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**THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIALIZED EDUCATION OF
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PLAN:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Samarkand is the pearl of Orient**
- 3. Bukhara is the city of Mouslim World**
- 4. Beautiful city - Khiva**
- 5. Conclusion**
- 6. Comprehensive questions**
- 7. Sources**

Introduction



Uzbekistan, officially the Republic of Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia, formerly part of the Soviet Union. It shares borders with Kazakhstan to the West and to the North, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the East and Afganistan to the South. The territory of Uzbekistan was already populated in the second millenium BC. Early human tools and monuments have been found in the Fergana, Tashkent, Bukhara, Khorezm and Samarkand regions.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, Central Asia was firmly in the hands of Russia and despite some early resistance to Bolsheviks, Uzbekistan and the rest of Central Asia became a part of the Soviet Union. On 27 October, 1924 the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic was created . On August 31, 1991, Uzbekistan declared Independence, marking September 1 as a national holiday.

The country is now the world's second-largest exporter of cotton-while developing its mineral and petroleum reserves.

Uzbekistan is becoming one of the interesting tourist destinations. According to many tourist agencies the number of tourists willing to visit Central Asia and other eastern countries has significantly increased in recent years. Central Asian states linked with the so-called Great Tourist Road including at least 20 countries between Japan up to Europe. The Republic of Uzbekistan is an important link on this Road as it was once one of the main points of the ancient Silk Road.

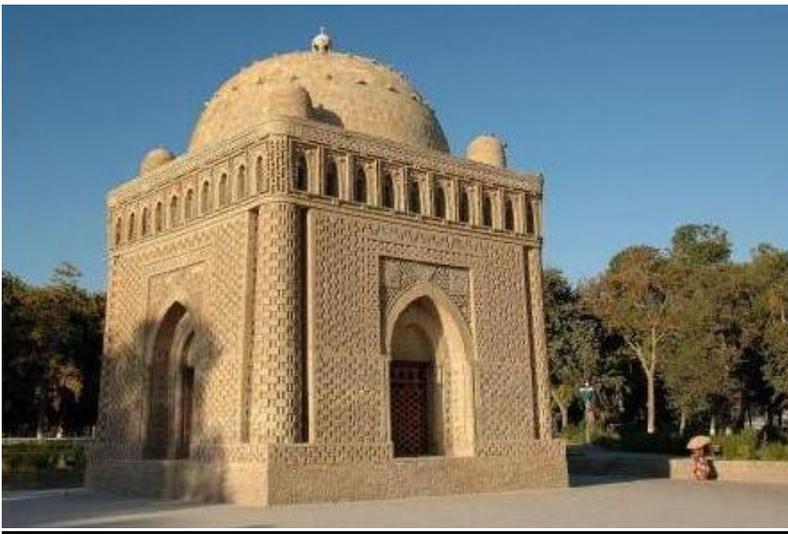
Samarkand is the pearl of Orient



Samarkand is situated in Zerafshan Valley and surrounded by the spurs of Pamir-Alay ridges. Ancient Samarkand was well-known both in the East and in the West. In the 4th of c. BC Samarkand, then called Marakanda, was one of the centers of culture and trade in the East. Samarkand equals such cradles of human civilization as Ahtens, Rome, Memphis, Alexandria. It was the capital of the powerful state of the Sogdians, and later the center of Amir Timur's great empire. The numerous monuments of Samarkand and its suburbs impress everyone with their beauty and splendor. The refined architectural shapes, intricate ornamentation, mosaics, blue-tile domes and facades are captivating all who see them. Towards the end of XIV century Samarkand became the capital of the huge Empire of Timur. During the next 35 years he built a new city and populated it with artisans and craftsmen from all of the places he had conquered. Timur gained a reputation for wisdom and generosity and Samarkand grew to become the centre of the region of Transoxiana.

Nowadays in Samarkand many historical architectural monuments and buildings have been preserved. Many of the buildings were destroyed during several wars and conquests.

Bukhara is the city of Mouslim World



Bukhara is one of the ancient oasis cities along the Great Silk Road. For centuries it was a centre of trade and Islam, earning the title Bukhara-i-Sharif, or "Noble Bukhara" among Muslims (one of the seven holy cities of Islam). The city itself boasts impressive architecture and history. It is one of the few places in Central Asia where one can feel the heartbeat of ancient Central Asia. Most of the city remains intact.

It was known in the Muslim East since ancient times. More than 140 architectural monuments can be found here, and of the major blue-domed minarets one would have to start with the Kalyan Minaret constructed in 1127. This unique construction rises into the sky for 47 meters. The most striking feature of the minaret is its intricate ornamentation. The world-famous architectural ensemble Lyabi-Hauz, which includes the Kukeldash madrassa, the Khanaka and the Nadira Divan-begi.

Bukhara is an ancient settlement with history that goes back to the early centuries A.D. In the 6th of century it became the capital of early feudal lands of the Bukhara oasis. As the Shakhristan, the centre of a shah's realm, it was formed around an ancient citadel, but with the development of handicrafts and trade, new

suburbs(rabads)arose beyond its walls which were included with the Shakhristan in a new fortified wall.

Beautiful city – Khiva



Khiva is an ancient city in the lower reaches of the Amu-Darya. In XIV century it became prominent among the towns of Khorezm, and in the XVIII century it was the capital of the Khiva Khanate. Only at the beginning of the XIX century Khiva was developed into a prominent cultural centre. One after another a number of monumental buildings were erected. They filled the older part of the city-the Shakhristan Ichan-kala, many of them were built by the Eastern gates of Palvan-Darvaz and along the street which runs towards the western gates.

KHIVA, the city museum in the open sky, is unique in its beauty known as 'The Pearl of the Khorezm Oases'. Important spiritual and cultural values came from the large scientific centers of astronomy, mathematics and medicine that operated in this area centuries ago. A valuable heritage of knowledge was left here by internationally famous scholars such as Beruni, Agakhi and Nadjmiddin. One can stroll through the narrow streets of Khiva, peeking into the small courtyards through the wooden carved doors. The life inside the gardens assures the visitor that it is not just a museum, but also a living city.

Conclusion

The Republic of Uzbekistan has favourable natural and geographical conditions. It is situated in the central part of Central Asia between the Amudaryo and Sirdarya rivers. The territory of the republic stretches for 1425 kilometres of from west to east and for 930 kilometres



from north to south. In the northeast it borders on Kazakhstan, in the east and southeast on Kirghizstan and Tajikistan, in the west on Turkmenistan and in the south on Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan is the republic of sunshine. The climate of Uzbekistan is very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Temperatures in winter may drop to 33-36 degrees below zero. The hottest summer month is July. The temperature can reach more than 45 degrees. High summer temperature makes it possible to cultivate heat-loving crops such as cotton, grapes, figs, melons, water-melons and others.

Uzbekistan is a multinational republic. The population of Uzbekistan is more than 30 million people.

Uzbekistan has great economic potential from its own resources. In the world production of quality gold, Uzbek gold has recently won two international prizes. Besides gold, other metals like copper, lead, zinc, tungsten and lithium are also produced in Uzbekistan. even gas, coal and oil and are readily available.

Comprehensive questions

- 1. What does it mean the word “ancient”?**
- 2. Why are many tourist agencies willing to visit centralAsian countries?**
- 3. How many invaders conquered Samarkand? Why?**
- 4. What kind of architectural monuments are there in Bukhara?**
- 5. Why is Khiva known as The Pearl of the Khorezm Oases?**
- 6. Who were the most famous scholars of the city?**

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