

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**BANGLADESH STUDIES**

**7094/01**

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

May/June 2006

**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.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



You must answer this question. Answer ALL parts.

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

**Part (a)**

(i) Who was a legendary baul of Bangladesh?

- A Zainul Abedin
- B Mir Mosharraf Hossain
- C Jasimuddin
- D Lalon Shah

[1]

(ii) In which field did Begum Rokeya contribute to the culture of Bangladesh?

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

[1]

(iii) Who wrote the national anthem of Bangladesh?

- A Mir Mosharraf Hossain
- B Kazi Nazrul Islam
- C Jasimuddin
- D Rabindranath Tagore

[1]

(iv) Which of the following statements about Jasimuddin is true?

- A He died in 1914.
- B He had no interest in politics.
- C He never had a formal education.
- D He wrote a famous poem whilst still a student.

[1]

(v) What is the subject of Mir Mosharraf Hossain's *Bishad Shindhu*?

- A a battle
- B his own life
- C nature
- D travel

[1]

**Part (b)**

Why are folk culture and the celebration of religious festivals a highly important part of Bangladeshi life? Explain your answer. [8]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following do you think has played the most important part in shaping the culture of Bangladesh? Explain your answer by writing about all three choices provided. You must give examples of their work to support your answer.

- Kazi Nazrul Islam
- Begum Rokeya
- Alaol

[12]

**Choose TWO of questions 2 to 4.  
Answer ALL parts of the two questions you choose.**

**Question 2: Pre-Mughal Bengal**

In ancient Bengal, there was no single state and the country was divided into small regions, too small to be called kingdoms or states. Before the Aryans arrived in Bengal, the Mauryas had established their rule in the area. First Chandra Gupta Maurya established Maurya rule in India and it came to north Bengal in the third century B.C. 1

Little is known about the history of Bengal from the fall of the Mauryas in the second century B.C. until the rise of the Guptas, except that the region continued to flourish economically. In the beginning of the sixth century A.D. the vast Gupta Empire in India came to an end and Bengal broke up into a number of independent kingdoms. During the eighth century A.D., the Pala Dynasty was very strong, and in the eleventh century the Senas were very important. It was not until the beginning of the thirteenth century that the Turks conquered Bengal and Muslim rule began. 5 10

**Part (a)**

- (i) What name was given to the small regions of ancient Bengal 'too small to be called kingdoms or states' (lines 1–2)? [1]
- (ii) Why did 'the Aryans' come to Bengal (line 2)? [1]
- (iii) Which emperor established Maurya rule in 'north Bengal in the third century B.C.' (line 4)? [1]
- (iv) In which century did 'the Guptas' win control of Bengal (line 6)? [1]
- (v) Which Turkish leader brought 'Muslim rule' to Bengal (line 10)? [1]

**Part (b)**

- (i) Write what you know about the independent kingdoms of South-East Bengal from the middle of the eighth century to the eleventh century. [5]
- (ii) Why were the Muslims able to extend their rule into Bengal from the thirteenth century onwards? [5]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following do you think was the most important of the early kingdoms in Bengal? Explain your answer by writing about all three choices provided.

- the Empire of Sasanka
- the Pala dynasty
- the Senas

[10]

**Question 3: The Mughal Period**

The Mughal period is one of the most interesting in the history of Bangladesh. Like many regions in India, Bengal came under the control of the Mughals, but they were in competition with the Afghans for dominance. 1

The first Mughal Emperor sent an expedition into Bengal and concluded a treaty with the Sultan of Bengal, Nusrat Shah. But it was the Afghan leader, Sher Shah, who established Afghan control. Although the Mughals fought to regain influence, it was not until they defeated the Afghans in battle in 1576 that Bengal finally became an integral part of the Mughal Empire. Even then, Emperor Akbar could not bring the whole of Bengal under his control and the Baro Bhuiyans offered serious opposition. In 1610 their leader entered Dhaka and made it the capital of Bengal, but he surrendered soon after to the Mughals, who kept a tight control on Bengal for the next 100 years. 5 10

**Part (a)**

- (i) Who was 'the first Mughal Emperor' (line 4)? [1]
- (ii) How did 'Nusrat Shah' die (line 5)? [1]
- (iii) Who did Sher Shah defeat in 1539 to establish 'Afghan control' in Bengal (lines 5–6)? [1]
- (iv) After which battle in July 1576 did Bengal finally become 'an integral part of the Mughal Empire' (line 7)? [1]
- (v) Name one of the leaders of 'the Baro Bhuiyans' (lines 8–9). [1]

**Part (b)**

- (i) Write what you know about the history of the Baro Bhuiyans under the Mughals. [5]
- (ii) Why were the Afghans able to establish control over Bengal in the mid-sixteenth century? [5]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following do you think was the greatest Mughal emperor? Explain your answer by writing about all three emperors.

- Akbar
  - Jahangir
  - Aurangzeb
- [10]

## Question 4: The British Period

### The partition of Bengal in 1905 and its aftermath

The partition of Bengal was a very important event in the history of Bengal, with many important consequences. In 1905 the British Viceroy announced that the large province of Bengal was to be divided into two separate provinces. These were the province of East Bengal and Assam and the province of West Bengal. 1

Many people in Bengal did not agree with partition. The Indian National Congress observed a day of mourning when the partition was officially declared and some Muslim leaders also opposed the partition. The song 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jal' was written, calling for accord and unity between the Hindu and Muslim Bengalis. 5

Soon the 'Boycott' and 'Swadeshi' movements were started to oppose partition. The increased political activity at the time also helped bring about the formation of the Muslim League in December 1906. As a result of the opposition, the British King announced the reversal of the partition. 10

#### Part (a)

- (i) Which Viceroy announced 'the partition of Bengal' (line 1)? [1]
- (ii) Which city became the capital of 'the province of East Bengal and Assam' (line 3)? [1]
- (iii) Who wrote 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jal' (line 7)? [1]
- (iv) In which year was the partition of Bengal reversed (lines 11–12)? [1]
- (v) Which British King 'announced the reversal of the partition' (lines 11–12)? [1]

#### Part (b)

- (i) Write what you know about the history of Bengal under British rule from the mid-nineteenth century to early 1905. [5]
- (ii) Why did the British partition Bengal? [5]

#### Part (c)

Which of the following do you think was the most important consequence of the partition of Bengal? Explain your answer by writing about all three choices provided.

- the formation of the Muslim League
- the 'Boycott' and 'Swadeshi' programmes
- increased communal tension [10]

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