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Sanjiv Refresher

Social Science

Class - VII

Based on Latest NCERT Textbooks

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SYLLABUS

No.	CHAPTER / UNIT	OBJECTIVES
HISTORY - Our Past II		
1.	Introduction : Tracing Changes Through a Thousand Years	Familiarise the student with the changing names of the land and the kinds of sources that historians use for studying medieval period.
2.	Kings and Kingdoms	Trace the patterns of political developments and military conquests - Gurjara-Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, Palas, Chahamanas, Ghaznavids.
3.	Delhi : 12th to 15th Century	The development of political institutions, and relationships amongst rulers and understand strategies of military control and resource mobilisation.
4.	The Mughals (16th to 17th Century)	The political history of the 16th and 17th centuries under Mughal Empire.
5.	Tribes, Nomads and Settled Communities	Convey an idea of long-term social change and movements of people and to understand political developments in specific regions.
6.	Devotional Paths to the Divine	Indicate the major religious ideas and practices that began during this period.
7.	The Making of Regional Cultures	Provide a sense of the development of regional cultural forms, including 'classical' forms of dance and music.
8.	Eighteenth-Century Political Formations	Delineate developments related to the Sikhs, Rajputs, Marathas, later Mughals, Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal, and Nizam of Hyderabad.
CIVICS - Social and Political Life II		
1.	On Equality	Understand the key elements of equality and the structure of democracy.
2.	Role of the Government in Health	Understand the nature of the role played by the government regarding resources and services.

No.	CHAPTER / UNIT	OBJECTIVES
3.	How the State Government Works	Understand the domain of power and authority exercised by the state government.
4.	Growing up as Boys and Girls	Norms, values that determine roles expected from boys and girls.
5.	Women Change the World	Understand the role of women and their empowerment in ordering our social and economic lives.
6.	Understanding Media	Understand the role of the media in democracy and its ethics and accountability.
7.	Markets Around Us	Understand markets and their relation to everyday life.
8.	A Shirt in the Market	Functions to link scattered producers and consumers.
GEOGRAPHY – Our Environment		
1.	Environment	To understand the environment in its totality including various components.
2.	Inside Our Earth	To explain the components of natural environment.
3.	Our Changing Earth	Learn about the Earth’s movements and major landforms.
4.	Air	Understand about atmosphere and its elements.
5.	Water	Learn about the sources and distribution of water on the Earth.
6.	Human Environment Interactions The Tropical and the Subtropical Region	Understand inter-relationship of humans and natural environment of two different regions.
7.	Life in the Deserts	Study the life in two different types of deserts.

Contents

HISTORY : Our Past-II

Chapter 1	Introduction : Tracing Changes Through a Thousand Years	1 - 16
Chapter 2	Kings and Kingdoms	17 - 33
Chapter 3	Delhi : 12th to 15th Century	34 - 46
Chapter 4	The Mughals (16th to 17th Century)	47 - 60
Chapter 5	Tribes, Nomads and Settled Communities	61 - 77
Chapter 6	Devotional Paths to the Divine	78 - 97
Chapter 7	The Making of Regional Cultures	98 - 116
Chapter 8	Eighteenth-Century Political Formations	117 - 129

CIVICS : Social and Political Life-II

Unit I : Equality in Indian Democracy

Chapter 1	On Equality	130 - 139
-----------	-------------	-----------

Unit II : State Government

Chapter 2	Role of the Government in Health	140 - 154
Chapter 3	How the State Government Works	155 - 167

Unit III : Gender

Chapter 4	Growing up as Boys and Girls	168 - 180
Chapter 5	Women Change the World	181 - 194

Unit IV : Media

Chapter 6	Understanding Media	195 - 208
-----------	---------------------	-----------

Unit V : Markets

Chapter 7	Markets Around Us	209 - 223
Chapter 8	A Shirt in the Market	224 - 239

GEOGRAPHY : Our Environment

Chapter 1	Environment	240 - 252
Chapter 2	Inside Our Earth	253 - 264
Chapter 3	Our Changing Earth	265 - 279
Chapter 4	Air	280 - 294
Chapter 5	Water	295 - 307
Chapter 6	Human Environment Interactions	308 - 324
	The Tropical and the Subtropical Region	
Chapter 7	Life in the Deserts	325 - 338

INTRODUCTION: TRACING CHANGES THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS

Summary

- The history of every country in the world is divided into three periods – Ancient, Medieval and Modern. In India, medieval period is considered to be the time between 8th century-18th century AD.
- The maps by Arab geographer Al-Idrisi (1154) and a French Cartographer (1720) give a sketch of the Indian subcontinent as known in earlier times.



IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES



Muhammad Al-Idrisi – was an Arab Muslim geographer and cartographer who lived in Sicily. In 1154 CE, he made one of the most advanced ancient world map with the Indian subcontinent.

New and Old Terminologies

- Historical records exist in a variety of languages with different grammar and vocabulary. The meanings of words also changed overtime. For instance -
 - (i) The term 'Hindustan' was used in 13th century by Minhaj-i-Siraj, a chronicler who wrote in Persian for areas around Punjab, Haryana and the lands between Ganga and Yamuna.
 - (ii) In early 16th century, Babur used 'Hindustan' to describe the subcontinent along with its flora and fauna.
 - (iii) 14th century poet Amir Khusrau, used the word 'Hind'.

Historians and their Sources

- Historians study the past using different sources depending upon –
 - (i) Period of their study
 - (ii) The nature of their investigation.
- Roughly from 700 to 1750 AD, historians rely on coins, inscriptions, architecture and textual records for information. The number and variety of textual records increased during this period.
- Paper gradually became cheaper and more widely available. Manuscripts were collected by wealthy people, rulers, monasteries and temples. They were placed in libraries and archives.



IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES



Amir Khusrau
(1253-1325) – Amir Khusrau was a Sufi musician, poet and scholar from the Indian subcontinent. In 1318, he noted and wrote that there is a different language in every region of India. He also explained that in contrast to these languages was Sanskrit which did not belong to any region and was only used by Brahmanas.



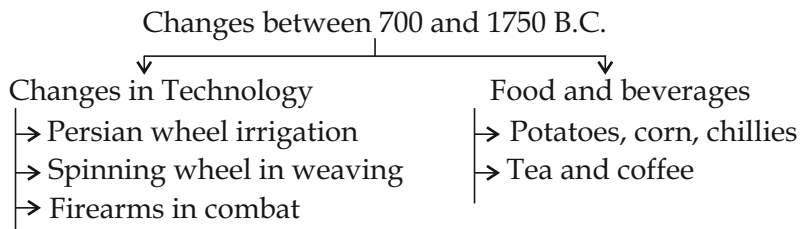
Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266-1287)
He was the ninth sultan of the Mamluk dynasty of Delhi.

Ziyauddin Barani
(1285-1357)
He was a Muslim political thinker of the Delhi Sultanate. In 1356, he wrote his first chronicle.

- There was no printing press so scribes copied manuscripts by hand. As they copied, they also introduced some changes. These small differences grew over centuries.
- Authors also revised their chronicles at different times, e.g. the 14th century chronicles.
- Ziyauddin Barani wrote his chronicle first in 1356 and another version 2 years later.

New Social and Political Groups

- A large scale and variety of development occurred over the period between 700 and 1750. Like-
- As a result, this was a period of economic, political, social and cultural changes.
- This period was of great mobility. Many groups like Rajputs, Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms and Kayasthas used the opportunities to hold wealth and position.



- Throughout the period, there was a gradual clearing of forests and the extension of agriculture and these changes led to the migration of forest dwellers. Others started agriculture and became peasants.
- These new peasants became part of complex societies and were required to pay taxes to local lords. As a result, many social and economic differences emerged amongst peasants.
- This also gave rise to Jatis or sub-castes. People were ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and occupations.

Region and Empire

- Many great empires flourished during this period like- the Cholas, the Khaljis, the Tughluqs, the Mughals, etc. Not all of these empires were equally stable or successful.
- The subcontinent was divided into several regions ruled by different empires who left behind many different traditions and cultures.

Old and New Religions

- This period also witnessed major developments in religious traditions. The bhakti and the sufi saints brought about a better understanding of the fundamental principles of Hinduism and Islam.

- Changes in Hindus led to worship of new deities, construction of temples and increased importance of Brahmanas and the priests, who were supported by their patrons.
- Along with Hinduism, Islam also developed as a new religion. The followers were divided into sects—Shias and Sunnis. Quran, the holy book of Muslims was first brought to India by merchants and migrants.

Thinking about Time and Historical Periods

- The British historians divided the history of India into three periods - 'Hindu', 'Muslim', and 'British'. This division was based on the idea of the religion of rulers.
- Few historians follow this periodisation. But such a division by British historians ignores the rich diversity of India and major economic, social and cultural factors that took place.
- The medieval period is often contrasted with modern period. But modern period carries with it, the progress and changes that took place during the Medieval period.



IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

- 1154 CE : Al-Idrisi an Arab Geographer made the map of Indian sub-continent.
- 1356 : Ziyauddin Barani wrote his first chronicle.
- 1266-1287 : Reign of Delhi sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban.
- 7th Century CE : The teachings of the holy Quran brought to India by merchants and migrants.



KEYWORDS

- (1) Medieval period - The period between the 8th to the 18th century AD.
- (2) Cartographer - A person who draws or produces maps.
- (3) Subcontinent - A large distinguished part of a continent such as part of Asia containing India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- (4) Inscriptions - Writings found on pillars, rocks, caves, walls, monuments, etc.
- (5) Chronicle - A written account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence.
- (6) Scribe - A person who copies out documents, especially one employed to do this before printing was invented.
- (7) Manuscript - A document or book written by hand rather than typed or printed.
- (8) Archive - A place where documents and manuscripts are stored. Today all national and state governments have archives where they keep all their old official records and transactions.
- (9) Patron - An influential wealthy person who gives financial or other support to another person such as, an artist, a crafts person, a learned man or a noble.
- (10) Chieftain - The leader or head who governs a village or tribe or a group.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| (11) Jati | - Group of people ranked on the basis of tradition of job or tribe. |
| (12) Region | - In early times, vast area governed or ruled by a ruler or a king, was called as region. |
| (13) Habitat | - It refers to the environment of a region and the social and economic lifestyle of its residents. |
| (14) Dynasty | - A line of rulers from the same family, or a period when the country is ruled by them. |
| (15) Architecture | - The style of design and method of construction of buildings and other physical structures. |
| (16) Periodisation | - Process of categorising the past into blocks of time period in order to study and analyse the past. |
| (17) Khalifas | - Commonly refers to the leaders, but is also used as a title among various Islamic religious groups. |
| (18) Archaeology | - It is the study of the ancient and recent human past through material remains. |
| (19) Monument | - A structure or building that is built to honour a special person or event in the past. |
| (20) Biography | - A biography is a detailed description of a person's life. |



INTEXT QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Look at the areas in the interior of the subcontinent on Map 2 (Refer to NCERT Textbook). Are they as detailed as those on the coast? Follow the course of the River Ganga and see how it is shown. Why do you think there is a difference in the level of detail and accuracy between the coastal and inland areas in this map? (Page 02)

Ans. No, the areas in the interior of the subcontinent on Map 2 are not as detailed as on the coast. This map was used by European sailors and merchants and they did not go to the inland places of India. They traded with the people in the coastal areas. Therefore, the level of detail and accuracy of coastal areas is more in the map.

Q. 2. Can you think of any other words whose meanings changed in different contexts? (Page 03)

Ans. The word 'Jana' was initially used to address a particular group. Later it was used for land and then used for population.

Q. 3. When was paper more expensive and easily available – in the thirteenth or the fourteenth century? (Page 04)

Ans. During the 13th century paper was expensive, but during the 14th century it was less expensive and easily available.

Q. 4. Of the technological, economic, social and cultural changes described in this section, which do you think were most significant in the town or village in which you live? (Page 08)

Ans. Students need to do themselves for the village or town in which they live.

Q. 5. Make a list of the languages mentioned by Amir Khusrau. Prepare another list of the names of languages spoken today in the regions he mentioned. (Page 10)

Ans. List of languages mentioned by Amir Khusrau : Sindhi, Lahori, Kashmiri, Dvarsamudri, Telangani, Gujarati, Ma'bari, Gauri, Awadhi and Hindawi.

List of the languages spoken today in the regions mentioned by Amir Khusrau.

Region	Language Spoken Today
Sindh (presently in Pakistan)	Sindhi
Lahore (presently in Pakistan)	Punjabi/Lahori
Kashmir	Kashmiri
Karnataka	Kannada
Gujarat	Gujarati
Andhra Pradesh	Telugu
Tamil Nadu	Tamil
Uttar Pradesh	Hindi
Bengal	Bengali
Delhi	Hindi

Q. 6. Why do you think rulers made such claims? (Page 10)

Ans. Rulers made such claims to show their power and control over large areas of land in different parts of India and also to gain popularity as a mighty ruler.

Q. 7. Find out whether and for how long your state was part of these pan-regional empires. (Page 11)

Ans. Students need to do themselves.

Q. 8. Do you remember what Amir Khusrau had to say regarding Sanskrit, knowledge and Brahmanas? (Page 11)

Ans. Regarding Sanskrit Amir Khusrau said that it was an old language and did not belong to any region or religion and about Brahmanas his view was that no one except the Brahmanas had the knowledge of Sanskrit.