2]

**[Total: 25]**

## Question 4: The British Period

### The growth of Muslim political awareness 1905–1940

The period from 1905 to 1923 saw very significant developments in the growth of political awareness in Bengal. The Partition of Bengal in 1905 gave rise to a great deal of controversy and helped to bring about the Muslim League. It did seem that Muslims and Hindus might cooperate to bring about greater self-government for India. The Lucknow Pact saw a high point of co-operation. The Swarajya Party in the 1920s attempted to increase co-operation after Muslims were angry about the failure of the Khilafat movement. In the long run, however, it proved impossible for the early cooperation to be revived, and divisions between Muslim and Hindu political demands increased. The most rapid growth of the Muslim League came after 1937, and by 1940 the Lahore Resolution was a turning point in the demand for a separate Muslim state.

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**Part (a):** This question tests your knowledge.

- (i) Which viceroy introduced the Partition of Bengal in 1905? (line 2) [1]
- (ii) When was the Lucknow Pact? (line 4) [1]
- (iii) Who led the Swarajya Party? (line 5) [1]
- (iv) Which country did the Khilafat movement wish to support? (line 6) [1]
- (v) Who led the Muslim League in the period of its rapid growth 1937–40? (lines 8–9) [1]

**Part (b):** This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

- (i) Write what you know about the Swarajya Party. [5]
- (ii) Why was there resentment among many Muslims in India against Hindu leaders in the years 1920–40? [5]

**Part (c):** This question tests your understanding and judgement.

- (i) Explain why **each** of the following was important in the development of the demand for a separate Muslim state.
  - The Partition of Bengal
  - The failure of the Khilafat movement
  - The Lahore Resolution [8]
- (ii) Explain which one of these was the **most** important, and why. [2]

**[Total: 25]**





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