

HISTORY

Chapter 1: How, When and Where



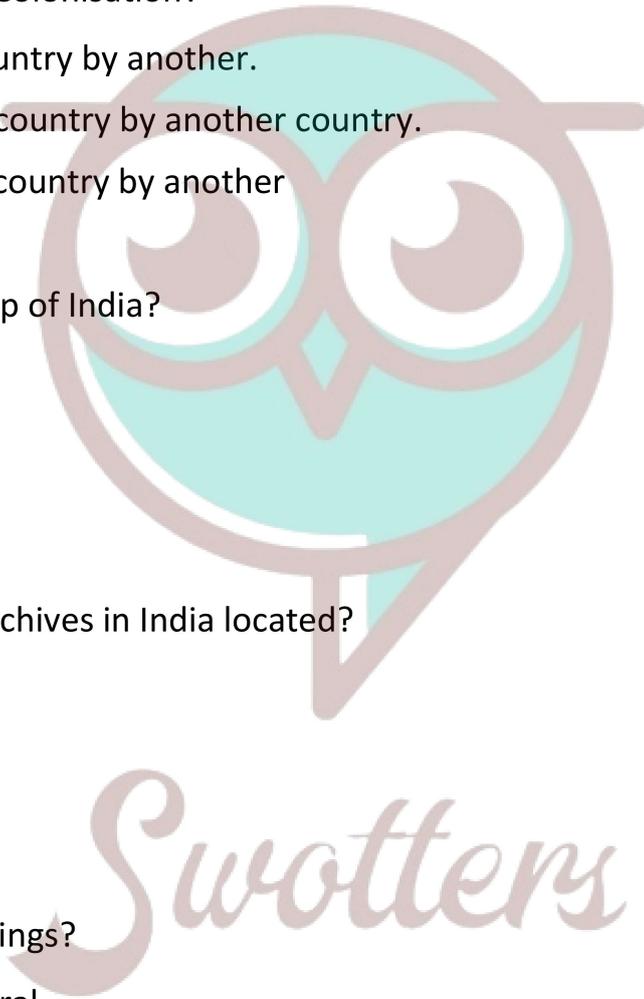
Important Questions

Multiple Choice Questions-

1. Who was the Scottish economist and political philosopher during 1817?
 - a. Wellesley
 - b. James Prince
 - c. Canning
 - d. James Mill
2. Other the keeping Records, the practice which became common in colonial administration:
 - a. Editing
 - b. Reading
 - c. Surveying
 - d. Competing
3. The National Archives of India came up in:
 - a. 1920
 - b. 1910
 - c. 1935
 - d. 1915
4. Those who are specialised in art of beautiful writing:
 - a. Literate
 - b. Calligraphists
 - c. Artists
 - d. Novelists
5. Who was the last Viceroy of India?
 - a. Lord Irwin
 - b. Lord Canning
 - c. Lord Harding
 - d. Lord Mountbatten
6. How did many historians refer British period in India as?
 - a. Modern
 - b. Colonial



- c. Political subjugation
 - d. None of these
7. At present about what Historians do not write?
- a. How people earned their livelihood
 - b. What was produced
 - c. How markets came up
 - d. Kings and battles
8. What do you mean by Colonisation?
- a. Conquest of one country by another.
 - b. Subjugation of two country by another country.
 - c. Subjugation of one country by another
 - d. None of these
9. Who produced first map of India?
- a. James Mill
 - b. James Rennel
 - c. William
 - d. None of these
10. Where was National Archives in India located?
- a. Mumbai
 - b. Madras
 - c. Delhi
 - d. None of these
11. Who was Warren Hastings?
- a. Last Governor General
 - b. First Governor General
 - c. First Indian Governor General
 - d. None of these
12. What are the sources of information of the periods?
- a. Primary sources
 - b. Secondary sources
 - c. Both a and b



- d. None of these
13. Who was James Mill?
- Indian economist
 - Scottish economist
 - British economist
 - None of these
14. What do you mean by contemporary?
- The term refers to the future period.
 - The term refers to the present period.
 - The term refers to the past period.
 - None of these.
15. What do you mean by Survey?
- A study of Animals
 - A study or investigation of important facts
 - A study of birds
 - None of these

Very Short:

- Name the events for which specific dates can be determined.
- What was an important aspect of the histories written by the British historians in India?
- Who was James Mill?
- What was Mill's opinion about the Asian societies?
- What evil practices, according to James Mill, dominated the Indian social life before the British came to India?
- How did paintings project Governor- General?
- Why do many historians refer to modern period as colonial?
- Mention one important source used by historians in writing about the last 230 years of Indian history.
- What is done under census?
- What do official records not tell?
- Why do we try and divide history into different periods?

Short Questions:

- How did James Mill view India?

2. Historians divide Indian history into ancient, medieval and modern. But this division too has its problems. What are these problems?
3. What did the British do to preserve important official documents and letters?
4. What do official records not tell? How do we come to know about them?
5. How did the British conquer India and establish their rule?
6. Moving away from the British classification, how did historians usually divide the history of India?
7. What were the sources used by historians in writing the History at the time of the British rule?

