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Q17

**Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait?
(a) Humayun (b) Akbar (c) Jahangir (d) Shah Jahan Official key: C.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

(a) Humayun. He brought Persian painters (Mir Sayyid Ali, Abd al-Samad) and began an atelier, but the great illustrated-manuscript age is Akbar's, and the album-portrait shift is later. Humayun is not the key.

(b)

(b) Akbar. Akbar's studio produced large illustrated manuscripts (**Hamzanama**, Akbarnama). He did not shift the centre of gravity from manuscripts to individual album portraits; that is not the key.

(c) Official key

(c) Jahangir. Jahangir's atelier specialised in **muraqqa** albums, psychological individual portraits, natural-history studies and border illumination, moving away from Akbar's big narrative manuscripts. That shift is the official key.

(d)

(d) **Shah Jahan**. He continued portraiture and refined jewel-like painting, but the historiographical shift from manuscript to album is credited to Jahangir, so **Shah Jahan** is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c) Jahangir. Akbar's painting is manuscript illustration at scale. Jahangir preferred the album page, the individual likeness, birds and flowers. Humayun founded the Persianate workshop; **Shah Jahan** inherited the portrait idiom. Honour the stored letter (c).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Hamzanama

Akbar's giant illustrated cycle

Muraqqa

Album of paintings and calligraphy

Jahangir painters

Abul Hasan, Ustad Mansur

Askable twin

Mughal portrait vs Rajput manuscript

Shah Jahan

Durbar and jewel-style portraits

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