

# **NCERT SOLUTIONS**

**CLASS - 12th**



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Class : 12th

Subject : History

Chapter : 9

Chapter Name : Kings and Chronicles

Q1 Describe the process of manuscript production in the Mughal Court.

Answer. The books written in Mughal India were known as manuscripts. They were called manuscripts because they were handwritten. The manuscripts were produced in imperial "kitabkhana". The kitabkhana was the scriptorium, here all the manuscripts of the emperor was kept and new ones were produced.

The creation of a manuscript involved a number of people performing a variety of tasks.

- Paper makers were needed to prepare the folios of the manuscript
- Scribes or calligraphers to copy the text
- Gilder to illuminate the pages
- Painters to illustrate scenes from text
- Bookbinders to gather the individual folios and set them within ornamental covers.

The finished manuscripts were regarded as precious and invaluable and a work of intellectual wealth and beauty.

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Q2 In what ways would the daily routine and special festivities associated with the Mughal Court have conveyed a sense of the power of the emperor?

Answer. The daily routine and special festivities that conveyed a sense of power of the emperor are :

→ There were strict rules and regulations maintained in the court. Once the emperor sat on the throne, nobody was permitted to move from his position or to leave the court without the permission of the emperor.

→ Social control in court society was exercised through carefully defining in full detail the forms of address, courtesies and speech which were acceptable in court. The slightest infringement of etiquette was noticed and punished on the spot.

→ The forms of salutation to the ruler indicated the person's status in the hierarchy : The highest form of submission was sijda or complete prostration. Though under the rule of emperor Shah Jahan, these rules were replaced with chahar taslim and zaminbos i.e kissing the ground. Quote examples

→ The rules that governed diplomats at the Mughal courts were equally explicit. An ambassador presented to the Mughal emperor was expected to offer greetings that were acceptable i.e either by bowing deeply or by kissing the ground, or else by following the Persian custom of clasping one's hand in front of the chest.

→ The Jharokha Darshan : Jharokha darshan was introduced by Akbar with the objective of broadening the acceptance of the imperial authority as part of popular faith. Everyday after the personal religious devotions or prayers, the emperor appeared on a small balcony, the jharokha, facing the east. Below, a crowd of people (soldiers, merchants, craftspersons, peasants, women with sick children) waited for a view, darshan of the emperor.

→ On special occasions such as accession to the throne, Id, Shab-i barat and Holi, the court was full of life. Perfumed candles were set in rich holders and palace walls were decorated. Three major festivals were celebrated by the Mughal Kings : the solar and lunar birthdays of the monarch and Nauroz, the Iranian New Year on Vernal equinox. On birthdays, the monarch was weighed against various commodities and then it was distributed in charity.

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Q3 Assess the role played by women of the imperial household in the Mughal Empire.

Answer. The word 'harem' was used to refer to the domestic world of the Mughals. This was taken from a Persian word haram meaning a sacred place. Polygamy was widely practiced in the Indian subcontinent, especially among the ruling groups.

The women of the imperial household played a very significant role in the Mughal Empire like :

- After Nur Jahan, Mughal queens and princesses began to control significant financial resources.
- Shah Jahan's daughters Jahanara and Roshanara enjoyed an annual income often equal to that of high imperial mansabdars. Jahanara, in addition, received revenues from the port city of Surat, which was a lucrative centre of overseas trade.
- Jahanara participated in many architectural projects of Shah Jahan's new capital, Shahjahanabad.
- Gulbadan Begum, daughter of Babur wrote Humayun Nama.

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Q4 What were the concerns that shaped Mughal policies and attitudes towards regions outside the subcontinent.

Answer. The relations outside the subcontinent were not that smooth and there are some contemporary histories that showcase the existence of diplomatic relationships and conflicts with neighboring political powers.

**The Safavids and Qandahar :** The political and diplomatic relations between the Mughal kings and the neighbouring countries of Iran and Turan hinged on the control of the frontier defined by the Hindukush mountains that separated Afghanistan from the regions of Iran and Central Asia. Qandhar was the bone of contention between the Safavids and the Mughals.

**The Ottomans :** The relationship between the Mughals and the Ottomans was marked by the concern to ensure free movement for merchants and pilgrims in the territories under Ottoman control. This was especially true for the Hijaz, that part of Ottoman Arabia where the important pilgrim centres of Mecca and Medina were located. The Mughal emperor usually combined religion and commerce by exporting valuable merchandise to Aden and Mokha, both Red Sea ports, and distributing the proceeds of the sales in charity to the keepers of shrines and religious men there.

**Jesuits :** The Jesuit accounts are the earliest impressions of the Mughal court ever recorded by European writers. Following the discovery of a direct sea route to India at the end of the fifteenth century, Portuguese merchants established a network of trading stations in coastal cities.

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Q5 Discuss the major features of Mughal provincial administration. How did the centre control the provinces?

Answer. The major features of the Mughal provincial administration are :

- The division of functions established at the centre was replicated in the Provinces (subas) where the ministers had their corresponding subordinates (Diwan, bakhshi and sadr).
- The head of the provincial administration was the governor (subadar) who reported directly to the emperor.
- The sarkars, into which each suba was divided, often overlapped with the jurisdiction of faujdars who were deployed with contingents of heavy cavalry and musketeers in districts.
- The local administration was looked after at the level of the pargana by three semi-hereditary officers, the qanungo (keeper of revenue records), the chaudhuri (in charge of revenue collection) and the qazi.
- Each department of administration maintained a large support staff of clerks, accountants, auditors, messengers, and other functionaries who were technically qualified officials, functioning in accordance with standardised rules and procedures, and generating copious written orders and records.
- Persian was officially as the language of the administration but local languages were used at village levels for village accounts.

