

# GCSE (9–1) History B (Schools History Project)

**J411/35 The Mughal Empire, 1526–1707  
with Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535**  
Sample Question Paper

**Date – Morning/Afternoon**

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

**OCR supplied materials:**

- the OCR12-page Answer Booklet

**Other materials required:**

- None

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Section A – The Mughal Empire, 1526–1707: Answer questions 1 (a–c), 2, 3 and **either** question 4 **or** question 5.
- Section B – Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535: Answer questions 6 and 7, and **either** question 8 **or** question 9.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document consists of **8** pages.

**Section A****The Mughal Empire, 1526–1707**

Answer questions 1 (a–c), 2 and 3.

- 1.
- (a) Name **one** of the first three Mughal emperors. [1]
  - (b) Give **one** example of a European nation that was trading in India by 1650. [1]
  - (c) Name **one** building which Emperor Shah Jahan ordered to be built. [1]
2. Write a clear and organised summary that analyses northern India around 1530, just after the Mughal conquest. Support your summary with examples. [9]
3. Why do you think history books pay so much attention to Nur Jahan, the wife of Emperor Jahangir? Explain your answer. [10]

Answer **either** question 4 **or** question 5.

- 4.\* How far do you agree that the Emperor Akbar deserves to be known as 'Akbar the Great'? Give reasons for your answer. [18]
- 5.\* "When the Emperor Aurangzeb died in 1707, the Mughal Empire was stronger than it had ever been". How far do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [18]

**Section B****Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535**

Answer questions 6 and 7.

6. What can Source A tell us about the way the Spanish treated the Aztecs after conquering Mexico in 1521? Use the source and your own knowledge to support your answer.

[7]

**Source A – From a letter written in 1529 by a Spanish bishop to Emperor Charles V in Spain**

*Charles V had sent this bishop to New Spain (Mexico) with orders to act as an official Protector of the Indians. In the letter he mentions the Audiencia, which ruled New Spain on behalf of the emperor.*

Indians came to me with so many complaints against Spaniards that it was an extraordinary thing. I was astonished that they could stand the ill-treatment as well as the robberies that government officials commit wherever they go. I am sending your Majesty a report on these that I have made secretly. One Spaniard I have heard of had such a wicked spirit that he put an Indian lord on a cross with three nails, like Christ. The Spaniard did this because the Indian had not given him all the gold that he had demanded. Another killed and hanged Indians because they did not give him what he demanded. I went to see the president of your *Audiencia* about it and he paid no attention, nor did he do a thing about the Indians even though he sees that they are being killed.

7. How useful are Sources B and C and Interpretation D for a historian studying the Aztec emperor, Moctezuma? In your answer, refer to the two sources and interpretation as well as your own knowledge.

[15]

**Source B – From *The True History of New Spain*, by Bernal Díaz, c.1574**

*Díaz was a Spanish foot-soldier who served with Cortés and met Moctezuma. He wrote his memories of the Spanish conquest about fifty years after the events he describes.*

“The Great Moctezuma would be about forty years of age, of good stature and well built, lean and without much flesh. His complexion was not too dark but of the proper shade and colour that befits an Indian. He wore his hair not very long, but so that it covered up his ears. His beard was small and black and was growing well but thinly. His face was rather long and merry with pleasant eyes. All his person showed a good disposition and when necessary he could be serious. He was both clean and careful how he dressed and he bathed once every day, towards evening”.

**Source C – Some items that were sent by Cortés to Emperor Charles V in 1519, as listed in “The letters of Cortés” published in 1908.**

*These items were gifts from Moctezuma. Cortés sent them from Mexico to Spain.*

- Two gold necklaces set with emeralds, pearls and other gems.
- A head-dress of wood decorated with gold and gems.
- Four tridents, with feathers and pearls attached by gold thread.
- Deerskin shoes, sewn with gold thread, having soles of blue and white stones.
- A shield of wood and leather, decorated with hanging bells of gold.
- Twenty four golden shields, decorated with feathers and small pearls; four others of feathers and silver.
- Several head-dresses and crowns of feathers and gold, ornamented with pearls and gems.
- Several large plumes of beautiful feathers of various colours, decorated with gold and small pearls.
- A variety of cotton robes of different colours.

**Interpretation D – A painting of Moctezuma by an unknown Spanish artist from the late 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century**



Answer **either** question 8 **or** question 9.

**8.\*** “More than anything else, it was the support given by Native American people which led to Cortés’ victory over the Aztecs”. How far do you agree with this view?

**[18]**

**9.\*** “Aztec civilisation was harsh, brutal and unattractive”. How far do you agree with this view?

**[18]**

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Source A: Adapted from Lesley Byrd Simpson, *The Encomienda in New Spain: Beginnings of Spanish Mexico*, 1992, Cambridge University Press UK. © 2015 by The Regents of the University of California.

Source B: Adapted from Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *True History of the Conquest of New Spain*, translated by Graham Cunninghame in *Bernal Díaz del Castillo – Being Some Account of Him*, Taken from *His True History of the Conquest of New Spain*, Eveleigh Nash, London, 1915.

Source C: Adapted from Francis Augustus MacNutt, *Letters of Cortés: The Five Letters of Relation from Fernando Cortés to the Emperor Charles V*, pg 170, G. P. Putnam's Sons, London, 1908.

Interpretation D: *Portrait of Moctezuma II* (oil on canvas), European School, (16th century) / Palazzo Pitti, Florence, Italy. Image supplied by Bridgeman Images, [www.bridgemanimages.com](http://www.bridgemanimages.com)

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