

Very Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Who were affected by the policies of the East India Company?

Ans. Kings, queens, peasants, landlords, tribals and soldiers were all affected in different ways by the policies of the East India Company.

Q. 2. Who imposed Subsidiary Alliance on Awadh and Jhansi?

Ans. The Governor-General Dalhousie imposed Subsidiary Alliance on Awadh and Jhansi.

Q. 3. Why were the Indian sepoys unhappy?

Ans. The Indian sepoys were unhappy about their pay, allowances and conditions of services.

Q. 4. How can we say that the East India Company took the first step to end the Mughal dynasty?

Ans. The name of the Mughal king was removed from the coins minted by the East India Company.

Q. 5. Who was Rani Lakshmibai?

Ans. Rani Lakshmibai was the queen of Jhansi.

Q. 6. What do you mean by Mutiny?

Ans. When soldiers as a group disobey their officers in the army, it is known as Mutiny

Q. 7. Which places were the nodal points of the regiments?

Ans. The nodal points of regiments were at Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow.

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. What did Governor-General Canning decide for Bahadur Shah Zafar?

Ans. In 1856, Governor-General Canning decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king and after his death none of his descendants would be recognised as kings. They would just be called princes.

Q. 2. Why did the Indian sepoy's go to Burma by the land route?

Ans. The Indian sepoy's went to Burma by the land route by refusing the order to go by sea route because it was believed that if they crossed the sea they would lose their religion and caste.

Q. 3. Describe how the English East India Company faced the massive rebellion.

Ans. In May 1857, the East India Company faced a massive rebellion that threatened the company's very presence in India. Sepoy's mutinied in several places beginning from Meerut and people from different sections of society rose up in rebellion.

Q. 4. What was the role of Mangal Pandey in the revolt of 1857?

Ans. The revolt of 1857 began on 29th March, 1857 when a young soldier, Mangal Pandey was hanged to death for attacking his officers in Barrackpore. He was the first soldier to protest against the greased cartridges and was the first martyr of the India's freedom struggle.

Q. 5. On what conditions could the ruling chiefs pass on the kingdoms to their heirs?

Ans. The ruling chiefs could pass on the kingdoms to their heirs only when they were ready to acknowledge the British Queen as their Sovereign Paramount.

Q. 6. How were the people convinced to take plunge and join the rebellion against Britishers?

Ans. The British were greatly outnumbered by the rebel forces as they were defeated in a number of battles. This convinced the people that the rule of the British had collapsed for good and this gave them the confidence to take plunge and join the rebellion.

Q. 7. On the outline political map of India, mark the important centres of the Revolt.

Ans. Important centres of the revolt are marked in bold.

INDIA
Major Centres of
the Revolt of 1857



Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. What all steps did British take to reform Indian society?

Ans. The British introduced many reforms in India:

- (i) They passed laws to stop the practice of sati.
- (ii) They encouraged the remarriage of widows.
- (iii) They promoted the English language education in the Indian society.
- (iv) In 1850, a new law was passed to make conversion to Christianity easier.

Many Indians began to feel that the British were destroying their religion, their social customs and their traditional way of life. But many Indians who wanted to change existing social practices accepted the reforms.

Q. 2. Under which circumstances did the company annexe Awadh?

- Ans.**
- (i) After annexation of Jhansi, Awadh was one of the last territories to be annexed.
 - (ii) In 1801, Subsidiary Alliance was imposed on Awadh.
 - (iii) In 1856, Awadh was taken over by Governor-General Dalhousie.
 - (iv) He declared that the territory was being misgoverned and British rule was needed to ensure proper administration.

Q. 3. How did the company plan to bring an end to the Mughal dynasty?

Ans. The company had decided to bring Mughal dynasty to an end.

- (i) The name of the Mughal king was removed from the coins minted by the company.
- (ii) Governor General Dalhousie announced that after the death of Bahadur Shah Zafar, his family will stay out of the Red Fort.
- (iii) In 1856, Canning, the new Governor General decided that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal king and after his death, his descendants would be known as princes.

Q. 4. How did the company suppress the revolt?

Ans. Unperturbed by the scale of upheaval, the Company decided to suppress the revolt. It brought reinforcements from England, passed new laws so that the rebels could be convicted with ease, and then moved into the storm centres of the revolt. Delhi was recaptured from the rebel forces in September 1857. The last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment to Rangoon. His sons were shot dead before his eyes. He and his wife Begum Zinat Mahal were sent to prison

in Rangoon in October 1858. Bahadur Shah Zafar died in the Rangoon jail in November 1862.

Rani Lakshmibai was defeated and killed in June 1858. Tantia Tope escaped to the jungles of central India and continued to fight a guerrilla war with the support of many tribal and peasant leaders. He was captured, tried and killed in April 1859.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Why were the Indian sepoy in the employ of the company discontented?

Ans. Sepoy were discontented because:

- (a)** They were given poor salaries and allowances.
- (b)** They were unhappy with the conditions of service.
- (c)** Some of the new rules violated their religious sentiments and beliefs.
- (d)** In those days, many people believed that if a person crosses a sea might lose the religion and caste. So when the sepoy refused to follow the orders to go to Burma by sea route in 1924, they were severely punished. So in 1856, Company passed a new law which had a clause for sepoy to agree to serve overseas if required.

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

The list of eighty-four rules

Given here are excerpts from the book *Majha Pravaas*, written by Vishnubhatt Godse, a Brahman from a village in Maharashtra. He and his uncle had set out to attend a yajna being organised in Mathura. Vishnubhatt writes that they met some sepoy on the way who told them that they should not proceed on the journey because a massive upheaval was going to break out in three days. The sepoy said:

the English were determined to wipe out the religions of the Hindus and the Muslims ... they had made a list of eighty-four rules and announced these in a gathering of all big kings and princes in Calcutta. They said that the kings refused to accept these rules and warned the English of dire consequences and massive upheaval if these are implemented ... that the kings all returned to their capitals in great anger ... all the big people began making plans. A date was fixed for the war of religion and the secret plan had been circulated from the cantonment in Meerut by letters sent to different cantonments.

- (i)** How can you introduce Vishnubhatt on the basis of the above passage?
- (ii)** Whom did Vishnubhatt and his uncle meet? What information did the people they meet share with them?
- (iii)** What had British decided?

Ans. (i) Vishnubhatt Godse was a Brahman from a village of Maharashtra, who wrote a book named 'Majha Pravaas', which meant 'my travel'.

(ii) While going to attend a holi function called Yajna, Vishnubhatt and his uncle met sepoys. Sepoys warned them not to proceed as there would be a massive upheaval soon (next three days).

(iii) Englishmen had decided to wipe out the religions of Hindus and the Muslims and had finalised a list of 84 rules strictly to be implemented on the countrymen.