

QB365

Important Questions - Forest Society and Colonialism

9th Standard CBSE

Social Science

Reg.No. :

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Time : 01:00:00 Hrs

Total Marks : 50

Section-A

- 1) 500 different plant species can be found in one forest patch in 1
(a) Eastern Ghats (b) Amazon (c) Chattisgarh (d) North American Planis
- 2) Which of the following species of trees were suited for building ships and railways? 1
(a) Sal and Semur (b) Teak and Mahogany (c) Rosewood and Sal (d) Teak and Sal
- 3) Colonial rulers considered forests as productive because 1
(a) the forests are not fit for habitation (b) forests only have naturally grown trees
(c) forests did not yield revenue to enhance income of the state (d) forests are full of wild animals
- 4) Local name for 'Swidden' agriculture in India 1
(a) Milpa (b) Lading (c) Kumri (d) Chena
- 5) Which of the following is not a common name for shifting agriculture in India? 1
(a) Dhya (b) Kumri (c) Podu (d) Rai
- 6) Birsa Munda belonged to 1
(a) Andra Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Kanger (d) Chhotanagpur
- 7) Who among the following was leader of rebel foresters in Andhra Pradesh? 1
(a) Birsa Munda (b) Siddhu (c) Kanu (d) Alluri Sitarama Raju
- 8) How many sleepers are required for each mile of railway track? 1
(a) between 1670-2200 sleepers (b) 1360 to 1500 sleepers (c) 1760 - 2000 sleepers
(d) 15,000 trees - 2000 sleepers
- 9) Which of the following was the reason for forests disappearing near railway tracks? 1
(a) Wood was used to make railway sleepers (b) 'Scorched earth' policy of imperial troops
(c) Indiscriminate exploitation by tribals (d) Indiscriminate cutting of trees by contractors
- 10) Who among the following was a community of skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators of Java? 1
(a) Kalangs (b) Gonds (c) Dhuravas (d) Halbas

Section-B

- 11) Discuss how the changes in forest management in the colonial period affected the following groups of people: 5
- (i) Shifting cultivators
 - (ii) Nomadic and pastoralist communities
 - (iii) Firms trading in timber/forest produce
 - (iv) Plantation Owners
 - (v) Kings/British officials engaged in Shikar
- 12) What are the similarities between colonial management of the forests in Baster and in Java? 2
- 13) Why did the colonial rulers consider forests as unproductive? 2
- 14) Explain Scientific Forestry. 2
- 15) Describe the defects in the techniques of 'Scientific Forestry'. 2
- 16) Why did forests around railway tracks in India start disappearing after 1860? 2
- 17) During the colonial rule in India from which type of forests could the villagers take wood for their personal use? 2
- 18) What is deforestation? 2
- 19) Give any five reasons for the rapid expansion of cultivation under the colonial rule. 2
- 20) Why are forests affected by wars? 2

Section-C

- 21) What was scientific forestry? 5
- 22) Explain the term 'shifting cultivation' Support your answer by giving an example of one community 5
- 23) What were the traditional beliefs of the different communities of Baster regarding Earth? 2
- 24) How did new forest laws affect the hunter and forest dwellers in 1927? 5
- 25) Which forest products were traded by Adivasi community in India from medieval period onwards? Mention the change that took place in the trading pattern in the forests of Indian during the British period. 5

Section-A

- 1) (b) Amazon 1
- 2) (d) Teak and Sal 1
- 3) (b) forests only have naturally grown trees 1
- 4) (c) Kumri 1
- 5) (d) Rai 1
- 6) (d) Chhotanagpur 1
- 7) (d) Alluri Sitarama Raju 1
- 8) (d) 15,000 trees - 2000 sleepers 1
- 9) (c) Indiscriminate exploitation by tribals 1
- 10) (a) Kalangs 1

Section-B

Changes in forest management in the colonial period resulted in severe hardships for the villagers across the country.

(i) Shifting cultivators:

(a) Loss of livelihood: Many forest communities depended on shifting cultivation for their livelihood.

Banning of shifting cultivation resulted in the displacement of many communities from their homes in the forests. Many were reduced to the level of starvation.

(b) New occupations: Of the displaced many changed their occupation. Some took to trading in forest products or became labourers.

(c) Large and small rebellion: When the government banned shifting cultivation, people revolted against the decision of the government, e.g. Birsa Munda of Chhotanagpur (Jharkhand), Sita Ram Raju of Andhra Pradesh.

Penetration of outsiders: It led to penetration of tribal areas by outsiders from the plains.

Changes enforced alien concepts of private property.

- Local people were henceforth forced to pay taxes.

(ii) Nomadic and pastoralist communities:

Grazing in forests was restricted by the colonists.

