

## **SESSION- 2022-2023**

### **QUESTION BANK**

### **HISTORY AND CIVICS**

### **CLASS VIII**

#### **HISTORY CH-1 A PERIOD OF TRANSITION:**

##### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. How did the Renaissance , Reformation and the new geographical discoveries lead to the modern age?**

The three major developments led to the beginning of the modern age :-

- ❖ Renaissance influenced every field of human activity and gave rise to new ideas . It brought development in art , literature , religion , philosophy , politics , science and thus led to the beginning of the modern age.
- ❖ Reformation was intimately connected and was in fact a part of the main stream of social and political movement of the period which led to the end of the mediaeval period and the emergence of the modern world.
- ❖ Geographical discoveries paved the path for the new trade opportunities ,new lands to travel and exchange of ideas and culture.

- 2. Give reasons why the Industrial Revolution first began in England.**

The reasons for the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in England are as follows: -

- ❖ England had accumulated vast profits through overseas trade which could provide for necessary capital;
- ❖ She had acquired colonies which ensured a regular supply of raw materials and also posed as markets for finished goods;
- ❖ She had plenty of Iron and Coal with her which provided the base for establishing new industries;
- ❖ She had abundant labour force for the factories, as a large number of landless unemployed people existed due to the enclosure movement;
- ❖ Lastly, it had no problem transporting raw materials and finished goods abroad as she had developed a large shipping industry.

- 3. Discuss the impact of the Industrial Revolution on society, economy and polity.**

The impact of Industrial Revolution on society, economy and polity as a whole was as follows:

- ❖ It resulted in mass production of variety of goods which was to be exported, this led to acquisition of colonies in Asia and Africa;
- ❖ A large part of its rural population shifted to cities which became crowded and this led to problems related to health and sanitation;
- ❖ It gave birth to two classes of people: Capitalists and Workers. This further led to exploitation of workers and social inequalities and the greed for wealth in capitalists;
- ❖ It brought a number of countries and its people together.

**4. What is Imperialism? Discuss the factors which led to the rise of Imperialism.**

Imperialism is the practice of establishing a country's rule and dominance over the economic and political life of the people of another country.

Factors leading to the rise of Imperialism are:

- ❖ Surplus Production: The capitalists asserted influence on their government to capture colonies so that surplus goods could be sold profitably in colonies of Asia and Africa;
- ❖ Need for raw materials: Growing demand for huge quantity of raw materials to feed the new industries in Europe led to imperialism;
- ❖ Development of modern means of transportation and communication: Invention of steamships, railways, telephone, telegraph and posts enabled man to conquer space and time. Modern means of transport and communication enabled and facilitated acquisition of colonies
- ❖ Pressure of Population: The extra and surplus population in Europe had to be provided basic facilities and new regions to settle down. This led to the establishment of colonies;
- ❖ Rise of Industrial Capitalism: The surplus capital of Industrialists needed to be invested safely. Owners of shipping companies and bankers always looked for new and better opportunities to earn more and more.
- ❖ Ardent Nationalism: Goaded by the spirit of chauvinistic nationalism, the countries of Europe were eager to acquire colonies. Colonies added to the power and prestige of Imperialist countries;
- ❖ Contribution of Christian Missionaries: The zeal to spread Christianity in distant lands of Asia and Africa played a crucial role in the spread of imperialism.

**5. Describe the general impact of imperialism with special reference to South Asia.**

- ❖ The reaction against imperialism in south Asian countries led to rise of Nationalism;

- ❖ Imperialism led to national unity as people fought against the colonial power to free their country;
- ❖ India, Sri Lanka and Burma became colonies of England; -China got divided into several 'spheres of influence' by European powers.

### **GIVE REASONS:**

- 1. Most of the countries in South Asia became colonies of Europe.**
  - ❖ The countries in South Asia had huge population, were backward and thus could not face the colonial power;
  - ❖ They had plenty of raw materials and vast markets for goods produced in European countries;
  - ❖ People were disunited.
- 2. New inventions and discoveries led to the Industrial Revolution.**
  - ❖ The discoveries gave rise to urbanisation and industrialisation;
  - ❖ Major inventions developed enthusiasm to produce goods;
  - ❖ Surplus production was a boost for capitalists.

