

Very Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. What is Aurang?

Ans. Aurang is a Persian term for a warehouse. It is a place where goods are collected before being sold.

Q. 2. In which place was chintz produced?

Ans. Printed design on fine cloth—Chintz was produced in Masulipatnam, Andhra Pradesh in the mid-19th century.

Q. 3. What was spinning Jenny?

Ans. Spinning Jenny was a machine by which a single worker could operate several spindles on to which thread was spun. When the wheel was turned all the spindles rotated.

Q. 4. Name the household spinning instruments in India.

Ans. The household spinning instruments in India were charkha and takli.

Q. 5. Who were the weavers?

Ans. Weavers belonged to communities that specialised in weaving.

Q. 6. Name some of the communities famous for weaving.

Ans. Tanti of Bengal, julahas or momin of North India, sale and kaikollar and devangs of South India are some of the communities famous for weaving.

Q. 7. Which place was worst hit by the decline of the Indian textile industry?

Ans. Bengal was worst hit by the decline of the Indian textile industry.

Q. 8. What was the speciality of Tipu's sword?

Ans. Wootz steel was used in the preparation of Tipu's sword. Wootz steel when made into swords produced a very sharp edge that could easily rip through the opponent's armour.

Q. 9. What does charkha represent?

Ans. The charkha represents India, and it was put at the centre of the tricolour flag of the Indian National Congress adopted in 1931.

Q. 10. What is the full form of TISCO? When was it set up?

Ans. The full form of TISCO is Tata Iron and Steel Company. It was set up in Jamshedpur in 1912 by Jamsetji Tata.

Q. 11. Mahatma Gandhi urged people for which thing during the national movement?

Ans. During the national movement, Mahatma Gandhi urged people to boycott imported textiles and use hand-spun and hand-woven cloth.

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. The Wootz steel making process was completely lost by the mid-19th century. Give reasons.

Ans. The reasons are as follows:

(i) The iron smelters had to pay a very high tax to the forest department for acquiring fuel and iron ore from forests they used. This reduced their income.

(ii) The iron and steel was being imported from Britain displaced the iron and steel produced by craftsmen in India.

Q. 2. Why were printed Indian cotton textiles popular in England?

Ans. Printed Indian cotton textiles were popular in England because of their exquisite floral designs, fine texture and relative cheapness.

Q. 3. For what is Dacca in Eastern Bengal famous for?

Ans. Dacca in Eastern Bengal was the foremost textile centre in 18th century. It was famous for its mulmul and jamdani weaving.

Q. 4. Who were the weavers? Name few weaving communities.

Ans. Weavers were specialised in weaving. They belonged to the communities. Their skills were passed on from one generation to the next.

Few weaving communities include:

(i) The tanti weavers of Bengal

(ii) The momin or Julaha weavers of north India.

(iii) The sale and Kaikollar and devangs of south India.

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Write the stages of production of cloth making.

Ans. (i) The first stage of production was spinning, a work done mostly by women. The charkha and the takli were household spinning instruments. The thread was spun on the charkha and rolled on the takli.

(ii) The second stage was when the spinning was over the thread was woven into cloth by the weaver. In most communities weaving was a task done by men. For coloured textiles, the thread was dyed by the dyer known as rangrez. For printed cloth the weavers needed the help of specialist block printers known as chhipigars.

Q. 2. Where were the major centres of weaving in the late eighteenth century?

Ans. (i) Bengal was one of the most important centres, located along the numerous rivers in the delta, the production centres in Bengal could easily transport goods to distant places.

(ii) Dacca in Eastern Bengal—now Bangladesh was the foremost textile centre in the 18th century, it was famous for its mulmul and jamdani weaving.

(iii) There were also cotton weaving centres along the Coromandel coast stretching from Madras to Northern Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) On the western coast there were important weaving centres in Gujarat.

Q. 3. Describe the status of Indian Textiles during 18th century in European markets?

Ans. Indian Textiles had gained popularity by the early 18th century. So, it was difficult for the English producers to compete with Indian textiles. This competition made wool and silk makers in England to protest against the import of Indian cotton textiles. British government enacted Calico Act. Secondly, this competition with Indian textiles led to a search for technological innovation in England. 'Spinning Jenny' was invented by James Hargreaves in 1764, which increased the productivity of the traditional spindles.

Then came steam engine. Invented by Richard Arkwright in 1786, steam engine revolutionised cotton textile weaving. Cloth could now be woven in immense quantities and at cheap rates too. In spite of all this, Indian textiles continued to dominate world trade till the end of the 18th century.

Q. 4. How did iron and steel factories come up in India?

Ans. Jamsetji Tata had decided to spend a huge part of his fortune to build a big iron and steel industry in India. But this could not be done without identifying the source of fine quality iron ore with an aim to build a big iron and steel industry, search and

research had to be done. Dorabji Tata and American geologist, Charles Weld, travelled in Chhatisgarh in search of iron ore deposits.

One day, they found a group of men and women carrying basketloads of iron ore. These people were the Agarias. When asked where they had found the iron ore, the Agarias pointed to a hill in the distance. Weld and Dorabji reached the hill after an exhausting trek through dense forests. On exploring the hill the geologist declared that they had at last found what they had been looking for. Rajhara Hills had one of the finest ores in the world.

But there was an issue. The province was dry and water – necessary for running the factory – was not to be found nearby. The Tatas had to continue their search for a more suitable place to set up their factory. However, the Agarias helped in the discovery of a source of iron ore that would later supply the Bhilai Steel Plant.

A few years later, a large area of forest was cleared on the banks of the river Subarnarekha to set up the factory and an industrial township – Jamshedpur. Here there was water near iron ore deposits. The Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) that came up began producing steel in 1912.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Read the following extract and answer the question that follow:

“We must starve for food”

In 1823 the Company government in India received a petition from 12,000 weavers stating:

Our ancestors and we used to receive advances from the Company and maintain ourselves and our respective families by weaving Company’s superior assortments. Owing to our misfortune, the aurangs have been abolished ever since because of which we and our families are distressed for want of the means of livelihood. We are weavers and do not know any other business. We must starve for food, if the Board of Trade do not cast a look of kindness towards us and give orders for clothes.

(i) Who wrote the above petition and to whom? What does it highlight?

Ans. (i) Weavers wrote the petition to the Company government. It highlights the pitiable condition of the weavers. As the company had abolished aurangs (warehouses), weavers had to starve. The situation deteriorated because they didn’t know any other Business and were destined to die for want of food if the Company did not intervene timely.