

Very Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. How important are dates?

Ans. Dates tell about the events, kings and their policies and battles which occurred at a particular time.

Q. 2. What is history?

Ans. History is a record of people, places and changes that occur over time.

Q. 3. What is the importance of history?

Ans. The study of history is very important to us. It tells about the past of the present.

Q. 4. Who was the first Governor-General of India?

Ans. The first Governor-General of India was Warren Hastings.

Q. 5. Who was the last Governor-General of India?

Ans. The last Governor-General of India was Lord Mountbatten.

Q. 6. Who was James Mill?

Ans. James Mill was a Scottish economist and political philosopher.

Q. 7. Write the name of the book which was published by James Mill?

Ans. James Mill published a massive—three volume work, i.e., A History of British India.

Q. 8. What do you mean by colonisation?

Ans. When the subjugation of one country by another leads to political, economic, social and cultural changes, that is known as colonisation.

Q. 9. How did historians divide Indian history?

Ans. The historians divided Indian history into 'ancient', 'medieval' and 'modern'.

Q. 10. Name the types of surveys.

Ans. The types of surveys were: botanical surveys, zoological surveys, archaeological surveys, anthropological surveys and forest surveys.

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. How did James Mill view India?

Ans. James Mill was not very positive towards India and considered Asian society as a whole at lower level of civilisation than Europe. He was well aware of religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstitious practices that dominated Indian social life. He suggested that the British should conquer all the territories of India to ensure the enlightenment and happiness of Indian people. For India was not capable of progress without the help of the British. He had a strong opinion that only British rule could civilise India.

Q. 2. How did the British conquer India and establish their rule?

Ans. The British conquered India in the following ways:

- (a)** They conquered and overpowered local nawabs and rajas.
- (b)** They gained control over economy and society. The collected revenue helped them to meet all their expenses.
- (c)** They brought changes in rulers, tastes, customs and practices.

Thus, they moulded everything in their favour.

Q. 3. What do official records not tell? How do we come to know about them?

Ans. These records do not always help us understand what other people in the country felt, and what lay behind their actions. We have diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims and travellers, autobiographies of important personalities, and popular booklets that were sold in the local bazaars. As printing spread, newspapers were published and issues were debated in public. Leaders and reformers wrote to spread their ideas, poets and novelists wrote to express their feelings.

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Why were official records important for British administration?

Ans. (i) The official records were important for the British administration as they believed that the act of writing was important.

(ii) Every instruction, plan, policy decision, agreement, investigation was clearly written up.

(iii) They produced an administrative culture of memos, notings and reports.

(iv) The British felt that all important documents and letters needed to be carefully preserved.

(v) For that, specialised institutions like archives and museums besides record rooms were established.

Q. 2. Why is British period in India referred to as 'Colonial'?

Ans. (i) During this period, British came to conquer the country and establish their rule, subjugating local nawabs and rajas.

(ii) They established control over the economy and society, collected revenue to meet all their expenses.

(iii) British brought goods they wanted at low prices, produced crops they needed for export.

(iv) They also brought about changes in values and tasks, customs and practices.

(v) When the subjugation of one powerful country over a weaker country leads to political, economic, social and cultural changes, we refer to this process as 'colonisation'.

Q. 3. Why did the practice of surveying become common under British Administration?

Ans. (i) The British believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be effectively administered.

(ii) Detailed surveys were carried to map the entire country.

(iii) In the villages revenue surveys were conducted.

(iv) The effort was to know the topography, the soil quality, the flora, the fauna, the local histories and the cropping pattern to administer the region.

(v) Even census operations were held every ten years.

(vi) There were many other surveys like botanical surveys, zoological surveys, archaeological surveys, anthropological surveys and forest surveys.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Observe the picture given below and answer the questions that follow:



(i) What does the above picture depict?

(ii) What symbolises the superior power?

Ans. (i) It portrays that Indians willingly gave over their ancient texts to Britannia - the symbol of British power - as if asking her to become the protector of Indian culture.

(ii) The sculpture of lion symbolises the superior power.

Q. 2. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

“Not fit for human consumption”

Newspaper provide accounts of the movements in different parts of the country. Here is a report of a police strike in 1946. More than 2000 policemen in Delhi refused to take their food on Thursday morning as a protest against their low salaries and the bad quality of food supplied to them from the Police Lines kitchen. As the news spread to the other police stations, the men there also refused to take food... One of the strikers said: “The food supplied to us from the Police Lines kitchen is not fit for human consumption. Even cattle would not eat the chappattis and dal which we have to eat.”

Hindustan Times,

22 March, 1946

(i) What is newspaper clipping all about?

(ii) Why did the policeman refuse to take their food on Thursday morning?

(iii) What was the remark of one of the strikers on the food supplied to them?

(iv) What was the reaction of policemen at other police stations?

Ans. (i) It is a report of a police strike in 1946.

(ii) They did so as a protest against their low salaries and the inferior quality of food supplied to them from the Police Lines kitchen

(iii) One of the strikers said that the food supplied to them was not apt for human consumption. Even cattle would not eat the chapatis and dal which they had to eat.

(iv) They also refused to take food.