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GS Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 1

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 125

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Test Submission Date: 28/7/22

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Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. All questions are for **12.5 marks** each.
3. Word limit for each question is **200 words**.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

Q. No.	Marks	Q. No.	Marks
Q1		Q6	
Q2		Q7	
Q3		Q8	
Q4		Q9	
Q5		Q10	
Total Marks:		Evaluator Code:	

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Que.1

British Land revenue and taxation policy was the reason behind the poverty of Indian people in 19th century. Examine. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

The British introduced new land revenue & taxation policies in late 19th century

Permanent settlement → Bengal, Bihar, Odisha

Ryotwari system → Deccan & South

Mahalwari system → North-west

Purpose

- ① To commodify the land property
- ② To increase agricultural productivity
- ③ To ensure regular flow of tax income from land.
- ④ To increase production of cash crops.

Impact on Indians

- ① Rise of moneylenders → increased exploitation
- ② Frequent droughts & famines
- ③ Loss of land due to non-payment of revenue on time
- ④ High land revenue, which was revised & increased periodically (Ryotwari)
- ⑤ State became like a big large money lender replacing the small ones.
- ⑥ Farmers were forced to grow cash crops.

In addition to land policy, new taxation system added to the woes of masses.

- ① Tax on salt → uniform tax



rate imposed. Possession & production of salt made unlawful
→ poor had to pay heavily even for a basic commodity

② Forest tax & laws → Forests were divided into categories. Wood was manufactured for state infrastructure and tribals were turned into tenants on their own land.

③ Heavy excise duty was imposed on Indian exports to Britain while zero duty was on the imposed ⇒ destruction of local business & handicrafts.

The policies of the British resulted in de-industrialization of India (Ranade) & drained India heavily of its wealth. (Dadabhai Naoroji)



Que.2

Later Vedic period saw a distinctive political, social and economic transformation with respect to the Rigvedic period. Elaborate (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

Later Vedic period began from 1000 BC & it marks the beginning of Iron age in India. By clearing the forests around Ganges, the Aryans expanded to different parts of India.

Transformation

early Vedic (1500 - 1000 BC) → Later Vedic (1000 BC - 500 BC)

① Political

- The position of head priest & senapati improved
- Women were no longer a part of sabha.
- vidhata disappeared
- Rajan began functioning more independently & was



much more powerful.

Economic

- Land became more important to cattle (as opposed to cattle being primary source of livelihood)
- Important agricultural commodities were rice, wheat, barley etc.
- Formal taxation system existed, which didn't, previously, but people contributed in form of Bali as before.

Society

- Excessive ritualism → Ashwamedha, Vajpeya & Rajsuya performed for Rajan, sacrifice for prayers etc.
- 10th Mandala written in Later Vedic period introduced the Vashishtham system → Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya & Shudra.

- Deterioration of condition of women eg. reduced political position, but women continued to participate in debates
- Gandharva vivah, previously allowed, now frowned upon
- Gotra system introduced as well as 16 Sanskar system.
- Ashram system was introduced
Brahmacharya → Grihastha → Vanaprastha → Sanyas.
- Brahma became most important deity, forming Trinity with Shiv & Vishnu (previously Vedic gods like Indra, Agni etc were important).

Therefore, major transformation in social, economic & political spheres were witnessed from Rig Vedic to later Vedic period.



Que.3

The Revolt of 1857 was a culminated effect of British policies in India. Discuss. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

The British had obtained Diwani rights after winning the Battle of Plassey and gradually expanded their foothold in India. A slew of policies followed by the British culminated into the Revolt of 1857.

Policies

① Army

- Racial discrimination was predominant.
- Highest post an Indian could rise to was that of Subedar
- All high posts were occupied by European & there was a wide pay gap

② Social

- Basic sanitation services were restricted to areas with



British inhabitants

- progressive steps like sati abolition, female infanticide prohibition act, widow remarriage act affected the orthodox community
- Christian missionaries tried to lure Indians to change faith

③ Political

- Doctrine of lapse was used to annex Satara, Nagpur etc.
- Awadh was annexed on the grounds of maladministration
- Imperial civil services, although opened for Indians theoretically, wasn't really available practically

④ Economic

- Top sided industrialization
- One sided zero taxation policy



on ~~an~~ imports

- stagnation of handicrafts
- NO increase in agricultural productivity

⑤ Religious

→ Army personnel forced to cross rivers, which was against religious sensibilities.

→ NO religious symbols were allowed in Army.

→ use of animal oil on cartridge of rifle became the precipitating cause of the revolt.

Therefore, the policies of British brewed the sentiments to the point of outbreak in the form of revolt of 1857.



Que.4

To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the First World War? (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

The World War I was a catastrophic event in world's history. Germany was one of the key players of this war & its role can be understood as follows.