### **HISTORY CH-4 INDIA IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY:**

#### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. Write in brief the causes that led to the downfall of the Mughal Empire.**

Following causes were responsible for the decline of the Mughal empire:

- ❖ Wars of Succession- These wars were fierce, unproductive and a huge financial burden on the empire. They caused chaos and political instability.
- ❖ Aurnagzeb's Policies- His Deccan companions involved a lot of expenditure. He fought many wars with the Sikhs and Marathas and spent considerable time and energy in crushing revolts.
- ❖ Weak Military Administration- The army was not modernised. The methods of warfare and the equipment were outdated. The Mughals did not possess a strong naval fleet.

- 2. When and between whom was the third battle of Panipat fought? What were its results ?**

The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761 between the Afghans and the Marathas. The Marathas were given a crushing defeat. The defeat put an end to the Maratha dream of establishing an all India empire. Their defeat gave the English East India Company the chance to consolidate their power in India.

- 3. Name the first independent Nawab of Bengal. What were his achievements?**

The first independent Nawab of Bengal was Murshid Quli Khan. He was appointed as Dewan of Bengal by Aurangzeb. In 1717, he was made Subedar of Bengal by Farrukhsiyar. He remained Governor of Bengal from CE 1717 to CE 1727. He established an efficient administration and effectively reorganised the

revenue system. He also introduced the Ijara system. He reorganised the Zamindari and for this he is very well remembered in the history of Bengal.

**4. When was the battle of Plassey fought? What effect did it have on the position of the English East India Company?**

The battle of Plassey was fought in 1757. The English defeated Siraj's army in the battle. From then onwards, the English East India Company functioned as king makers in Bengal Politics. Finally, they established their full sway in 1765 when Robert Clive set up the Dual Government in Bengal.

**5. Who was Haider Ali? Discuss his achievements.**

Haider Ali was the ruler of Mysore in 1761. He won many battles against Marathas, the Nizam of Hyderabad and was able to rout his adversaries in two consecutive Anglo-Mysore wars.

**6. Which ruler was known as the Tiger of Mysore and why?**

Tipu Sultan is known as the "Tiger of Mysore". He was a wise ruler and was deeply influenced by the ideas of the French Revolution. He introduced modern weapons in his army and tried to build a modern Navy. He organised his army along European lines. He also tried to introduce modern industries in India.

**GIVE REASONS:**

**1. The consequence of the Third Battle of Panipat was advantageous for the British.**

The consequence of the Third Battle of Panipat was advantageous for the British because in the Third Battle of Panipat (1761), Ahmed Shah Abdali, an Afghan invader, gave a crushing defeat to the forces of Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao. It put an end to the Maratha power and their dream of ruling the whole of India. It allowed the East India Company to gain power and become supreme in India.

**2. Independent states were formed in the eighteenth century.**

- ❖ The later Mughal rulers were so weak that they could not hold the provinces of the empire together.
- ❖ These provinces were under Governors who were mostly engaged in wars.
- ❖ Gradually, they took advantage of the situation of misrule and misgovernance by the central authority and declared independence.

**PICTURE STUDY:**



**1. Identify the man in the picture.**

Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

**2. How did he unite the Sikhs in Punjab?**

He brought the whole area west of River Sutlej under his control and established the Sikh kingdom in Punjab. He signed the treaty of Amritsar(1809) with the British which confirmed his conquests and established his sovereignty over the territory west of Satluj. It was only after his death in 1839 that the British gained control over Punjab.

## **HISTORY CH-5 TRADERS TO RULERS:**

### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. When and how was the English East India Company formed?**

East India Company was formed by a group of English merchants. This Company received a Charter (a written statement) from Queen Elizabeth I of England on December 31, 1600, giving it the exclusive right to trade with the East.

**2. What were the main reasons for Anglo-French rivalry in India?**

From CE 1744 to 1763, two major European powers- The English and the French formed East India Companies to dominate Indian markets. As a result an intense competition followed. The causes of conflicts were as follows:

- ❖ Dispute over Indian possessions.
- ❖ To establish their monopoly over Indian Trade.

