



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education



**BANGLADESH STUDIES**

**7094/01**  
**0449/01**

Paper 1 History and Culture of Bangladesh

**May/June 2008**  
**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 **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



You MUST answer this question. Answer ALL parts.

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

**Part (a)**

- (i) Which poem did Jasimuddin write while he was still a student?
- A Abilaash  
B Kabar  
C Padmavati  
D Saogat [1]
- (ii) Who wrote the song Chal Chal Chal?
- A Aloal  
B Kazi Nasrul Islam  
C Lalon Shah  
D Rabindranath Tagore [1]
- (iii) Which of the following statements about Rabindranath Tagore is true?
- A He was born in 1880  
B He was knighted by Queen Victoria  
C He went to school in the United States  
D He won the Nobel Prize for Literature [1]
- (iv) Which of the following worked as a journalist?
- A Mir Mosharraf Hossain  
B Jasimuddin  
C Begum Rokeya  
D Lalon Shah [1]
- (v) In what field did Zainul Abedin contribute to the cultural life of Bangladesh?
- A Painting  
B Dance  
C Music  
D Poetry [1]

**Part (b)**

Why is Begum Rokeya considered to be a major cultural figure in Bangladesh? Explain your answer. [8]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following do you think has made the most important contribution to the development of the culture of Bangladesh? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. You must give examples to support your answer.

- Religious Festivals
  - Songs and Music
  - Literature
- [12]

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

## Question 2: Pre–Mughal Bengal

### Bengal to 1098 AD

The Gupta period is sometimes called the 'golden age' of India. However, towards the end of the 6th century AD, Gupta rule in Bengal weakened and Shashanka, a minor military officer of the Guptas, became ruler. Shashanka's rise marked a new era in the history of Bengal. He established his authority in north-west Bengal, where he made his capital. Between 500 and 1100 AD, a number of independent kingdoms flourished in south-east Bengal. 1  
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After Shashanka's death, there was a period sometimes described as matsyanyaya. Then the Pala dynasty established itself and ruled Bengal for nearly 400 years. Pala dominance ended with the death of Devapala and the Pala empire shrank in the face of foreign attacks. In the 11th century, however, territories lost in northern and western Bengal were recaptured and Pala dynastic rule was restored to a firmer footing. 10

### Part (a)

- (i) What is the name of the north-west region of Bengal where Shashanka 'made his capital' (line 4)? [1]
- (ii) 'Between 500 and 1100 AD, a number of independent kingdoms flourished in south-east Bengal' (lines 4-5). Name one of the kingdoms. [1]
- (iii) What religion did Shashanka follow? [1]
- (iv) What does the term 'matsyanyaya' mean? (line 6) [1]
- (v) Which Pala king recaptured lost territories and restored 'Pala dynastic rule to a firmer footing' (lines 9-10) in the 11th century AD? [1]

### Part (b)

- (i) Write what you know about Bengal during the Maurya Empire. [5]
- (ii) Why is the Gupta period sometimes called the 'Golden Age' of India? [5]

### Part (c)

Which of the following was the greatest of the Pala kings? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. [10]

- Gopala
- Dharamapala
- Devapala

**Question 3: The British Period****Opposition to the British**

Around 1620 Jahangir granted the British the right to build forts around Surat, Agra and Ahmedabad. By the mid-eighteenth century, the British had begun to established themselves as rulers in parts of India. British rule was not popular with all Indians and after the terrible events of 1769-70 a number of opposition movements caused serious disruption to British rule.

An important opposition group was the Faraizi Movement which was set up to protect peasants and the Muslim religion. Its methods were very different to those of other groups opposing the British at this time. 5

The Faraizi Movement remained influential in Bengal until the late nineteenth century. However, the most important opposition to the British came with the First War of Independence, described by the British as 'The Indian Mutiny'. 10

**Part (a)**

- (i) Which company ruled 'in parts of India' (line 3) on behalf of the British in the mid-eighteenth century? [1]
- (ii) What were 'the terrible events of 1769-70' (lines 3-4)? [1]
- (iii) Who started the Faraizi Movement? [1]
- (iv) Why were the methods of the Faraizi Movement 'very different to those of other groups opposing British rule at this time' (lines 6-7)? [1]
- (v) In which year did the 'First War of Independence' (line 9) break out? [1]

**Part (b)**

- (i) Write what you know about Titu Meer. [5]
- (ii) Why did people support the Fakir-Sanyasi Movement? [5]

**Part (c)**

Which of the following was the most important cause of the First War of Independence? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. [10]

- The Doctrine of Lapse
- British social and religious reforms
- The discontent of the Sepoys serving in the British East India Company army

## Question 4: From Pakistan to Bangladesh

### Problems facing the new nation

After the British left, Pakistan became a new country. The new Governor-General announced that 'Pakistan has come to exist forever' and set about dealing with the many problems facing the new country. Soon a new government existed with a Cabinet of experienced politicians and Pakistan's first Prime Minister was appointed.

The new country faced many problems. It had limited resources and was often in dispute with its neighbour, India. An issue which was to develop with significant consequences was the disparity between the two wings of Pakistan. The people of East Pakistan were discriminated against by the central government, based in West Pakistan. Despite promises to address the disparity between the two wings, little was done. In East Pakistan, political parties began to emerge calling for fairer treatment for East Pakistan.

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### Part (a)

- (i) On what exact date did Pakistan 'become a new country' (line 1)? [1]
- (ii) Who was the 'new Governor-General' (line 1) who set about dealing with Pakistan's problems? [1]
- (iii) Who was Pakistan's 'first Prime Minister' (line 4)? [1]
- (iv) Which organisation did Pakistan say should be asked to settle the Canal Water dispute between Pakistan and India? [1]
- (v) Which political party was formed in East Pakistan in June 1949 to campaign against discrimination by the Pakistan central government? [1]

### Part (b)

- (i) Write what you know about the division of financial and military assets between India and Pakistan in 1947. [5]
- (ii) Why did the arrival of refugees in Pakistan from India in 1947 cause difficulties for the government? [5]

### Part (c)

Which of the following do you think was the most important problem facing Pakistan from 1947 to 1958? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices provided. [10]

- The issue of a national language
- Social problems (health and education)
- Economic problems





