

Name: _____ Grade : VI Branch: _____ Date: 29/04/2020 Sub: Social

Read the following paragraphs

New Social and Political Groups

The study of the thousand years between 700 and 1750 is a huge challenge to historians largely because of the scale and variety of developments that occurred over the period. At different moments in this period new technologies made their appearance – like the Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving, and firearms in combat. New foods and beverages arrived in the subcontinent – potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee. Remember that all these innovations – new technologies and crops – came along with people, who brought other ideas with them as well. As a result, this was a period of economic, political, social and cultural changes. One group of people who became important in this period were the Rajputs, a name derived from “Rajaputra”, the son of a ruler. Between the eighth and fourteenth centuries the term was applied more generally to a group of warriors who claimed Kshatriya caste status. The term included not just rulers and chieftains but also soldiers and commanders who served in the armies of different monarchs all over the subcontinent. A chivalric code of conduct – extreme valour and a great sense of loyalty – were the qualities attributed to Rajputs by their poets and bards. Other groups of people such as the Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms and Kayasthas (a caste of scribes and secretaries) also used the opportunities of the age to become politically important.

Choose the correct answers.

1. Which were the new groups of people prominent in the medieval age?
(a) Rajputs (b) Sikhs (c) Kayasthas (d) All the above
2. A group of warriors who claimed cast status.
(a) Brahmana (b) Kshatriya (c) Sudra (d) Vaishya
3. What were the new crops and beverages that arrived in Indian sub-continent in the medieval period.
(a) Corn (b) Coffee (c) Both a & b (d) None of these

4. One of the greatest invention in the field of agriculture was
(a) Presian wheel (b) Spinning wheel (c) Firearms (d) Wheel
5. The most prominent group of people in the medieval period in India were
(a) Ahoms (b) Kayasthas (c) Sikhs (d) Rajputs

Throughout this period there was a gradual clearing of forests and the extension of agriculture, a change faster and more complete in some areas than in others. Changes in their habitat forced many forest-dwellers to migrate. Others started tilling the land and became peasants. These new peasant groups gradually began to be influenced by regional markets, chieftains, priests, monasteries and temples. They became part of large, complex societies, and were required to pay taxes and offer goods and services to local lords. As a result, significant economic and social differences emerged amongst peasants. Some possessed more productive land, others also kept cattle, and some combined artisanal work with agricultural activity during the lean season. As society became more differentiated, people were grouped into jatis or sub-castes and ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and their occupations. Ranks were not fixed permanently, and varied according to the power, influence and resources controlled by members of the jati. The status of the same jati could vary from area to area. Jatis framed their own rules and regulations to manage the conduct of their members. These regulations were enforced by an assembly of elders, described in some areas as the jati panchayat. But jatis were also required to follow the rules of their villages. Several villages were governed by a chieftain. Together they were only one small unit of a state.

Fill in the blanks.

1. was the main occupation in the medieval period.
2. People were grouped into or and ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and their occupations.
3. The significant economic and social differences emerged amongst
4. The rules and regulations of Jati were enforced by an assembly of elders, described in some areas as the
5. During the medieval period the villages were governed by