**3. What were the causes of conflict between Siraj-ud-daulah and the English?**

When Siraj-ud-daulah found that the English East India Company had started to fortify their settlements in Bengal, he wanted to check the growing power of the English East India Company. So, he asked the company not to fortify their settlement. But the English East India Company did not pay any heed to the Nawab's repeated requests.

**4. Describe the circumstances that led to the Battle of Buxar. What were its results?**

From the very beginning relations between Mir Qasim and the English were not cordial. Mir Qasim objected to the misuse of trade regulations. The abuse of duty free inland trade adversely affected the revenue, which was the only income of the Nawab. Under these circumstances, Nawab Mir Qasim challenged the Company and war broke out between them. The Nawab was defeated and fled to Awadh. But Mir Qasim formed an alliance with Shuja-ud-daulah, the Nawab of Awadh and Shah Alam, the Mughal Emperor. The results of battle were:

- ❖ The British emerged victorious. They made Mir Jafar the Nawab of Bengal the second time. Shah Alam II who took the side of the Nawab and the Nawab of Awadh surrendered to the English.
- ❖ The defeat in the Battle of Buxar finally sealed the fate of the Indian ruler. The victory at Buxar made the English the supreme power in India.

**5. What were the causes of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War? What were its results?**

The Treaty of Seringapatnam was short-lived. Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General, wanted the ruler of Mysore, Tipu, to accept the Subsidiary Alliance. But Tipu refused to do so. IN 1799, the British went to war against Tipu. Its results were as follows:

- ❖ Tipu fought valiantly and died defending his capital, Seringapatnam.
- ❖ The British and her ally, the Nizam of Hyderabad, shared between themselves half of Mysore's territories.
- ❖ The other half of Mysore kingdom was restored to the ruler of Mysore from whom Haider Ali had snatched power.

**6. Who was the Governor General of India during the Second Anglo Maratha War? What was the significance of this battle?**

The Governor-General of India during the Second Anglo-Maratha War was Lord Wellesly.

In 1803, Baji Rao II signed with the English East India Company a Subsidiary Alliance, known as the Treaty of Bassein.

**7. Why was the Third Anglo-Maratha War fought? What were its results?**

The Maratha chiefs were feeling humiliated after signing the Subsidiary Alliance with the British. Peshwa Baji Rao II began to make plans to unite the Marathas against the British. Its results were as follows:

- ❖ Marathas were defeated and large parts of their territories were annexed by the British.
- ❖ The final effort to save India from British rule ended in a failure.
- ❖ The Third Anglo-Maratha War led to the abolition of the Peshwa's hereditary office and the British rule ended up emerging as the unchallenged power in India.

**8. Explain the Doctrine of Lapse. Name the other methods used by Lord Dalhousie to expand British power in India.**

Dalhousie introduced the "Doctrine of Lapse" which enabled him to annex vast territories. According to this doctrine, if the ruler of a dependent state died without leaving a natural heir, the state would automatically pass over to the British. The Doctrine of Lapse did not recognise adopted children as rightful heirs.

The other methods used by Lord Dalhousie to expand the British power in India are as follows:

- ❖ Abolition of Titles and Pensions
- ❖ Annexation on the Basis of Misgovernance.
- ❖ Wars and Conquests.

**PICTURE STUDY:**

**This is a picture of a fort built by the British :**



- 1. Identify the building.**  
Fort William, Calcutta.
- 2. When did the British purchase the three villages to develop into a city?  
Also name the villages and the city.**  
In 1680 CE, the British purchased three villages Sutanati, Govindpur and Calicata to develop them into the city of Calcutta (Kolkata).
- 3. Write a short note on the establishment of British factories in India.**  
In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe got a *farman* from Jahangir which allowed the British to set up a factory at Surat. The English then set up factories at Agra, Ahmedabad, Broach, Hooghly, Masulipatnam and Madras.

