

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. Describe the Child Marriage Restraint Act.**

**Ans.** According to the Child Marriage Restraint Act passed in 1929, no man below the age of 18 and woman below the age of 16 could marry

**Q. 2. Why were social reformers felt important?**

**Ans.** The social reformers were important because they felt that some changes were necessary in our society and unjust practices needed to be abolished from the society.

**Q. 3. What is Sati Pratha?**

**Ans.** Sati pratha refers to the widows who chose death by burning themselves on the funeral pyre of their husbands. Women who died in this manner were called Sati meaning virtuous women.

**Q. 4. Who was Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar?**

**Ans.** Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar was a reformer in Bengal who took forward the cause of remarriage of widows and education of women.

**Q. 5. Who was Swami Dayanand Saraswati?**

**Ans.** Swami Dayanand Saraswati was the founder of the Arya Samaj. He raised his voice in favour of widow remarriage.

**Q. 6. Write about the Hindu Mahila Vidyalaya.**

**Ans.** Hindu Mahila Vidyalaya was one of the first institutions to provide girls with the kind of learning that was usual for boys at that time.

**Q. 7. Who was Pandita Ramabai?**

**Ans.** Pandita Ramabai was a scholar of Sanskrit who felt that Hindu religion was oppressive towards women. She founded the 'Sharda Sadan' a school for the widows in Bombay and a shelter for widows at Poona.

**Q. 8. Who was Mumtaz Ali?**

**Ans.** Mumtaz Ali was a social reformer. Ali reinterpreted verses from Koran in favour of educating women.

**Q. 9. Name the leaders who lent their support to demand for greater equality and freedom for women.**

**Ans.** Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose lent their support to demands for greater equality and freedom for women.

**Q. 10. Explain the Aligarh Movement.**

**Ans.** In 1875, the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College was founded by Sayyid Ahmed Khan at Aligarh. The Aligarh Movement had an enormous impact in the area of educational reform.

**Q. 11. Who was Raja Rammohan Roy?**

**Ans.** Raja Rammohan Roy was the Indian reformer who founded Bramho Samaj in Calcutta and worked for the emancipation of women. He banned the practice of 'sati'.

## Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. Explain the caste system in our society.**

**Ans.** The people of society were divided into four castes namely—

- (i) Brahmans
- (ii) Kshatriyas
- (iii) Vaishyas and
- (iv) Shudras

Brahmans and Kshatriyas were upper castes, Vaishyas came after that and Shudras were considered as the lowest caste of the society

**Q. 2. Name any one reason of change in society.**

**Ans.** The one important reason of change in society was the development of new forms of communications. Books, newspapers, magazines, leaflets and pamphlets were printed.

**Q. 3. What was the aim of Brahmo Samaj?**

**Ans.** Brahmo Samaj wanted the women to acquire a respectable status in the society. It condemned Sati, was against the Purdah System, opposed child marriage and polygamy.

**Q. 4. How was the practice of Sati banned?**

**Ans.** Raja Rammohan Roy began a campaign against the practice of sati. By this time, many Britishers had also begun to criticise Indian traditions and customs. They supported the campaign and in 1829, sati was banned.

**Q. 5. Explain Widow Remarriage Act.**

**Ans.** Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar persuaded the British officials to pass laws for enforcing remarriage of widows and banning polygamy. The Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1856.

**Q. 6. Name some women reformers.**

**Ans.** The women reformers were

Begums of Bhopal

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

Tarabai Shinde

Pandita Ramabai

**Q. 7. Who was Tarabai Shinde?**

**Ans.** Tarabai Shinde was educated at home at Poona. She published a book 'Stripurushtulna' in which she criticised the social differences between men and women.

**Q. 8. Describe Gulamgiri.**

**Ans.** Jyotirao Phule wrote a book named 'Gulamgiri' meaning slavery. He dedicated it to all those Americans of the American Civil War who fought for the abolition of slavery.

**Q. 9. Mention the contributions of Veda Samaj.**

**Ans.** The Veda Samaj was established in Madras in 1864, inspired by the Brahmo Samaj. It worked to abolish caste distinctions and promote widow remarriage and women's education. They condemned the superstitions and rituals of orthodox Hinduism.

## Long Answer Questions

### **Q. 1. Give a brief description of the Non-Brahman Movement.**

**Ans. (i)** In the early 20th century, the Non-Brahman Movement started.

**(ii)** The educated, influential and worthy non-brahman people played a leading role in opposing the superiority of the Brahmins.

**(iii)** One such personality was E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker who was also called Periyar.

**(iv)** He was born in a middle-class family in 1879.

**(v)** He joined the Congress as a youth. At a feast he found that the seating arrangement had been laid out according to castes. The lower castes were made to sit at a distance from the upper castes.

**(vi)** He felt disgusted and left the Congress in 1924. Periyar founded the Self Respect Movement in 1925, that worked for the awakening of the non-brahmans.

**(vii)** He referred to Hinduism as full of superstitions.

**(viii)** He advocated marriage ceremonies without the priest and wanted temples to be open for the untouchables.

### **Q. 2. Mention the contributions of Veda Samaj.**

**Ans.** It was an extremely important social reform in the Southern India. The Veda Samaj was established in Madras in 1864, inspired by the Brahmo Samaj. It worked to abolish caste distinctions and promote widow remarriage and women's education. They condemned the superstitions and rituals of orthodox Hinduism. This Samaj was established mainly with the efforts of Sridharalu Naidu and Keshab Chandra Sen. An Important ideologies of the members of Veda Samaj were considering marriage and funeral rituals as matters of routine and don't have any religious significance. They raised voices against polygamy and child marriage.

### **Q. 3. Who was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar? What was his contribution in the society?**

**Ans. (i)** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in the Mahar caste that was regarded as untouchable.

**(ii)** As a child he had faced the oppressions of the caste system.

**(iii)** In school, he was forced to sit outside the classroom on the ground and was not allowed to drink water from taps that upper-caste children used.

**(iv)** In 1927, he started a temple entry movement in which Mahar caste followers participated.

**(v)** He also led three such movements for temple entry between 1927 and 1935.

**(vi)** His aim was to make everyone see the power of caste prejudices within the society.



## Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

**Q. 1. Mention how women reformers helped in changing the conditions of other women.**

**Ans. (i)** In early 20th century, women took an active part in the reform movement and education of girls.

**(ii)** Some Muslim women, like the Begums of Bhopal encouraged education among women.

**(iii)** They founded a primary school for girls at Aligarh.

**(iv)** Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain started schools for Muslim girls in Patna and Calcutta. Indian women began to take admission in universities by 1880s. Most of them became doctors and teachers.

**(v)** Tarabai Shinde got her education at home.

**(vi)** She published a book 'Stripurushtulna' which criticised the social differences between men and women.

**(vii)** Pandita Ramabai was a scholar of Sanskrit and earned name and fame as a 'Rebel Champion of Women's Rights'.

**(viii)** She always felt that Hindu religion was oppressive towards women. She provided shelter for widows in Poona.