

Class 12 History

Chapter 10

Colonialism and the Countryside (Exploring Official Archives)

Important Questions:--

2 Marks Questions

Question 1.

Why was the permanent settlement of land revenue rarely extended to any region beyond Bengal? Give two reasons.

4 Marks Questions

“The ryots came to see the moneylenders as devious and deceitful”. Justify the statement in the context of Ryotwari System in India in late 18th century.

Question 3.

The East India Company had recognised the zamindars importance but wanted to control and regulate them. Explain the steps taken by them to subdue their authority in the 18th century.

or

Explain how East India Company subdued the authority of zamindars in Bengal during 18th century?

Question 4.

“The battle between the hoe and plough was a long one”. Substantiate the statement with reference to the Santhal and Paharias of Raj Mahal Hills during 18th century.

Question 5.

What was the Limitation Law? Why was this considered as a symbol of oppression against the ryot of 19th century? Give three reasons.

Question 6.

“The arguments and evidences offered by the Fifth-report cannot be accepted uncritically”. Give arguments.

or

Why did the Fifth Report become the basis of intense debate in England?

or

Describe the Fifth Report produced by the select committee on English East India Company in 1813 by the British Parliament.

or

Critically evaluate the significance and shortcomings of the 'Fifth Report'.

Question 7.

“Jotedar inevitably weakened zamindars in Bengal by the end of the 18th century”. Give arguments to support the statement.

or

Describe the position of the 'jotedars' at the end of the 18th century,

Question 8.

What was the other name of 'Bombay Deccan revenue system of 1820s'. Mention the features of it.

or

Which revenue system was introduced in the Bombay Deccan? What were its features?

Question 9.

Critically examine the experience of injustice felt by ryot on the refusal of moneylender to extending loans to them after 1830.

Question 10.

Explain how the Ricardo's idea of land ownership was introduced in the 'Bombay Deccan'?

Question 11.

Explain the impact of American Civil War of 1861 on Indian peasants.

Question 12.

Explain the impact of refusal by moneylenders to extend loans to ryots, around 1865, under the colonial rule of India.

Question 13.

Explain two reasons for the failure of the Permanent Settlement of the land revenue introduced by the British in Bengal.

Question 14.

Explain two strategies devised by zamindars of surviving the pressures of high revenue demands and possible auction of their lands.

Question 15.

Critically examine the Deccan Riots

8 Marks Questions

Question 16.

Examine the land revenue system that was introduced in Bombay Deccan. How did the

peasants fall into the dept-trap of the moneylenders? Explain.

Question 17.

“After introducing the Permanent settlement in Bengal, the zamindars regularly failed to pay the land revenue demand.” Examine the causes and consequences of it.

Question 18.

Examine the main aspects of the fifth report which was submitted to the British Parliament

Question 19.

A Ryot Petitions:

This is an example of a petition from a ryot of the village of Mirajgaon, Taluka Karjat, to the Collector, Ahmednagar, Deccan Riots Commission.

The sowkars (sahukars)... have of late begun to oppress us. As we cannot earn enough to defray our household expenses. We are actually forced to beg of them to provide us with money, clothes and grain, which we obtain from them not without great difficulty, nor without their compelling us to enter into hard conditions in the bond.

Moreover, the necessary clothes and grain are not sold to us at cash rates. The prices asked from us are generally twenty five percent or fifty percent more than demanded from customers making ready money payments. The produce of our fields is also taken by the sowkars, who at the time of removing it assure us that it will be credited to our account, but they do not actually make any mention of it in

the accounts. They also refuse to pass us any receipts for the produce so removed by them.

1. What kind of injustice was experienced by the ryots?
2. Why was the harvest taken away by the moneylenders and why was it not credited to the peasants account?
3. Give details on the commission that investigated petitions and grievances of the concerned people. (Delhi 2013)

or

1. Why were the ryots not given loans by sowkars?
2. Explain the difficulties, the ryots had, to face for getting loan from the sowkars.
3. Why were the ryots unable to pay the inflated demand? Explain.

Value Based Questions

Question 21.

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

When the Santhals settled on the peripheries of the Rajmahal hills, the Paharias resisted but were ultimately forced to withdraw deeper into the hills. Restricted from moving down to the lower hills and valleys, they were confined to the dry interior and to the more barren and rocky upper hills. This severely affected their lives, impoverishing them in the long term. Shifting agriculture depended on the ability to move to newer and newer land and utilisation of the natural fertility of the soil. When the most fertile soils became inaccessible to them, being part of the Damin, the Paharias could not effectively sustain their mode of cultivation. When the forests of the region were cleared for cultivation the hunters amongst them also faced problems.

The Santhals, by contrast, gave up their earlier life of mobility and settled down, cultivating a range of commercial crops for the market, and dealing with traders and moneylenders.

1. What effect can be seen on the lives of Paharias when the Santhals were settled on the peripheries of the Rajmahal hills? Discuss.

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow.

Over time, peasants came to associate the misery of their lives with the new regime of bonds and deeds. They were made to sign and put thumb impressions on documents, but they did not know what they were actually signing. They had no idea of the clauses that moneylenders inserted in the bonds. They feared the written word. But they had no choice because to survive they needed loans, and moneylenders were unwilling to give loans without legal bonds,

1. How were bonds and deeds became responsible for misery of peasants over time?

THE END.