

QB365

Important Questions - Peasants and Farmers

9th Standard CBSE

Social Science

Reg.No. :

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Time : 01:00:00 Hrs

Total Marks : 50

Section-A

- 1) Strip cultivation was practised by 1
(a) peasants in England (b) tribals (c) nomadic pastoralists (d) shifting cultivators
- 2) Which of the following was not a feature of strip cultivation? 1
(a) Cultivable land around villages was divided into strips.
(b) Beginning of each year villagers were allocated a number of strips to cultivate.
(c) Strips were a mix of good and bad land. (d) Common land was divided into strips.
- 3) 16th century enclosures were driven by 1
(a) land grab (b) parliamentary legislation (c) desire to increase grain production
(d) to improve breeding and expand wool production
- 4) Unlike 16th century enclosures those in the 18th century were undertaken to 1
(a) increase grain production (b) created by individuals (c) lacked state support
(d) result of pressure from landowners
- 5) Factor in increased foodgrain production in post-1780 Britain was 1
(a) radical innovations in technology (b) population expansion (c) urbanisation
(d) simple innovations and new lands under cultivation
- 6) Why did the poor people oppose enclosures? 1
(a) They became jobless (b) They were deprived of common lands (c) Their homes were destroyed
(d) They were forced to migrate to urban areas
- 7) Due to enclosures 1
(a) poor lost their customary rights (b) demand for agricultural labourers decreased
(c) poor found gainful employment (d) work and income became stable
- 8) To which of the following is Agrarian expansion in the USA closely connected? 1
(a) American War of Independence (1775-1783) (b) Slave trade (c) Westward movement
(d) Fertility of the soil
- 9) Who of the following said these words "Plant more wheat, wheat will win the war"? 1
(a) President Thomas Jefferson (b) President Roosevelt (c) President George Bush
(d) President Wilson

- 10) During which of the following period did dramatic expansion of wheat production take place in the USA? 1
 (a) 1775-1830 (b) 1830-1850 (c) 1850-1910 (d) 1910-1920

Section-B

- 11) Write a paragraph on why the British insisted on farmers growing opium in India? 2
 12) State the factors responsible for rapid increase in foodgrain production in the 19th century England. 2
 13) Why and how were the Native Americans driven Westwards? 2
 14) How did machines bring misery to the poor farmers? 2
 15) What were the advantages and disadvantages of the use of mechanical harvesting machines in the USA? 2
 16) What were the occupations Native Americans? 2
 17) Give one way in which enclosures affected the poor farmers. 2
 18) Explain briefly the factors which led to the enclosures in England. 2
 19) Briefly discuss the relationship of white American settlers and American Indians in the context of westward expansion of white Americans. 2
 20) Explain the major features of the 'Open Field' system which was prevailing in England in the eighteenth, and the early nineteenth century. 2

Section-C

- 21) What do you mean by black blizzards? 4
 22) In which parts of America did the American's settle during the first half of the 18th century? 4
 23) Explain the Westward expansion of White settlers of USA. 4
 24) Explain the Dust Bowl tragedy. 4
 25) Enclosures filled the pockets of landlords, but what happened to the life of the poor? Explain. 4

Section-A

- 1) (a) peasants in England 1
 2) (d) Common land was divided into strips. 1
 3) (d) to improve breeding and expand wool production 1
 4) (a) increase grain production 1
 5) (d) simple innovations and new lands under cultivation 1
 6) (b) They were deprived of common lands 1
 7) (a) poor lost their customary rights 1
 8) (c) Westward movement 1
 9) (d) President Wilson 1
 10) (d) 1910-1920 1

Section-B

11)

2

(i) The British insisted on farmers growing in India to balance their trade with China. The British could buy tea from China only by paying in bullion. This resulted in outflow of treasure. Opium was one commodity which the British could sell and persuade the Chinese to buy. Its addictive properties in China. Therefore, the Indian farmers were forced to cultivate opium and sell at a cheap price. This was then illegally smuggled into China and sold at a high price.

(ii) Opium grown in India helped the British to reverse the unfavourable balance of payment with China.

(iii) Opium trade resulted in two Opium Wars.

(iv) These wars forced China to open her territories to foreign trade.

