

Delhi Sultanate – Long Descriptive Questions (Set 2)

1. Explain the political situation of North India after the fall of the Rajput kingdoms. How did this help the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate?
2. Qutb-ud-din Aibak is remembered as the “founder” while Iltutmish is called the “real consolidator” of the Sultanate. Discuss with examples.
3. What were the key contributions of Iltutmish in strengthening the Sultanate? How did his administrative policies help in its survival? Mention how he prevented Mongol invasion.
4. Evaluate the reign of Razia Sultan. In what ways was her rule progressive, and why did she ultimately fail to retain power?
5. Describe Balban’s concept of kingship. How did his “*Blood and Iron Policy*” change the relationship between the Sultan and the nobles?
6. How did Balban’s military and administrative reforms secure the Sultanate against both internal and external threats?
7. Trace the circumstances that led to the fall of the Mamluks and the rise of the Khiljis. What political lessons can be learned from this transition?
8. Discuss the military conquests of Alauddin Khilji and explain how they shaped the expansion of the Sultanate.
9. Evaluate the importance of Alauddin Khilji’s market reforms. How did they reflect his broader vision of governance?
10. How did Alauddin Khilji control the nobility and prevent rebellions? What does this tell us about his administrative style?
11. “The Khilji empire collapsed as quickly as it expanded.” Discuss the reasons behind this decline.
12. What role did Ghiyasuddin Tughluq play in rebuilding stability after the fall of the Khiljis?
13. Analyze the ambitious policies of Muhammad bin Tughluq. Why are they often considered both visionary and disastrous?
14. Discuss the transfer of capital and the token currency experiment of Muhammad bin Tughluq. What do these reflect about his personality as a ruler?
15. Firoz Shah Tughluq is remembered more for welfare works than military conquests. Evaluate his contributions to society and administration.
16. How did Firoz Shah Tughluq’s policies strengthen the Sultanate, and in what ways did they also create future problems?
17. Assess the impact of Timur’s invasion of Delhi in 1398 on the decline of the Tughluqs and the future of the Delhi Sultanate.

18. The Sayyid dynasty ruled during a period of weakness and political fragmentation. How did this affect Sultanate's position in North India?
19. Analyze the role of the Lodi dynasty in trying to centralize authority in the late Delhi Sultanate period. Why were they unsuccessful in the First Battle of Panipat against Babur?
20. Compare and contrast the military and administrative achievements of Alauddin Khilji and Muhammad bin Tughluq. Which ruler left a greater impact on the Delhi Sultanate and why?