(a) Reduction in grazing lands: The various laws which were formulated had an adverse impact on nomadic and pastoral communities. Through various forest acts, some forests were declared 'Reserved'. Still, others were classified 'Protected'. In these, some customary grazing rights of past oralists were granted, but their movement was severely restricted.

(b) Livelihood: In the process, many nomadic and pastoral communities like Korava, Karachi and Yerukala of Madras Presidency lost their means of livelihood. Some were forced to take up occupations like working in factories/ plantations or mines as labourers.

(c) Rebellion: Others took to rebellion and were labelled as criminal tribes.

(d) Taxes: Pastoralists had to pay tax on every animal they grazed on pastures.

(e) Poor quality of pastures: Restrictions were imposed on pastoral movement, whereby the available grazing lands came to be continuously used. This led to decline in quality of pastures available and in turn created a shortage of fodder and reduction in animal stock.

(iii) Firms trading in timber and forest products:

(a) The new forest policy of the British ruined the prospects of several firms trading in timber and forest produce as restrictions were imposed on local firms.

(b) Trade was regulated by the government. Trading rights were largely controlled by European traders. They were vested with the sole right to trade in forest products and timber. These firms cleared large natural forests which had a

variety of trees and replaced them by one type of trees-sal or teak to meet the growing demand of Europeans as they were suitable for building ships and railway sleepers.

(c) The indiscriminate plunder of forest resources by European Traders led to deforestation and ecological disbalance.

(d) The Adivasi communities like Banjaras who were for generations in this occupation were displaced, reduced to starvation, or forced to work as labourers. Many joined the ranks of rebels.

(iv) Plantation owners:

(a) Changes in forest management favoured the plantation owners. Most of the plantation estates were

owned by Europeans.

(b) They were given a free hand to destroy natural forests to make way for tea, coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's growing need for these commodities.

(c) Plantation owners contributed largely to deforestation in India.

(d) Their activities led to penetration of tribal areas by outsiders. They developed the alien concept of private property in forest society.

(e) The Indian traders and plantation workers were left at the mercy of the European plantation owners.

(v) Kings/British officials engaged in Shikar:

(a) Though the forest laws deprived the forest-dwellers the right to hunt, the Kings and British officials continued to engage in the big game.

(b) Hunting of wild animals was seen as a sport by the Indian rulers and a form of the civilising mission by the British officials.

(c) The British government encouraged the killing of animals. Big animals like tigers, wolves, leopards were seen as a threat to cultivation. Rewards were given for killing these large animals.

(d) The scale of hunting increased to such an extent that various species came near to becoming extinct.

(e) Later environmentalists and conservators realised many species needed to be protected not killed.

12)

The colonial managers of Bastar were the British, while those of Java were the Dutch.

Similarities

(a) In both cases, forests came to be owned by the state.

(b) They restricted villagers from practicing shifting cultivation.

(c) They enacted laws to allow themselves to exploit forest trees for timber, to build ships and railways, to protect and further their imperial interests.

(d) Both enacted forest laws to restrict villagers access to forests, grazing, etc.

(e) Both were exploitative by nature, they displaced the local communities from their traditional means of livelihood, and exploited them to further their interests. Defaulters of forest laws were harassed, punished and fined.

Both introduced exploitative policies to get the support of the locals. The British introduced 'Forest villages'. Under this, some villages were allowed to stay on in the reserved forests on the condition that they would work free for the forest department and would help in cutting and transporting trees and protecting the forests from fire.

In Java, the Dutch introduced the Blandongdiensten system. Under this, the villages were exempted from rent if they would work collectively to provide free labour and animals for cutting and transporting timber.

(g) Policies of management in both cases resulted in the enforcement of alien concepts of private property, taxes and penetration of forest societies by outsiders.

(h) The atrocities of the managers led to increasing frustration among the forest communities, which found an outlet in rebellions. These rebellions though crushed with a heavy hand were not without results.

