

# HISTORY

## MCQs with Explanatory Answers

1. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India ?

1. Charter Act of 1813
2. General Committee of Public Instruction, 1823
3. Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A) 1 and 2 only      B) 2 only  
C) 1 and 3 only      D) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: Ans : (D)

The East India Company began to adopt a dual policy in the sphere of education. The Charter Act of 1813 adopted a provision to spend one lakh rupees per annum for the spread of education in India.

The contemporary British scholars were divided into two groups on the issue of development of education in India. One group, called the **Orientalists**, advocated the promotion of oriental subjects through Indian languages. The other group, called the **Anglicists**, argued the cause of western sciences and literature in the medium of English language.

In the beginning of 1835, the 10 members of the General Committee of Public Instruction were clearly divided into two equal groups. Five members including the Chairman of the committee Lord Macaulay were in favour of adopting English as medium of public instruction whereas the other five were in favour of oriental languages. Consequently, despite fierce opposition from all quarters, Bentinck got the resolution passed on 7 March 1835 which declared that henceforth, government funds would be utilized for the promotion of western literature and science through the medium of English language.

2. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to "Swarajya Sabha" ?

- A) All India Home Rule League  
B) Hindu Mahasabha  
C) South Indian Liberal Federation  
D) The Servants of India Society

Explanation: Ans : (A)

In 1920, the All India Home Rule League elected Mahatma Gandhi as its president. In a year, the body merged into the Indian National Congress to form a united Indian political front named as **Swarajya Sabha**.

**Indian Home Rule movement** : It was a movement in British India on the lines of Irish Home Rule movement. Indian home rule movement began in India in the background of World War I. It specifically demanded Home Rule, or self-government within the British Empire for all of India.

The movement lasted around two years between 1916–1918 and is believed to have set the stage for the independence movement.

It was under the leadership of Annie Besant all over India except under B. G. Tilak in western India. Tilak founded the first home rule league at the Bombay provincial congress at Belgaum in April, 1916. Annie Besant founded second league at Adyar Madras in September 1916. While Tilak's league worked in areas like Maharashtra (excluding Bombay city), Karnataka, Central provinces and Berar, Annie Besant's league worked in the rest of India. In 1920 All India Home Rule League changed its name to Swarajya Sabha.

**Hindu Mahasabha** : Hindu Mahasabha was founded in 1914 by Madan Mohan Malviya. It worked with Arya Samaj and other Hindu organizations.

The first All India Hindu Mahasabha Conference was organized at Hardwar in 1915. The Sabha became more aggressive after 1929 and started propagating Hindu Rashtra which

was totally different from Gandhiji's Ram Raja. While not exactly loyal to the British Raj, the Hindu Mahasabha did not actively support the Indian freedom movement against British rule in India. Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress led several nationwide campaigns of non-violent civil disobedience.

The Mahasabha officially abstained from participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930, which tarnished its image at a national level in India. The Hindu Mahasabha openly opposed the call for the Quit India Movement and boycotted it officially.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the president of the Hindu Mahasabha at that time, even went to the extent of writing a letter titled "Stick to your Posts", in which he instructed Hindu Sabhaites who happened to be "members of municipalities, local bodies, legislatures or those serving in the army to stick to their posts" across the country, and not to join the Quit India Movement at any cost.

**South Indian Liberal Federation (SILF) :** The Justice Party, officially the South Indian Liberal Federation, was a political party in the Madras Presidency of British India. It was established on November 20, 1916 in Victoria Memorial Hall in Madras by T. M. Nair and P. Theagaraya Chetty as a result of a series of non-Brahmin conferences and meetings in the presidency. Their joint declaration, which came to be called the Non-Brahmin Manifesto, demanded the representation of non-Brahmins in government jobs. This was the first cohesive demand for reservation raised in India.

SILF soon launched a newspaper called Justice. When elections were held in 1920 for the Madras Legislative Council under the Government of India Act 1919, SILF was generally referred to by the public as the Justice Party. The party won that election as the Indian National Congress boycotted it. To a great extent the Justice Party and its popularity was a reaction to the domination of the Congress in the then Madras Presidency by Brahmins and other upper castes. This was used by the British rulers as a platform against the Congress, which was attracting more and more educated Brahmins and upper castes. The

Justice Party was responsible for many changes, including the passing of a Government Order in 1930 providing for reservations for various groups, including non-Brahmin Hindus. In 1937 elections it lost to the congress party. After this loss, it never recovered and it came under the leadership of E.V. Ramasamy and his self-respect movement. In 1944, Periyar EVR transformed this party into a social organisation called Dravidar Kazhagam and it withdrew from electoral politics.

**The Servants of Indian Society :** Servants of India Society, founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1905 to unite and train Indians of different ethnicities and religions in welfare work. It was the first secular organization in the country to devote itself to the underprivileged, rural and tribal people, emergency relief work, the increase of literacy, and other social causes. The motto of society was to promote education, sanitation, health care and fight the social evils of untouchability and discrimination, alcoholism, poverty, oppression of women and domestic abuse. Prominent Indians were its members and leaders. It chose to remain away from political activities and organizations like the Indian National Congress. The organization has its headquarters in Pune (Poona) and branches in Chennai (Madras), Mumbai (Bombay), Allahabad, Nagpur, and other locales. Though the number of members has dwindled over time, the society has been influential in its demonstration of the ideals of social service.

3. Which among the following events happened earliest ?

- A) Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj.
- B) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan.
- C) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.
- D) Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

**Explanation:**

**Ans : (B)**

- Arya Samaj is an Indian Hindu reform movement founded by Sannyasi Dayananda Saraswati on 7 April 1875.

