

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

BANGLADESH STUDIES

0449/01

Paper 1: History and Culture of Bangladesh

May/June

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper/Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Answer **three** questions.

Answer **Question 1** and **two** other questions.

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on each question.

This document consists of **6** printed pages.



You must answer this question. Answer ALL parts.

Question 1: The Culture and Heritage of Bangladesh

Part (a)

(i) Who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913?

- A** Farrukh Ahmed
- B** Ahsan Habib
- C** Begum Royeka
- D** Rabindranath Tagore

[1]

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

- A** architecture
- B** dance
- C** painting
- D** poetry

[1]

(iii) What is unusual about the songs of Lalon Shah?

- A** He made no written copies of them.
- B** He wrote them all in the same year.
- C** They are all about war.
- D** They were all published abroad.

[1]

(iv) Who wrote 'Kabar', a poem about an old man talking to his grandson in front of his wife's grave?

- A** Jasimuddin
- B** Sufia Kamal
- C** Muhammad Shahidullah
- D** S.M. Sultan

[1]

(v) Begum Rokeya was most famous for her work in which field?

- A** child labour
- B** housing
- C** sanitation
- D** womens' rights

[1]

Part (b)

Why were the poems of Kazi Nazrul Islam important in the culture of Bangladesh?

[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. You must give examples to support your answer.

- folk craft
- religious festivals
- the songs of Rabindranath Tagore

[12]

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

Question 2: Pre-Mughal Bengal

We know very little about the history of Bengal before the arrival of the Aryans. When the Greeks invaded the north-west of India their writers told of a powerful kingdom in Bengal, but we do not have detailed information about this kingdom. 1

We do know that during the third century B.C. the Mauryas ruled in north Bengal and spread their influence across other parts. We also know that Bengal became part of the Gupta Empire until the sixth century. After this period there were few capable rulers until Gopala established the Pala dynasty in the eighth century. Later the Sena dynasty spread across a vast area of Bengal. 5

From the mid-fourteenth century Bengal experienced a period of independent rule which ended when Ghiyasuddin Mahmood was defeated by Afghan forces in 1538. 10

Part (a)

- (i) When did the Aryans first enter Bengal? [1]
- (ii) Who led the Greek forces which invaded India in 327 B.C.? [1]
- (iii) During the reign of which emperor was Maurya rule established in north Bengal? [1]
- (iv) Which son of Gopala was the greatest of the Pala rulers? [1]
- (v) Which Afghan leader defeated Ghiyasuddin Mahmood in 1538 A.D? [1]

Part (b)

- (i) Describe what you know about the Sena dynasty which 'spread across a vast area of Bengal'. (line 7) [5]
- (ii) Explain why the Pala dynasty was able to establish itself in Bengal and expand its territories up to 781 A.D. [5]

Part (c)

Which of the following do you think was the greatest Sultan of the Hussain Shahi dynasty?

Explain your answer by writing about all three Sultans.

- Alauddin Hussain Shah
- Nasiruddin Abdul Nusrat Shah
- Ghiyasuddin Mahmood Shah [10]

Question 3: The British Period

Reasons for the War of Independence against the British

British rule in the Indian sub-continent was very unpopular. The local people thought that the British treated them as if they were inferior. The Doctrine of Lapse was particularly unpopular. 1

There were also reasons for discontent amongst members of the armed forces. Most of the soldiers in the East India Company's army were Indian, but the officer class was almost entirely British. This caused great resentment. The war finally began over the issue of greased cartridges. 5

The Indians thought that they had been forced to rise up by British mistreatment. But the British thought that the war was a sign of disloyalty and punished the Indians severely.

Part (a)

- (i) In what year did this War of Independence begin? [1]
- (ii) Who was Governor-General at that time? [1]
- (iii) Who was the Mughal Emperor at that time? [1]
- (iv) What name did the British give to the War of Independence? [1]
- (v) What happened to the East India Company after the War of Independence? [1]

Part (b)

- (i) Describe what you know about the 'Doctrine of Lapse'. (line 2) [5]
- (ii) Why did the 'issue of greased cartridges' (line 5) make the war start? [5]

Part (c)

'The Indians thought they had been forced to rise up against the British, but the British thought that the war was a sign of disloyalty'. Explain these differing views, remembering to include reasons that are **not** given in the passage. [10]

Question 4: From Pakistan to Bangladesh

In 1947 East Bengal became part of the new country, Pakistan. However, it soon found that it did not always agree with decisions made by the Pakistan central government and relations between West Pakistan and East Bengal (East Pakistan) were often very poor. 1

In 1966 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman issued a charter of demands which became known as the Six Point Programme. The Pakistan government arrested Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and many other leaders of the Awami League. Two years later the government tried to have him convicted in a false treason case. 5

Relations between East and West Pakistan further deteriorated when the Awami League scored an overwhelming victory in the 1970 elections to the National Assembly. Yahya Khan took steps to prevent Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from becoming Prime Minister and in 1971 the people of East Pakistan were forced to engage in a freedom struggle to establish an independent Bangladesh. 10

Part (a)

- (i) Which language was made the state language of Pakistan in 1947? [1]
- (ii) Which organisation was set up to support the cause of Bangla as a state language? [1]
- (iii) What was the name of the false treason case against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other officials from East Pakistan? [1]
- (iv) How many of East Pakistan's 169 National Assembly seats were won by the Awami League in 1970? [1]
- (v) Why did Major Ziaur Rahman appear at Kalurghat Swadhin Bangla Radio Station on 26 March 1971? [1]

Part (b)

- (i) Write what you know about Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Six Point Programme. (line 4) [5]
- (ii) Why did Yahya Khan take steps to prevent Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from becoming Prime Minister of Pakistan after the 1970 elections? [5]

Part (c)

Which of the following do you think was the most important reason for the success of Bangladesh in winning its independence from Pakistan? Explain your answer by writing about all three choices.

- help received by Bangladesh from other countries
- the freedom struggle organized by the Bangladeshi government in exile
- the spirit of determination of the people of Bangladesh [10]