

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Through the Eyes of Travellers: Perceptions of Society (c. 10th to 17th century)

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

AL-BIRUNI: 11th c. | Khwarizm | with Mahmud of Ghazni | KITAB-UL-HIND (Arabic, 80 ch) | comparative ethnography | barriers = language+religion+isolation

IBN BATTUTA: 14th c. | Morocco | qazi at Muhammad bin Tughlaq court (1333) | RIHLA dictated to Ibn Juzayy | uluq+dawa post | coconut+paan

BERNIER: 17th c. | France | physician with Dara Shukoh (1656-1668) | TRAVELS IN THE MOGUL EMPIRE | dedicated Louis XIV | influenced Montesquieu+Marx

BARRIERS (Al-Biruni's 3):
LANGUAGE + RELIGION + ISOLATION

POSTAL: ULUQ horse 4 mi | DAWA foot 1/3 mi relay-bell | fruit+water Khurasan→Delhi

LAND: Bernier — no private property | Reality — khalisa+jagir+zamindari+milk/inam, layered tenure

WOMEN: Bernier — sati at Lahore + harem (Jahanara) | Ibn Battuta — slaves at darbar + Malabar

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

- 1 Al-Biruni's methods + 3 barriers**
8 marks · 75% of years
Lead with COMPARATIVE method; list barriers Language/Religion/Isolation; close with 80-chapter structure.
- 2 Source-based passage — Bernier on land or sati**
8 marks · 90% of years
Q1 identify; Q2 Bernier's argument; Q3 historian's correction. Quote the passage phrase.
- 3 Ibn Battuta — postal/city/Tughlaq court**
5 marks · 70% of years
Name BOTH posts with numbers; mention fresh fruit + water; close 'largest city in eastern Islam'.
- 4 Bernier — land critique + Europe comparison**
8 marks · 65% of years
Claim → consequence → Europe → historian's correction (zamindari/milk existed).
- 5 Travellers' accounts as sources — strengths + limits**
5 marks · 45% of years
Two strengths + two limits + close 'use with indigenous sources'.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

- 0-10 min**
Timeline 1000→1333→1656.
Memorise each traveller's Country+Book+Patron triplet.
- 10-25 min**
Al-Biruni — comparative method + 80 chapters + 3 barriers + caste account.
- 25-40 min**
Ibn Battuta — Rihla dictation + Tughlaq court + postal system + coconut/paan/cities.
- 40-60 min**
Bernier — Dara Shukoh + land critique + Europe comparison + historian's correction; sati + harem.
- 60-75 min**
Write ONE 8-mark topper template (Al-Biruni OR Bernier) timed.
- 75-90 min**
Practise ONE Bernier source passage; 3 sub-Qs in 12 minutes.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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