## **HISTORY CH-6 IMPACT OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA:**

### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. Mention the social evils prevalent in India during British rule.**

The social evils that were relevant in India during British rule were:-

- ❖ Sati- The practice of widow immolation at the funeral pyre of her husband .This system was prevalent in many parts of the country,especially in Bengal.
- ❖ Female Infanticide- Killing the girl child as soon as they were born.
- ❖ Sacrificing little children to please Gods and Goddesses.
- ❖ Child marriage and slavery.

- 2. Why did India's foreign trade decline during British rule?**

The British domination of India brought about many fundamental changes in the economic and social life of the people. The British Rule led to the breakdown of the self-sufficient village economy. The village cottage industry was ruined because cheap machine-made goods flooded the markets. They wanted to promote their own products and goods. This policy of the British systematically ruined the Indian economy.

**3. During British rule, "India was a loser in both ways ---- as a buyer and also as a seller." Explain.**

During British rule in India, new forms of production, consumption, social classes and cultural movements emerged. India became a major market for British goods and a source of cheap raw materials for British goods. The British wanted to promote and sell their own products and goods. They wanted to promote and sell their own products and goods. Thus, India was a loser in both ways ---- as a buyer and also as a seller.

**4. Why did the English East India Company feel the need for educational reforms?**

The objectives to introduce the British education system were:-

- ❖ To form a class of Interpreters between British rulers and Indian masses.
- ❖ To create a class of Indians in Blood and colour, but British in taste, opinion, morals and intellect.
- ❖ To obtain a cheap supply of clerks to help in British administration and business.

**5. Who was Lord Macaulay? Why did he recommend the system of British education in India?**

Lord Macaulay is considered the founder of the British system of education in India. He was a member of the Council of Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General of India. Lord Macaulay outlined three main objectives of education in India:

- ❖ The first objective was to form a class of Interpreters between British rulers and the millions of Indians they governed.
- ❖ The second objective was to create 'a class of persons, into a class of Indians in blood and colour, but British in taste, opinion, morals and intellect.'
- ❖ The third objective was to obtain a cheap supply of clerks for holding subordinate posts in administration and British business concerns.

**6. What were the main objectives of British education in India? Mention the steps recommended to implement the policy?**

The main objectives of British education in India were:

- ❖ The first objective was to form a class of Interpreters between British rulers and the millions of Indians they governed.
- ❖ The second objective was to create 'a class of persons, into a class of Indians in blood and colour, but British in taste, opinion, morals and intellect.'
- ❖ The third objective was to obtain a cheap supply of clerks for holding subordinate posts in administration and British business concerns.

To obtain these objectives Macaulay recommended two steps:

- ❖ English should be made the medium of instruction in schools.
- ❖ Indians should be taught the sciences and western literature.

## **7. Describe the recommendations in Wood's Despatch and their effects.**

In 1854, a comprehensive plan for education was worked out in a despatch of Sir Charles Wood, known as the Wood's Despatch.

The recommendations of the Wood's Despatch were as follows:

- ❖ It declared that the aim of the Government's Educational Policy was the teaching of western education.
- ❖ As to the medium of instruction, it declared that for higher education English language was the most perfect medium of education.
- ❖ It proposed the setting up of Vernacular Primary Schools in the villages at the lowest stage, followed by Anglo-Vernacular High Schools and an affiliated college at the district level.
- ❖ It recommended a system of grants-in-aid to encourage and foster private enterprise in the field of education.
- ❖ A Department of Public Instruction under the charge of a Director in each of the five provinces of the Company's territories was to review the progress of education in the province and submit an annual report to the Government.
- ❖ Universities on the model of London University were proposed for Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.
- ❖ The despatch emphasised the importance of vocational instruction and the need for establishing technical schools and colleges.
- ❖ Teachers' training institutions on the model then prevalent in England were recommended.
- ❖ The despatch gave frank and cordial support for fostering the education of women.

The effects in Wood's Despatch are as follows:

- ❖ The three universities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay came into existence in 1857.
- ❖ English was made the medium of instruction in the British institutions.