- Nil Darpan is a Bengali play written by Dinabandhu Mitra in 1858–1859. The play was published from Dhaka in 1860
- Anandamath is a Bengali fiction, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1882.
- Satyendranath Tagore (first to clear ICS) was selected for the Indian Civil Service in June, 1863.

4. With reference to educational institutions during colonial rule in India, consider the following pairs:

Institution	Founder
1. Sanskrit College at Benaras	— William Jones
2. Calcutta Madarasa	— Warren Hastings
3. Fort William College	— Arthur Wellesley

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct ?

- A) 1 and 2                      B) 2 only  
C) 1 and 3                      D) 3 only

Explanation:    Ans : (B)

**Sanskrit College at Benaras**

In 1791 Jonathan Duncan started the Sanskrit College at Benaras for the study of Hindu law and Philosophy. (In 1958 the Sanskrit College became a university and in 1974 the name was changed to Sampurnanand Sanskrit University.).

**Calcutta Madarasa**

In 1781, Warren Hastings founded the Madarasa Aliya or Calcutta Madarasa. In 2007, this Madarasa Aaliya became the Aliah University by Aliah University Act 2007

**Fort William College**

Fort William College (also called the College of Fort William) was an academy and learning centre of Oriental studies established by Lord Wellesley, then Governor-General of British India. It was founded on 10 July 1800, within the Fort William complex in Calcutta.

5. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what was/were the measure/measures taken by the colonial government ?

1. The territories called 'Santhal Parganas' were created.
2. It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A) 1 only                                      B) 2 only  
C) Both 1 and 2                              D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:    Ans : (C)

**Administrative division of Santhal Parganas covers the geographical area of Rajmahal hills.** Zamindars, traders, money lenders, contractors, other service providers and company employees started exploiting the innocent tribals and evicted tribals from their own land. This led to Pahariya Sirkars in 1777-78 and more famous Santhal Insurrection (popularly called Hul) of 1855-57.

During this time, British introduced a special system of administration and for this, Act of 1855 was passed to suppress this tribal dominated political unrest rather than going to root to solve the problem. This area was separated from the district of Bhagalpur and Birbhum and a separate district of Santhal Parganas was formed. Non-transferability of lands was introduced in the tenancy laws of this division, not for the economic development and welfare of tribal themselves but as a tool to prevent tribal unrest and secure in this region.

6. Economically, one of the results of the British rule in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the

- A) increase in the export of Indian handicrafts  
B) growth in the number of Indian owned factories  
C) commercialization of Indian agriculture  
D) rapid increase in the urban population

Explanation:    Ans : (C)

**Commercialization of agriculture in India began during the British rule.** The commercialization of Indian agriculture started post 1813 when the industrial revolution in England gained pace. Commercialization of agriculture became prominent around 1860 A.D (during American Civil War which boosted demand of Cotton from India to Britain as America was not able to export Cotton). The commercialization of Indian Agriculture took place not to feed the industries of India. It was

done primarily to feed the British industries that it was taken up and achieved only in cases-of those agricultural products which were either needed by the British industries or could fetch cash commercial gain to the British in the European or American market.

**Option D** : Colonial rule negatively affected Indian industries and handicrafts, hence Indian owned factories and handicrafts were on decline. Consequently there were new cities coming up called the presidency towns along with de-urbanization phenomenon (machalipatnam lost its importance). There was no rapid increase in urban population.

7. **He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was**

A) Aurobindo Ghosh B) Bipin Chandra pal  
C) Lala Lajpat Rai D) Motilal Nehru

**Explanation:** **Ans : (C)**

**Lala Lajpat Rai was the most prolific writer among his contemporary nationalist leaders of India.** His literary activity started when he was still in his teens and he continued to write almost to the last day of his life. To rouse the Punjabis from slumber and inspire them with patriotic zeal, he wrote the biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji, Dayanand and Shri Krishna, besides other important works in English, Hindi and Urdu. He visited USA and Japan where he kept in touch with the Indian revolutionaries. In England, he also became a member of the British Labour party. In recognition of his outstanding role in the freedom movement, he was elected President of the Indian National Congress at the Calcutta session (1920).

8. **In the Federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935, residuary powers were given to the**

A) Federal Legislature  
B) Governor General  
C) Provincial Legislature  
D) Provincial Governors

**Explanation:**

**Ans : (B)**

The residuary powers, however, were not allocated either to the Federation or to the Provinces but was under Section 105 of the Government of India, 1935, reserved to be allocated by the Governor General in his discretion to the Federation or to the Provinces.

**The Government of India Act of 1935:** Government of India Act 1935 was passed by British Parliament in August 1935. With 321 sections and 10 schedules, this was the longest act passed by British Parliament so far and was later split into two parts viz. Government of India Act 1935 and Government of Burma Act 1935.

The Government of India Act 1935 derived material from four key sources viz. Report of the Simon Commission, discussions at the Third Round Table Conference, the White Paper of 1933 and the reports of the Joint select committees. This act ended the system of dyarchy introduced by GOI Act 1919 and provided for establishment of a Federation of India to be made up of provinces of British India and some or all of the Princely states. However, the federation never came into being as the required number of princely states did not join it.

**Salient Features of the Government of India Act 1935 were as follows:**

- Abolition of provincial dyarchy and introduction of dyarchy at centre.
- Abolition of Indian Council and introduction of an advisory body in its place.
- Provision for an All India Federation with British India territories and princely states.
- Elaborate safeguards and protective instruments for minorities.
- Supremacy of British Parliament.
- Increase in size of legislatures, extension of franchise, division of subjects into three lists and retention of communal electorate.
- Separation of Burma from India.

9. **The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the**

A) Bundi school B) Jaipur school  
C) Kangra school D) Kishangarh school