- ① Under Bismarck, Germany followed twin policy → a system of secret alliance & military enhancement
- ② Germany had the desire to establish Naval Supremacy
- ③ It tried to isolate France, which would've tried to isolate humiliation of Franco-Prussian war defeat.
- ④ Germany was following expansionist policy to create



a market of its goods & source of raw material.

- ⑤ Germany attacked as soon as Austria-Serbia war broke out. However, Germany was not the only cause of World War I.

- ① Media was running a propaganda in favour of war. across Europe & peaceful negotiations were seen as a mark of weakness.

- ② Lenin also blames capitalism as the actions of European powers were driven by economic gains.

- ③ Interlocking system of alliance brought the major European powers into picture, even Japan e.g. attack on Belgium brought in Britain, which further brought in Japan.



④ Colonial Rivalry had created grudges, which manifested in aggressive expansionism. It wasn't just Germany but also France, Britain, Japan etc.

⑤ Finally, it was the assassination of Archduke by Serbian nationalist that triggered the war.

Therefore, while Germany did have a major role to play in breakout of a world war but other factors also played a role in ensuring that Bosnia crisis catapulted into World War I.



Que. 5

By 1907, the early nationalists or moderates had exhausted their historical role. Comment. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

The moderates have played a critical role in India's freedom struggle. Prominent names like G.K. Gokhale, Pheroz Shah Mehta, Justice Ranade etc have been associated with ~~and~~ the moderate phase of freedom struggle.

Importance → Historic role.

- ① They laid a secular ground to the Indian freedom struggle.
- ② The memoirs, pamphlets, speeches etc. were used to educate the masses on developing political thought.
- ③ They exposed the role British had played in draining



India of its wealth & de-industrialization

- (4) their demands were even incorporated in certain acts eg 1853 Act introduced a legislative body & threw open civil services to all Indians.

Exhaustion of role

- (1) The concessions given by the British was a part of Repression-conciliation-Suppression policy, which was identified with 1909 reforms
- (2) There was frustration over the gradual process followed by the moderates
- (3) No concrete outcomes were being yielded & lack of mass involvement.



④ The announcement of partition of Bengal in 1905 saw the rise of extremists in Congress.

⑤ There were ideological differences over the action course between the moderates & extremists.

Therefore, 1907 Surat split marked a division within Congress. The moderate phase came to an end & the extremists took charge of the struggle.

According to Narayaji, the kind of frustration over the peaceful methods of moderates indicates an evolution that will grow into the desired revolution. Thus the historic role of moderates was exhausted by 1907.



Que.6

Mention the factors that led to growth of Dalit consciousness and highlight major movements aimed at their empowerment in pre-independence era. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

In the pre-independence period Dalit consciousness was awoken based on years of exploitation followed by modern changes introduced by the British

Factors responsible

- (1) Modern education system introduced western ideas & was available to all.
- (2) British values of the rule of law, equality before law etc helped
- (3) New type of jobs in industries & administration disrupted the jajmani-system.



(14) Leaders like Jyotirao Phule, B.R. Ambedkar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy etc. worked for upliftment of Dalits.

(15) Improved system of communication linked dalits across India.

Movements

(1) Nair movement under C.V. Pillai & K.R. Pillai was an anti-Brahmanical movement (1861) in Kerala.

(2) Satya Shodhak Samaj was formed by Jyotirao Phule for emancipation of widows, lower caste & untouchables.

(3) Ezharava movement under Sri Narayan Guru promoted "One God, one Religion, one Caste for all".



14) Self-Respect Movement under EV Ramaswamy Naiker & saw burning of symbols of Brahminism like Manusmriti. It aimed to improve conditions of Dravidians.

15) Depressed Class Movement led by B. R. Ambedkar. He introduced Banushkrit Bharat journal, All India Schedule Caste Federation etc.

16) Harijan movement was led by Gandhi to improve living conditions of Harijans. Harijan Sevak Sangh was established.

Dalit revolution sought to break the social hierarchical system and uplift the social status of dalits. The revolution still continued in the post-indep-
-endent India. ~~etc~~

Que.7

To what extent would it be correct to argue that the Gupta period represented the golden age of ancient India? (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

Gupta period started from 4th century AD and came to an end in 6th century AD. Under the kingship of able kings like Samudragupta, Chandragupta etc, India saw its Golden Age.

Golden Age of ancient India

- ① Nagara style of temple architecture was consolidated
eg. Dasavtar Temple Deogarh.
- ② A great deal of sanskrit literature was compiled
eg. Abhijanasakuntalam, Mrichhakatika etc.
- ③ The amount of gold coins issued during this time



was the maximum.

④ Sculptures like Sultangari Buddha were developed under Sarnath school.

⑤ Religious text like puranas, Mahabharata etc were compiled.

⑥ Time records were also kept according to dates eg. Allahabad Prashasti → eulogy of Samudragupta.