- ❖ The new educational policy created a gulf between the newly educated Indians and the masses.
- ❖ English became the link language between the people living in the different parts of India. The introduction of English strengthened the bond of unity among the Indians.
- ❖ English education sowed seeds of nationalism among the Indians.
- ❖ The educated Indians realised the exploitative nature of British rule. The Indians learnt about modern political views prevailing in the west, such as liberty, equality, fraternity and love for the nation. India's national movement was led by people who had access to western education.

### **8. Discuss the various aspects of the drain of wealth.**

Drain of wealth theory was developed by nationalist Thinkers and economists according to which, it was the transfer of resources and wealth from India to England for which India did not get appropriate economic or material return

The British, consequently, spent a large part of the taxes and income they derived from the Indian people not in India but in Britain, their home country.

The drain of wealth from Bengal began in 1757 when the Company's servants began to carry home immense fortunes extorted from Indian rulers, zamindars, merchants and the common people.

The actual drain was even more, as a large part of the salaries and other incomes of English officials and the trading fortunes of English merchants also found their way into England.

The drain took the form of an excess of India's exports over its imports, for which India got no return.

By the end of the 19th century it constituted nearly 6 per cent of India's national income and one-third of its national savings. The wealth drained out of India played an important part in financing Britain's capitalist development, especially during the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, that is during the period of Britain's early industrialisation.

### **PICTURE STUDY:**



**1. Identify him.**

This is the picture of the Governor-General, Lord William Bentinck.

**2. What do you understand by 'Sati'? Who put an end to this practice and why?**

'Sati' was the practice of widow immolation at the funeral pyre of her husband.

Lord William Bentinck abolished 'Sati' in 1829 as it was an evil and inhumane custom.

**3. Mention four social reforms introduced by the British.**

The four social reforms introduced by the British were abolition of 'Sati', suppression of female infanticide, widow remarriage and suppression of child marriage.

## **CIVICS CH-1 THE UNION LEGISLATURE:**

### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. Name the two houses of the Parliament.**

The two houses of the parliament are:

- ❖ Lok Sabha- House of People
- ❖ Rajya Sabha- Council of States

**2. How are the members of the Lok Sabha elected?**

The members of the Lok Sabha are elected directly through a secret ballot by adult citizens of the nation.

**3. What is a bicameral legislature?**

A Parliament that has two houses- the lower house and the upper house, is known as a bicameral legislature.

**4. Mention the essential qualifications for a person to be a member of the Lok Sabha.**

Qualifications to be a member of the Lok Sabha are:

- ❖ He must be a citizen of India.
- ❖ He should not be less than 25 years of age.
- ❖ He should be mentally sound.
- ❖ He should not be an insolvent, i.e., he should not be in debt and should have the ability to meet his financial commitments.
- ❖ He should not be proclaimed an offender.
- ❖ He should have his name in the electoral rolls in some part of the country.
- ❖ He should not be in the employment of the government.
- ❖ He should not be a member of some other legislature at the same time.

**5. What is the composition of the Rajya Sabha?**

Rajya Sabha, the upper house, has the maximum strength of 250 members. Of these, 238 members are elected by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies and the remaining 12 are nominated by the President of India from among men of repute in various spheres of life e.g. art, science, literature, technology and social work. However, at present the house consists of 245 members, of which 233 are elected members and 12 nominated members.

**6. What are the functions of the Lok Sabha?**

The functions of Lok Sabha are as follows:

- ❖ Legislative Functions: They pass bills and make laws. Any bill regarding subjects in the Union or the Concurrent List of the Constitution may be moved in this House.
- ❖ Financial Powers: The House of People controls the treasury. No budget or government expenditure can be made without the permission of the House. A money bill has to be moved only in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Control over the Council of Ministers : The council of ministers is responsible to the List Lok Sabha. It may remain in power only so long as it enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha.

**7. Describe the lawmaking functions of the Parliament.**

The lawmaking functions of the Parliament are as follows:

- ❖ It frames new laws and amends or cancels them, if necessary, on all the 99 subjects of the Union List and all the remaining subjects which have not found a place in any of the Lists.
- ❖ In certain cases, it can make laws on the subjects of the State List also.
- ❖ The Parliament along with the State Legislature can pass laws on the 47 subjects of the Concurrent List.
- ❖ The Union Parliament has the sole right to amend the Constitution, although in certain cases, these amendments need to be ratified by a majority of the states.