12)

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Foodgrains production grew rapidly in the 19th century England because:

(i) New Lands: Enclosures helped bring new lands under cultivation. Lands which earlier constituted pasture lands, open fields, forests commons, marshes were turned to agricultural fields.

(ii) Simple Innovations: Farmers started using simple innovation on a more regular basis. Crops like turnip and clover which helped restore depleted nitrogen content of the soil and made soil more fertile were regularly cultivated. Turnip was also a good fodder crop relished by cattle.

(iii) Crop Rotation; Use of crop rotation technique on a regular basis improved soil and fertility and increased foodgrain production.

(iv) Threshing Machines: The use of threshing machines improved efficiency and reduced labour cost.

13)

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(i) The white settlers moved westward as this area held a lot of promise. Its wilderness could be turned into cultivated fields. Forests could be cut to provide timber for export, animals hunted for their skin and mountains mined for their minerals.

(ii) To evacuate Native Americans (Indians) numerous wars were fought, in which Indians were massacred and their villages burnt. The natives resisted, won many victories but ultimately they were forced to sign treaties and give up their land.

14)

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For poor farmers of USA, new Machines brought misery.

(i) Poor farmers had no money. They took loans from banks to buy machines imagining that wheat prices would remain high and profits would flow.

(ii) Those who borrowed eventually found it difficult to pay back their debts because the boom came to an end by mid 1920's.

(iii) Many deserted their farms and looked for jobs elsewhere but jobs were difficult to find because machines reduced the need for labour.

15)

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Advantages: The advantages of mechanical harvesting were:

- (i) They allowed big farmers to rapidly clear large tracts, breakup the soil, remove the grass and prepare the ground for cultivation.
- (ii) These machines reduce dependence on labour and increased efficiency. With power driven machinery four men could plough, seed and harvest 2,000 to 4,000 acres of wheat in a season.
- (iii) The machines helped increase production by bringing virgin land under cultivation, to meet the growing demands of urban dwellers and the export market.

Disadvantages: The disadvantages of mechanical harvesting were:

- (i) For poor farmers machines brought misery. Machines reduced dependence on labour leading to unemployment. For many a poor it became difficult to find jobs.
- (ii) Many farmers who bought machines on loans, thinking the boom would last, faced hard times once the boom ended by 1920s. They faced difficulty in paying back loans. Some were driven to take the extreme step of abandoning farms.
- (iii) Production had expanded so rapidly that during the post war years, when the export market collapsed and wheat prices fell farmers were left with large surpluses and overflowing store houses. -:
- (iv) Extensive cultivation made feasible by machines resulted in the Great Agrarian Depression of the 1930s, which ruined wheat farmers everywhere.
- (v) Indiscretionary use of machines ruined the entire landscape resulting in ecological disbalance. Periods of plenty were followed by droughts. Ordinary dust storms became black blizzards. The American dream of land of plenty turned into a nightmare.

16)

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Native Americans lived by hunting, gathering, fishing; others cultivated corn, beans, tobacco and pumpkin.

17)

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With 'Enclosure' the poor farmers lost his customary rights to graze his cattle, etc.

18)

2

- (i) In the 16th century price of wool increased. This prompted rich farmers to expand wool production to increase profits. For this purpose they were keen to enclose lands.
- (ii) To improve sheep breeding and ensure good feed enclosures became necessary, They therefore began to enclose common land grows hedges around their holdings to keep out the poor. .~
- iii) These enclosures were usually created by individual efforts and not supported by the state or church. '
- (iv) To increase wool production, these Enclosures in the 18th century were driven by need to increase grain production.
- (v) Rapid expansion of English population, growing industrialisation and urbanisation led to increase in demand and price of grain.
- (vi) By the end of the 18th century, England was at war with France. This disrupted import of foodgrain supplies. M'Prices increased further, landowners enclosed lands to bring land under cultivation. Landowners pressurised the Parliament to pass Enclosure Acts.
- (vii) By 1850, nearly 6 million hectares of land was enclosed and the British Parliament had passed 4,000 Acts legalising these enclosures.

19)

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Till 1780s White American settlements were confined to a small narrow strip coastal land in the east.

