

**O-Level History**

**Paper 1**

**Unsolved Topical**

**Past Papers with Marking Schemes**

**All Variants**

**2015-2021**

<b>Title</b>	O-LEVEL TOPICAL HISTORY PAPER 1
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Q2(a)/01/M/J/17

**2 (a)** Who were zamindars?

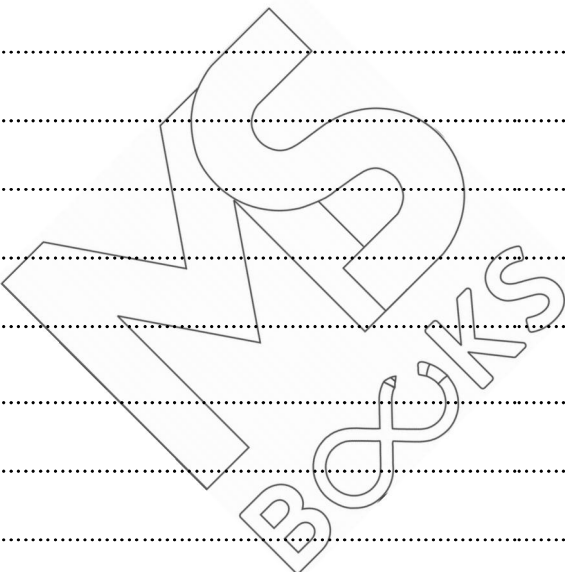
[4]

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Q2(c)/01/M/J/17

**3 (c)** Was the in-fighting between Aurangzeb’s successors the most important reason for the break-up of the Mughal Empire? Explain your answer. [14]

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Q2(c)/01/O/N/15

**1 (c) Were the invasions by the Persians and Afghans the main reason for the decline of the Mughal Empire? Explain your answer**

LEVEL 1: Simplistic statement. [1–2]

*They were too strong*

LEVEL 2: Description /identification of reasons [3–6]

*Aurangzeb's successors had a decadent lifestyle and the invaders were able to defeat the Mughal soldiers*

LEVEL 3: Explains the invasions of the Persians and Afghans OR other reasons [7–10]

LEVEL 4: Explains the invasions of the Persians and Afghans AND other reasons [9–13]

*There were a number of reasons for the Empire's decline. As the Empire started to decline; it found itself at risk from invasion. The Afghans under the leadership of Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas at Panipat. They had been in control of much of the Empire for some time. The Afghans however were unable to make the most of their victory and returned to Kabul. However they were able to invade the Empire a number of times during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The Persians under Nadir Shah captured much of the Empire's wealth and returned home with gold, jewels and the Peacock throne from Delhi.*

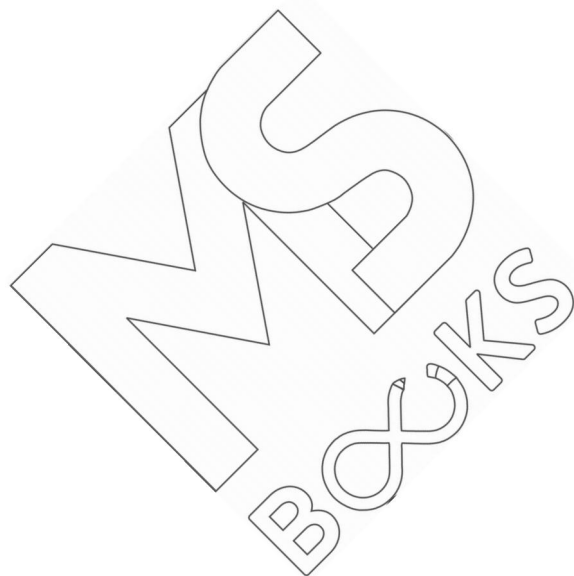
*However there were other reasons for the decline. Aurangzeb had an intolerant attitude to non-Muslims. He introduced a tax on non-Muslims called the Jizya. He destroyed Hindu temples and tried to ban Hindu practices. Taxation was high as he had to pay for the cost of military campaigns such as the Deccan Wars and he spent highly on luxurious palaces. Because of these he became an unpopular ruler.*