**8. How does the Parliament exercise control over the Government?**

Parliament exercises control over the Government by the following ways:

- ❖ The government is directly responsible to the Parliament for its acts of omission and commission. The government can be voted out of office by passing a vote of no confidence against the Prime Minister or the Ministry or any of its members.
- ❖ The Members of the Parliament can also move adjournment motions. An adjournment motion is tabled when there is an urgent matter that needs the immediate attention of the government. If admitted, a time is set aside from normal business of the house for discussing the matters of urgent public importance.
- ❖ The members can ask any question relating to the administration of the state and the ministers are obliged to answer them. In this way, they can keep a check on the functioning of the various departments under different ministers.
- ❖ The Parliament can also hold the strings of the government tight by voting for a cut in the annual budget.

**9. Write a short note on Universal Adult Franchise**

Universal Adult Franchise means that, every individual of and above 18 years is given the right to vote without discrimination on the basis of colour, caste, religion or gender. It is based on equality which is the basic principle of democracy.

**10. Mention the significance of a Secret Ballot.**

Secret Ballot of voting helps in keeping the choice of an individual a secret. It prevents malpractices such as blackmailing, buying of votes and developing a fear among the public to vote for a particular candidate.

**CIVICS CH-2 THE UNION EXECUTIVE:**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. Who is the Chief Executive of the Indian Union?**

The Chief Executive of the Indian Union is the President.

The elected members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies elect the President.

**2. State two executives and two judicial powers of the President. Under what circumstances can the President proclaim a state of emergency?**

Two executive powers of the President are:

- ❖ He appoints the Prime Minister and the union ministers.
- ❖ All contracts and treaties with foreign countries are made in his name.

Two judicial powers of the President are:

- ❖ He is not answerable to any law court for the exercise of his powers except in impeachment in the Parliament.
- ❖ He can pardon, remit or suspend a sentence of punishment given by a court martial or a death sentence passed by the court.

The President can declare an emergency if:

- ❖ The security of India is threatened by external aggression or internal rebellion.
- ❖ There is a breakdown of the constitutional machinery in a state.
- ❖ The financial stability of the country is threatened.

**3. What are the main functions of the Cabinet?**

The Cabinet Ministers hold important portfolios such as Home, Finance, Defence, etc. All important decisions are taken by the cabinet ministers. The decisions of the Cabinet are binding upon all the other ministers.

**4. Name the three categories of the union ministers.**

The three categories of ministers in the Council of Ministers are:

- ❖ Cabinet ministers
- ❖ Ministers of State
- ❖ Deputy Ministers

**5. What is the position of the Prime Minister? Mention his powers.**

Position of the Prime Minister is:

- ❖ The Prime Minister selects the other ministers.
- ❖ He distributes portfolios among them.
- ❖ The Prime Minister can also demand the resignation of any minister.

The Prime Minister of India is the most important person in the government of the country. First of all, he is the leader of the Lok Sabha and the leader of the largest political party or a combination of parties (coalition) represented in the Lok Sabha. He has the strenuous responsibility of managing the affairs of the country, both internal as well as external. He is the chief spokesperson of the government.

**6. Do you think the President of India should be directly elected by the people? Why/Why not?**

No. In our system of Government, the President is only the nominal head and indirectly elected by the people. If he too would be elected directly then he would be equally powerful and this may lead to clash with difference in opinion.

**7. “All the ministers, including the Prime Ministers, swim and sink”. Explain.**

This means, the Prime Minister with the council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. If a vote of no confidence is passed against one minister, then the whole ministry including the Prime Minister has to resign.

**8. Mention the role of the civil servants in executing policies.**

The civil or public servants are responsible for the real execution of the policies formulated by the cabinet ministers. They are expected to be impartial in the implementation of a policy or a law. They are the administrative or the administrative or the permanent executives.