- (i) Among the native American groups were settled but several of them were nomadic and lived by hunting, gathering and fishing.
- (ii) Westward expansion of 'whites' after the formation of the United States of America led to displacing of local tribes. The American Indians were first driven beyond the river Mississippi and then further west.
- (iii) Numerous wars were waged in which Indians were massacred and many of their villages burnt.
- (iv) Indians resisted, won many victories in wars but were ultimately forced to sign treaties, give up their land and move westward.

20)

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(i) Before the late 18th century large parts of the English countryside were open. It was not partitioned into enclosed fields, privately owned by landlords.

(ii) Land around villages was divided into strips of varying quality. At the beginning of each year a mix of good and bad land was allotted to the villagers to cultivate. These strips of land which the villagers cultivated were called 'open fields'.

(iii) Land beyond the strips was called commons land. It was called 'commons' because all villagers had free access to it -- to graze their cattle, collect fuel wood, berries, fruits, fishing in the ponds and even hunt for small catch.

(iv) For the poor the common land was very important for survival. It helped supplement their meagre income, sustained their cattle and helped them tide over bad times, when crops failed.

Section-C

21)

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(i) Terrifying dust storms that blew over the southern plains of USA in the 1930s were called 'black blizzards'.

(ii) They were often 7,000 to 8,000 feet high, rising like monstrous waves of muddy water.

(iii) They came day after day, year after year through the 1930's.

(iv) Skies darkened, the dust swept in, people were blinded and choked.

(v) Cattle were suffocated to death, their lungs choked with dust and mud.

22)

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During the first half of the 18th century white American settled on the narrow strip of coastal land in the east.

23)

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Agrarian expansion in the USA is closely connected to the westward movement of the white settlers who took over land.

(i) After the American War of Independence (1775 to 1783) and formation of the United States of America, the white settlers who till 1780's were confined to a narrow strip of coastal land in the east began to move westward.

(ii) By the time Thomas Jefferson became President of the USA in 1800 over 700,000 white settlers had moved on to the Appalachian plateau through passes.

(iii) Seen from the east coast America seemed to be a land of promise where forest could be cut for timber, mountains mined for gold and minerals, animals hunted for skin.

(iv) After 1800 US government began drawing the native American Indians westward. They moved into Mississippi valley between 1820 and 1850. After the 1860's the settlers swept into the Great Plains across the river Mississippi.

(v) In the process of westward expansion numerous wars were waged in which Indians were massacred and many of their villages burnt. The Indians who resisted were finally forced to sign treaties giving up their lands.

(vi) Forests were burnt and slashed, lands were cleared for cultivation, and fences were erected around fields. The land was ploughed and sown with wheat and corn. In subsequent decades this region became a major wheat producing area of America.

24)

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(i) The Dust Bowl tragedy occurred in the Great Plains of America in the 1930s.

(ii) Terrifying dust storms began to blow over the southern plains. 'Black' blizzards rolled in very often 7000 to 8000 feet high rising like monstrous waves of muddy waters.

(iii) They came day after day, year after year through the 1930s. Skies darkened, people were blinded and choked.

(iv) Cattle was suffocated to death. Sand buried fences, covered fields and coated the surfaces of rivers till the fish died.

(v) Tractors and machines that had ploughed the earth and harvested the wheat in the 1920s were now clogged with dust, damaged beyond repair.

(vi) The American dream of a land of plenty turned into a nightmare.

- (i) Enclosure laws favoured the landlords at the expense of the poor. When fences came up, enclosed lands became exclusive property of one land owner.
- (ii) Poor farmers lost grazing rights and other customary rights, e.g, of collecting firewood from forests or apples and berries or hunt small 'animals for meat. Everything belonged to the landlords and had a price, which they could not afford.
- (iii) The poor were deprived of ways to supplement their meagre income and means to tide over periods of crises.
- (iv) Earlier labourers lived within the compounds of the landowners and availed of certain facilities. But with enclosures, labourers were reduced to the status of wage-earners and were employed during harvest time.
- (v) Deprived of their rights and driven off the land they tramped in search of work. From Midlands they moved to southern England. This region was intensively cultivated and there was demand for agricultural labourers. But nowhere could the poor find secure jobs. Work of the poor became insecure and income unstable.
- (vi) With enclosures came threshing machines. These machines resulted in further displacement of labour. Wages became low and the number of poor unemployed large.