- 13) Colonial rulers consider forests as unproductive because: 2
- (i) they regarded forests as wilderness
 - (ii) they did not yield any agricultural products
 - (iii) they yielded no revenue and income for the state.
- 14) 2
- In scientific Forestry
- (i) Natural forests which had different types of trees were cut down and new ones belonging to one tree type were planted in rows. This is called as plantation .
 - (ii) Forest officials surveyed the forests. They estimated the area under different types of trees and made working plans for the forest management. They planned how much of the plantation area was to be cut every year.
 - (iii) The cleared area was replanted to enable recutting after some years.
- 15) 2
- (i) Natural forests which had lots of different types of trees were cut down. In these place one type of trees were planted in rows for use as timber.
 - (ii) Forest officials surveyed the forests, estimated the area under different types of trees and made working plans for forest management.
 - (iii) They planned how much of the plantation area to be cut every year. The area cut was to be replanted so that it was ready to be cut again in some years.
- 16) 2
- Forests around the railway tracks started disappearing (after 1860's) because:
- (i) From 1860's railway network expanded rapidly and by 1890 about km 25,500 km of track had been laid.
 - (ii) As tracks spread, a large number of trees were felled to meet the demand for sleepers needed to hold the tracks together (approximately 1760 to 2000 sleepers were needed per mile)
 - (iii) The government gave out contracts to individuals to supply the required quantities.
 - (iv) Individual contractors began cutting trees indiscriminately.
 - (v) Moreover decided to take up an area for logging one of the first things they did was build wide roads so that trucks could enter to carry logs of wood. This also was a factor in disappearing of forests near railway tracks.
- 17) Villagers could take wood for personal use from protected or village forests. 2
- 18) Disappearance of forests is referred to as deforestation. 2
- 19) 2
- The colonial rulers expanded cultivation because:
- (i) The British regarded forests as unproductive. They were considered to be wilderness.
 - (ii) To increase revenue and enhance the income of the state.
 - (iii) To meet the growing need of its industries back home for raw materials like cotton.
 - (iv) To increase production of commercial crops (plantation crops like tea, coffee, indigo, rubber) for export to Europe.
 - (v) Expansion of cultivation was viewed as sign of progress.

Forests are affected by Wars. Both the World War I and the World War II had a major impact on forests.

- (i) The defending armies hide themselves and their war materials under the cover of the thick forests to avoid detection. Enemy forces target forest areas to capture the opposing soldiers and war materials.
- (ii) To meet war needs forests are cut indiscriminately. In India, wars led to the reckless cutting of forests to meet British war needs.
- (iii) Fearing the capture of forest areas by the enemy, sometimes the government themselves cut down forests, destroy saw mills and burn huge piles of logs. Such a policy was followed by the Dutch in Java. In Java, the Dutch followed a 'scorched earth policy' to prevent logs of wood from falling into the hands of the advancing Japanese.
- (iv) At times the occupying forces recklessly cut down trees for their own ends. During the World War II, after Java fell into Japanese hands, the Japanese exploited the forests for their ends.
- (v) The forests during war times became a no man's land and are subject to abundant plunder and destruction. During the World War, I and the World War II many people who were hitherto excluded from forest areas tended to reoccupy their land. Still others, many local people, took advantage of the war situation and usurped forest lands and expanded cultivation.

Section-C

In scientific Forestry

- (i) Natural forests which had different types of trees were cut down and new ones belonging to one tree type were planted in rows. This is called as plantation.
- (ii) Forest officials surveyed the forests. They estimated the area under different types of trees and made working plans for the forest management. They planned how much of the plantation area was to be cut every year.
- (iii) The cleared area was replanted to enable recutting after some years.

Shifting cultivation

- (i) Parts of the forests are cut and burnt in rotation
- (ii) Seeds are sown in the ashes after the first monsoon rains and the crop is harvested by October - November
- (iii) Such plots are cultivated for a couple of years or till the time the soil retains its fertility and then abandoned or left fallow.
- (iv) A mixture of crops are grown on these plots

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- (i) The Bastar people believed that each village was given its land by the Earth. They thus revered and thanked the Earth by making some offerings on each agricultural festival.
- (ii) They showed respect to the spirits of the river, the forests, and the mountains.
- (iii) Each village was aware of their boundaries. All natural resources within that boundary were looked after and was the responsibility of the local people.
- (iv) Wood could be taken from forests of another village only after payment of a small fee called dand or man.
- (v) Some villages engaged watchmen to protect their forests. Every household contributed some grain as payment for the services to the watchmen.
- (vi) The tribal people had formulated strict rules and regulations about how to manage and use the forests.

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- (i) The forest laws prohibited the forest-dwellers their customary practice of hunting deer, partridges and a variety of small animals near forests. Those caught hunting were punished for poaching
- (ii) Hunting of big game became a sport. Hunting increased to such an extent that various species became almost extinct.
- (iii) The British saw large animals as a sign of wild, primitives and savage society. They believed by killing wild animals the British would civilize India. They gave rewards for the killing of large animals like tigers, wolves, on the ground that they posed a threat to cultivators.

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- (i) Adivasis in India from medieval period traded in elephants and other goods like hides, horns, silk cocoon, ivory, bamboo, spices, fibers, grasses, gums and resins through nomadic communities like Banjaras.
- (ii) With the coming of the British trade was completely regulated by the government.
- (iii) The British Government gave many large European trading firms the sole right to trade in forest products.
- (iv) Grazing and hunting by local people were restricted. Many pastoralists and nomadic tribes lost their livelihoods. Some of the them-began to be called 'Criminal Tribes' and were forced to work in factories, mines and on plantations under government supervision.
- (v) New opportunities of work did not mean improved well-being of the people. E.g., Santhals and Oraons from Jharkhand were recruited to work on tea plantations. Their wages were low, conditions of work were bad and they were often not allowed to return to their villages.