⑦ Scientific advancements can be dated to Gupta period eg. Aryabhatta's Aryabhatiya, Varahmihir's Pancho'dhantika

etc. Nalanda was established under ^{Kumar} Gupta. However, there had been certain indicators of the weakness of Gupta empire.

⑧ The trade saw a decline



under guptas.

② Later kings like Skandgupta were unable to safeguard the Gupta empire from invasions (Huna tribe).

③ Women's condition along with that of untouchables deteriorated e.g. Chamars lived in outskirts & in cremation grounds etc.

Therefore, while Gupta age can be seen as the golden age of ancient India to a great extent, their drawbacks brought the empire to practically vanish by 550 AD creating a political vacuum.



Que. 8

The term 'Bengal School of Art' is not fully accurate, rather it was an art movement and style of painting that originated in Calcutta.
Elaborate. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

The Bengal school of Art origin-
-ated in Calcutta & in Shantin-
-iketan. However, the phases
through which it went indi-
-cates that it was rather an
art movement against the
colonialists

① Revivalism

Bengal school of art began
reviving the indigenous
schools of painting eg. Rajasth-
-ani, Mewar, Kangra schools etc. •
against the European style
being used even by some
Indian painters like Raja.
Ravi Verma.



② Patriotism

- 'Bharat Mata' by Abanindranath Tagore became symbolic of Indian strength & hurts of exploitation India was being subjected to.
- Jamini Roy painted simple things that could be replicated by masses.

Reactionism

- Nand Lal Bose became the official painter of Indian National Congress & painted in black & white as a mark of ~~the~~ opposition to British rule.
- Nand Lal even painted the "Haripura posters", which echoed Gandhi's socialism
- Paintings of women, children, rural life were made.



→ Wash technique of painting was taught to students at Shantiniketan by Japanese painters who came to India to promote pan-Asianism, against the western oil painting.

Therefore, Modern Art of India can be best understood as an outcome of conflict between colonialism & Nationalism. British introduced new institutions of art like magazines, museums, exhibitions, art schools etc. Nationalists, while accepting it, asserted Indianism through it.

Bengal Art School became a manifestation of this assertion

Que.9

While the Ashokan pillar architecture reflects some similarities with the Achaemenid pillars, the former is not an imitation of the latter. Discuss. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

Pillar architecture during the Mauryan period made significant advancement. This happened primarily under Ashoka's rule, which was parallel to the Achaemenid rule in Persia.

Similarities

- ① use of polished stone.
- ② common motifs like lotus.
- ③ used to issue & spread state orders.
- ④ Inscriptions altered between first & third person.





Ashokan pillars not an imitation

- ① Archemenid pillars were usually ~~set~~ erected with buildings while Ashokan pillars were standalone
- ② Ashokan pillars were monolithic i.e. carved from single stone while Archemenid pillars were jointed
- ③ Archemenid pillars had elaborate capital pillars figures while Ashokan pillars were sometimes without them eg. Kumachar palace.
- ④ Mauryan pillars had a capital whose shape was very different from the Archemenidian pillars.



- ⑤ Ashokan pillars had their own cultural significance eg. Ashoka's Dhamma was spread through it

Therefore, while it's true that there were certain similarities between the Ashokan & Archemenidian pillars, in terms of structure, the differences were much more prominent.

Ashokan pillars hold much greater significance in Indian architectural history than the Archemenidian pillars in Persian history.



Que.10

The Jagirdari system acted as a centrifugal force during the first half of 18th century. Comment. (200 words, 12.5 Marks)

Jagirdari system was a system of allotting land grants (jagirs) in exchange for the services of mansabdars (i.e. as payment) under the Mughals.

Jagirdari

- The jagirs were a method of payment.
- They were not hereditary
- It was used to decentralize collection of revenue from jagir.
- This system was incorporated into the mansabdari system which developed under Akbar.



Jagirdari crisis

under Aurangzeb's reign, expansionist policy was used to expand the empire to the south. But, the new ~~acquired~~ ^{mainly} ~~land~~ ^{land} was declared khalisa, which meant that the income from land went straight to state exchequer. As a result, the number of mansabdars chasing the jagirs were more than the available jagir. This created jagirdari crisis.

Impact

- ① Reduction in available fertile land as Aurangzeb captured Deccan, which couldn't justify the expendi

-ture on ^{capturing} infertile land.

② Reduction in expenditure on military

③ Political instability as different factions (Hindustani, Irani etc) fought for fertile jagirs

④ As mansabs were ~~all~~ required to maintain army ^{as per} their zat, it created centres of power.

The crisis was kept in check till Aurangzeb's death in 1707 but after him no ruler could keep the empire under control. Awadh, Bengal & Hyderabad were carved out by the nobles weakening the Mughal empire