Q) Write an essay on Abul Fazl’s theory of Kingship.

Ans: Sheikh Abul Fazl (1551-1602)occupies an eminent place in the history of medieval political thought. He was a courtier,historian and also a friend of Mughal emperor Akbar. The political thought of Abul Fazl is found in his two famous writings: Akbar Nama and Ain-i-Akbari .Together it constitutes his most authentic work which he finished by the end of 16th century. In his works, he produced a detailed and inclusive study of the Mughal state and machinery of administration. His interpretation of monarchy was perhaps drawn from the great Hindu epic the Mahabharata. He was contemporary to Akbar,the great Mughal emperor. He is well -known for his liberal,rational and secular approach.

The book-Akbar Nama is divided into two parts or volumes. In the first volume, Fazl gives an account of Akbar’s ancestors. The second part gives an account of reign of Akbar. The Ain-i-Akbari mentioned about the Mughal administrative system during the reign of Akbar.

Theory of Kingship