

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Delhi Sultans

Q1. Write a short note on the 'Token Currency System' introduced by Muhammad Tughlaq.

Ans. _____

Q2. Why did Alauddin control the prices of goods in Delhi? What did he do for this?

Ans. _____

Q3. What forced the two rulers Alauddin Khilji and Muhammed Tughluq to mobilise a large standing army in Delhi?

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Q1. Write a short note on the 'Token Currency System' introduced by Muhammad Tughlaq.

Ans. Muhammad Tughluq also paid his soldiers cash salaries. But instead of controlling prices, he used a "token" currency, somewhat like present-day paper currency, but made out of cheap metals, not gold and silver. People in the fourteenth century did not trust these coins. They were very smart: they saved their gold and silver coins and paid all their taxes to the state with this token currency. This cheap currency could also be counterfeited easily.

Q2. Why did Alauddin control the prices of goods in Delhi? What did he do for this?

Ans. Alauddin Khalji raised a large standing army. The soldiers had to be paid. Alauddin chose to pay his soldiers salaries in cash rather than iqta. The soldiers would buy their supplies from merchants in Delhi and it was thus feared that merchants would raise their prices. To stop this, Alauddin controlled the prices of goods in Delhi. Prices were carefully surveyed by officers, and merchants who did not sell at the prescribed rates were punished.

Q3. What forced the two rulers Allauddin Khilji and Muhammed Tughluq to mobilise a large standing army in Delhi?

Ans. The Mongols under Genghis Khan invaded Transoxiana in north-east Iran in 1219 and the Delhi Sultanate faced their onslaught soon after. Mongol attacks on the Delhi Sultanate increased during the reign of Alauddin Khalji and in the early years of Muhammad Tughluq's rule. This forced the two rulers to mobilise a large standing army in Delhi which posed a huge administrative challenge.