



Modern Indian History

Previous Years Questions Compilation

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2020

1. In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around
1. Women's right to gain education
 2. Age of consent
 3. Restitution of conjugal rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Indigo cultivation in India declined by the beginning of the 20th century because of
- (a) peasant resistance to the oppressive conduct of planters
 - (b) its unprofitability in the world market because of new inventions
 - (c) national leaders' opposition to the cultivation of indigo
 - (d) Government control over the planters

3. Wellesley established the Fort William College at Calcutta because
- (a) he was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
 - (b) he wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
 - (c) he wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
 - (d) he wanted to train British civilians for administrative purpose in India



4. With reference to the history of India, “Ulgulan” or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events?

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859 – 60
- (d) Birsa Munda’s Revolt of 1899-1900

5. Which of the following statements correctly explains the impact of the Industrial Revolution on India during the first half of the nineteenth century?

- (a) Indian handicrafts were ruined.
- (b) Machines were introduced in the Indian textile industry in large numbers.
- (c) Railway lines were laid in many parts of the country.
- (d) Heavy duties were imposed on the imports of British manufacturers.

6. With reference to the book “Deshar Katha” written by Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar during the freedom struggle, consider the following statements :

- 1. It warned against the Colonial State’s hypnotic conquest of the mind.
- 2. It inspired the performance of swadeshi street plays and folk songs.
- 3. The use of ‘desh’ by Deuskar was in the specific context of the region of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



7. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?

1. Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference
2. Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
3. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses
4. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answers:

1. B 2. B 3. D 4. D 5. A 6. D 7. B



UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2019

1. With reference to land reforms in independent India, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The ceiling laws were aimed at family holdings and not individual holdings.
- (b) The major aim of land reforms was to provide agricultural land to all the landless.
- (c) It resulted in the cultivation of cash crops as a predominant form of cultivation.
- (d) Land reforms permitted no exemptions to the ceiling limits.

2. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813':

- 1. It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.
- 2. It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.
- 3. The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to the Swadeshi Movement, consider the following statements:

- 1. It contributed to the revival of the indigenous artisan crafts and industries.
- 2. The National Council of Education was established as a part of the Swadeshi Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following pairs:

Movement/Organization	Leader
1. All India Anti-Untouchability League	Mahatma Gandhi
2. All India Kisan Sabha	Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
3. Self-Respect Movement	E. V. Ramaswami Naicker

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'



2. In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. With reference to Indian National Movement, consider the following pairs:

Person	Position Held
1. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru	President, All India Liberal Federation
2. K. C. Neogy	Member, The Constituent Assembly
3. P. C. Joshi	General Secretary, Communist Party of India

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answers:

1. B 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. B 6. D



UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2018

1. Regarding Wood's Dispatch, which of the following statements are true?

1. Grants-in-Aid system was introduced
2. Establishment of universities was recommended
3. English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to educational institutes during colonial rule in India, consider the following pairs:

Institution	Founder
1. Sanskrit College at Benaras	William Jones
2. Calcutta Madrasa	Warren Hastings
3. Fort William College	Arthur Wellesley

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

3. Which among the following events happened earliest?

- (a) Swami Dayanand established AryaSamaj.
- (b) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan.
- (c) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.
- (d) Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

4. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to "Swarajya Sabha"?

- (a) All India Home Rule League
- (b) Hindu Mahasabha
- (c) South Indian Liberal Federation
- (d) The Servants of India Society

5. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India?

1. Charter Act of 1813
2. General Committee of Public Instruction, 1823
3. Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only



(d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Economically, one of the results of the British rule in India in the 19th century was the

- (a) increase in the export of Indian handicrafts
- (b) growth in the number of Indian owned factories
- (c) commercialization of Indian agriculture
- (d) rapid increase in the urban population

7. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what was/were the measure/measures taken by the colonial government?

- 1. The territories called `Santhal Parganas' were created.
- 2. It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was

- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Motilal Nehru

9. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley?

- (a) To maintain a large standing army at others expense
- (b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger
- (c) To secure a fixed income for the Company
- (d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States

10. Who among the following were the founders of the "Hind Mazdoor Sabha" established in 1948 ?

- (a) B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George
- (b) Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Day al Upadhyay and M.N. Roy
- (c) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu
- (d) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanujam and G.G. Mehta



11. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha?
- (a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement
 - (b) Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement
 - (c) Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement
 - (d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops

12. The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were
- (a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds, and opium
 - (b) Sugar, salt, zinc, and lead
 - (c) Copper, silver, gold, spices, and tea
 - (d) Cotton, silk, saltpeter, and opium

Answers:

1. A 2. B 3. B 4. A 5. A 6. C 7. C 8. C 9. B 10. B 11. D 12. C



UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2017

1. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of the Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following pairs:

1. Radhakanta Deb — First President of the British Indian Association
2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty — Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
3. Surendranath Banerjee — Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to?

- (a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.
- (b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.
- (c) Impose censorship on national press.
- (d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

4. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events:

1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
2. Quit India Movement launched
3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

- (a) 1-2-3
- (b) 2-1-3
- (c) 3-2-1
- (d) 3-1-2

Answers:

1. C 2. B 3. D 4. C



UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2016

1. The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War
 - (a) India should be granted complete independence
 - (b) India should be partitioned into two before granting independence
 - (c) India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth
 - (d) India should be given Dominion status

2. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?
 - (a) Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto
 - (b) Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government
 - (c) Foundation of Muslim League
 - (d) Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the Indian National Congress

3. Consider the following:
 1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
 2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation
 3. Indian Reform AssociationKeshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?
 - (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3



4. The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to

- (a) social reforms
- (b) educational reforms
- (c) reforms in police administration
- (d) constitutional reforms

5. Satya Shodhak Samaj organized

- (a) a movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar
- (b) a temple-entry movement in Gujarat
- (c) an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra
- (d) a peasant movement in Punjab

6. The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time during the

- (a) agitation against the Partition of Bengal
- (b) Home Rule Movement
- (c) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (d) visit of the Simon Commission to India

Answers:

1. D 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. A