*After his death Mughal Emperors were renowned for living an extravagant lifestyle and spending money with little thought to the effect it had on the economy of the Empire. This led to inefficiencies and a lack of interest in the running of the Empire. The absence of a definite line of succession led to a significant amount of in-fighting amongst his successors which, also led to instability and the downfall of the Empire. The Marathas were skilful Hindu guerrilla fighters who defeated a Mughal army in 1737 and took control of Delhi and eastwards towards Bengal. By 1760 they were the most powerful people in India and nothing could the Mughals do to stop it. The British expansion into the sub-continent was rapid and their forces and equipment was no match for the Mughals who fell into rapid decline as a result.*

LEVEL 5: As Level 4 – also produces a judgement or evaluation. [14]

Q2(a)/01/M/J/17 Q 2

4(a)	<b>Who were zamindars?</b>	<b>4</b>
	<p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ Landlords/tax collectors.</li> <li>∞ Wealthy and influential, some had private armies.</li> <li>∞ After death of Aurangzeb they were increasingly unwilling to accept rule of any new emperor or to make payments to government in Delhi.</li> <li>∞ Beard tax imposed which annoyed Muslims.</li> <li>∞ Muslims were oppressed by zamindars from the 1800's onwards, especially in East Bengal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Allow a second mark for a developed statement.</p>	1–4
	<b>No evidence submitted or response does not address the question</b>	0



Q2(c)/01/M/J/17 Q 3

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	<b>Was the in-fighting between Aurangzeb's successors the most important reason for the break-up of the Mughal Empire? Explain your answer.</b>	14
	<b>Level 5: Explains with evaluation</b> As top of Level 4 – also produces a judgement or evaluation.	14
	<b>Level 4: Explains the in-fighting AND other reasons</b> Explains one reason for in-fighting AND one other reason for 9 marks. Additional explanation(s) up to a maximum of 13 marks.	9–13
	<b>Level 3: Explains the in-fighting OR other reasons</b> Explains one reason for in-fighting OR one other reason for 7 marks. Additional explanation(s) for the same line of reasoning up to a maximum of 10 marks.  e.g. <u>In-fighting</u> ∞ The absence of a definite line of succession led to in-fighting, instability and the downfall of the Mughal Empire. ∞ Led to inefficiencies and a lack of interest in the running of the Mughal Empire.  <u>Other reasons</u> ∞ As the Mughal Empire started to decline it became at risk from invasion. ∞ After Aurangzeb's death, Mughal emperors were renowned for living an extravagant lifestyle and spending money without considering the effect on the economy of the Empire. ∞ The Afghans under the leadership of Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas at Paniplat. The Afghans had been in control of much of the Empire for some time but were unable to make the most of their victory and returned to Kabul. However they did invade the Empire a number of times during the 18th Century. ∞ The Persians under Nadir Shah captured much of the Empire's wealth and returned home with gold, jewels and the Peacock throne from Delhi. ∞ Aurangzeb often showed intolerance to non-Muslims. He introduced a tax on non-Muslims called the Jizya. During Aurangzeb's reign, some Hindu temples were destroyed and some limits were placed on Hindu practices. Taxation was high as because of the costs of military campaigns such as the Deccan Wars and building luxurious palaces. Because of these he became an unpopular ruler. ∞ Maratha guerrilla fighters defeated a Mughal army in 1737 and took control of Delhi and eastwards towards Bengal. By 1760 they were the most powerful group in India and the Mughals were unable to limit their expansion. ∞ The British expansion into the subcontinent was rapid, overwhelming the Mughal forces and equipment.	7–10

Question	Answer	Marks
(c)	<p><b>Level 2: Identifies/describes the in-fighting AND/OR other reasons</b> Identifies/describes one reason for in-fighting AND/OR other reason for 3 marks. Additional identification/description(s) up to a maximum of 6 marks.</p> <p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ Self-interest and disunity.</li> <li>∞ Risk of invasion.</li> </ul>	3–6
	<p><b>Level 1: Simple statement(s)</b> A general answer lacking specific knowledge.</p> <p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ They were always fighting each other.</li> </ul>	1–2
	<b>No evidence submitted or response does not address the question</b>	0