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Q6 Discuss with examples, the distinctive features of Mughal Chronicles.

Answer. The distinctive features of Mughal Chronicles were :

- Chronicles commissioned by the Mughal emperors are an important source for studying the empire and its court.
- They were written in order to project a vision of an enlightened kingdom to all those who came under its umbrella.

- The chronicles mainly focused on events centred on the ruler, his family, the court and nobles, wars and administrative arrangements.
- The chronicles were written in Persian. It flourished as a language of the court and of literary writings, alongside north Indian languages, especially Hindavi and its regional variants. As the Mughals were Chaghtai Turks by origin, Turkish was their mother tongue.
- The chronicles were seen as precious objects, a work of intellectual wealth and beauty.
- The chronicles narrating the events of a Mughal emperor's reign contained Images beside the written text, the images described the events in visual forms.
- The court chronicles show the power of the Mughal Kings and their belief in the theory of "A Divine Light".

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Q7 To what extent do you think the visual material presented in this chapter corresponds with Abu'l Fazl's description of the taswir (source 1)?

Answer. Taswir means drawing the likeness of anything. Abu'l Fazl described it as a magical art that had the power to make inanimate objects look as if they possessed life.

The visual materials in the chapter like :

A folio in nastaliq, the work of Muhammad Husayan of Kashmir (fig 9.3 in the NCERT book) is a beautiful calligraphy.

A painting of Jahangir dressed in resplendent clothes and jewels, holding up a portrait of his father Akbar (fig. 9.5 in the NCERT book).

Jahangir presenting Prince Khurram with a turban jewel Scene from Badshah Nama (fig. 9.6 in the NCERT book).

These are the masterpieces that justifies the claims and description of taswir in source 1.

And A Mughal Kitabkhana (fig 9.4 in the NCERT book) also aptly corresponds to the description by Abu'l Fazl.

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Q8 What were the distinctive features of the Mughal nobility? How was their relationship with the emperor shaped?

Answer. One of the most important pillars of Mughal state was its corps of officers, also referred to by historians collectively as the nobility.

The distinctive features of the Mughal nobility was :

- The nobility was recruited from diverse ethnic and religious groups. This ensured that no faction was large enough to challenge the authority of the state.
- The officer corps of the Mughals was described as a bouquet of flowers held together by loyalty to the emperor.
- Members of Hindu Castes inclined towards education and accountancy were promoted. For example, Raja Todar Mal, who belonged to the Khatri caste was Akbar's finance minister.
- Iranians gained high offices under Jahangir because his politically influenced queen Nur Jahan was an Iranian.
- Aurangzeb appointed Rajputs to high positions and under him the Marathas accounted for a sizeable number within the body of officers.
- The nobles participated in military campaigns with their armies and also served as officers of the empire in the provinces. Each military commander recruited, equipped and trained the main striking arm of the Mughal army, the cavalry. The troopers maintained superior horses branded on the flank by the imperial mark (dagh). The emperor personally reviewed changes in rank, titles and official postings for all except the lowest-ranked officers.
- For members of the nobility, imperial service was way of acquiring power, wealth and the highest possible reputation. A person wishing to join the service petitioned through a noble, who presented a tajwiz, to the emperor. If the applicant was found suitable a mansab was granted to him.
- The holders of government offices held ranks (mansabs) comprising two numerical designations : zat which was an indicator of position in the imperial hierarchy and the salary of the official, and sawar which indicated the number of horsemen he was required to maintain in service.
- Akbar along with his ministers and advisers shaped the administrative, fiscal and monetary institution of the empire.

The nobles stationed at the court were duty-bound to appear twice daily, morning and evening, to express submission to the emperor in the public audience hall. They shared the responsibility for guarding the emperor and his household round the clock.

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Q9 Identify the elements that went into the making of the Mughal ideal of kingship.

Answer. The elements that went into the making of the Mughal ideal of kingship are :

→ A divine light : Abu'l Fazl placed Mughal kingship as the highest station in the hierarchy of objects receiving light emanating from God (farr - i - izadi). According to this idea, there was a hierarchy in which the Divine Light was transmitted to the king who then became the source of spiritual guidance for his subjects.

→ A unifying force : Mughal chronicles present the empire as comprising many different ethnic and religious communities - Hindus, Jainas, Zoroastrians and Muslims. As the source of all peace and stability the emperor stood above all religions and ethnic groups, mediated among them, and ensured that justice and peace prevailed. Abu'l Fazl describes the ideal of sulh-i-kul (absolute peace) as the cornerstone of enlightened rule. In sulh-i-kul all religions and schools of thought had freedom of expression but on condition that they did not undermine the authority of the state or fight among themselves. The idea of sulh-i-kul was implemented through state policies - the nobility under the Mughals was a composite one comprising Iranis, Turians, Afghans, Rajputs, Deccanis - all of whom were given positions and awards purely on the basis of their service and loyalty to the king.

→ The emperor protects the four essences of his subjects, namely, life (Jan), property (mal), honour (namus), and faith (din) and in return demands obedience and a share of resources.

A variety of symbols were used by the artists to create a visual representation of the idea of Justice, the highest virtue of Mughal monarchy

For example : The motif of the lion and the lamb peacefully nestling next to each other signifies a realm where both the strong and the weak could exist in harmony.

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Q10 On an outline map of the world, plot the areas with which the Mughals had political and cultural relations.

Answer. The areas with which the Mughals had political and cultural relations are : Central Asia, Afghanistan, Iran, Europe, etc.



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