Long Questions:

1. How do the official records of the British administration help historians to write about the last 250 years of Indian history?
2. How did surveys become important under the colonial administration?
3. Why are Dates important in History? And what was there in history written by the British Historians?
4. Who was James Mill, and how did he divide the History India? In what sense did he take Asian Society and Indian society?
5. What is the problem behind the classification of History into Ancient, Medieval and Modern?

ANSWER KEY

Multiple Choice questions-

- 1.(d) James Mill
2. (c) Surveying
3. (a) 1920
4. (b) Caligraphists
5. (d) Lord Mountbatten
- 6.(b) Colonial
7. (c) How markets came up
8. (c) Subjugation of one country by another
9. (b) James Rennel
10. (c) Delhi
11. (b) First Governor General

12. (c) Both a and b
13. (b) Scottish economist
14. (b) The term refers to the present period.
15. (b) A study or investigation of important facts

Very Short Answer:

1. The year a king was crowned, the year he married, the year he had a child, the year he fought a particular battle, the year he died, etc.
2. The rule of each Governor-General was an important aspect.
3. He was a Scottish economist and political philosopher and is known for his book A History of British India.
4. In Mill's opinion all Asian societies were at a lower level of civilisation than Europe.
5. According to James Mill, the evil practices that dominated the Indian social life were religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstitious practices.
6. Paintings projected Governor-Generals as powerful figures.
7. It is because, under British rule people did not have equality, freedom or liberty—the symbols of modernity.
8. The official records of the British administration.
9. It records the number of people living in all the provinces of India and gathers information on castes, religions and occupation.
10. Official records do not tell what other people in the country felt, and what lay behind their actions.
11. We do so in order to capture the characteristics of a time, its central features as they appear to us.

Short Answer:

Ans.1: James Mill did not cherish any positive idea about India. He was of the opinion that all Asian societies were at a lower level of civilisation than Europe. According to his telling of history, before the British came to India, the Hindu and the Muslim despots ruled the country. Religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstitious practices dominated social life. He felt that only British rule could civilise India. He suggested that the British should conquer all the territories of India to ensure the enlightenment and happiness of the Indian people. For India was not capable of progress without the help of the British.

Ans.2: This periodisation has been borrowed from the West where the modern period was associated with the growth of all the forces of modernity such as science, reason, democracy, liberty and equality. Medieval was a term used to describe a society where these

features of modern society did not exist.

It is difficult for us to accept this characterisation of the modern period. Here, it is worth-mentioning that Indians did not have equality, freedom or liberty under the British rule. The country also lacked economic growth and progress in that period. It is therefore many historians refer to modern period as colonial period.

Ans.3: The British felt the need to preserve all the important official documents and letters. For this, they set up record rooms attached to all administrative institutions. The village tahsildar's office, the collectorate, the commissioner's office, the provincial secretariats, the lawcourts—all had their record rooms. The British also established specialised institutions such as archives and museums to preserve important records.

Ans.4: Official records do not always help us understand what other people in the country felt, and what lay behind their actions. For that we have diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims and travellers, autobiographies of important personalities, and popular books, etc. that were sold in the local bazaars. With the spread of printing press, newspapers came to be published and issues began to be debated in public. Leaders and reformers wrote to spread their ideas, poets and novelists wrote to express their feelings.

Ans.5: The British conquered India in the following ways:

- (a) They subjugated local nawabs and rajas.
- (b) They established control over the economy and society collected revenue to meet all their expenses, bought goods they wanted at lower prices and produced crops they needed for export.
- (c) They brought changes in rulers and tastes, customs and practices.
- (d) Thus, they moulded everything in their favour and subjugated the country very soon.

Ans.6: When we move away from the British classification, historians usually divided the Indian history into three categories that are:

1. Ancient
2. Medieval
3. Modern

Ans.7: The historians used the following sources in writing the history:

1. The official records of the British administration.
2. The letters and documents that were preserved carefully.
3. Records being preserved from the administration offices.
4. Letters and memory that were kept in the archives.

Long Answer:

Ans.1: The British believed that the act of writing was important. Hence, they got written up every instruction, plan, policy decision, agreement, investigation, etc. They thought that once this was done, things could be properly studied and debated. This conviction produced an administrative culture of memos, noting's and reports.

The British were very interested in preserving all important documents and letters. For this, they established record rooms attached to all administrative institutions such as the village tahsildar's office, the collectorate, law courts etc. They also set up archives and museums to preserve important records.

Letters and memos that moved from one branch of the administration to another in the early years of the 19th century can still be read in the archives. Historians can also take help from the notes and reports that district officials prepared or the instructions and directives that were sent by officials at the top to the provincial administrators.

Ans.2: The British gave much importance to the practice of surveying because they believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be effectively administered. Therefore, they carried out detailed surveys by the early 19th century in order to map the entire country:

- They conducted revenue surveys in villages.
- They made efforts to know the topography, the soil quality, the flora, the fauna, the local histories and the cropping pattern.
- They also introduced census operations, held at the interval of every ten years from the end of the 19th century. They prepared detailed records of the number of people in all the provinces of India, noting information on castes, religions and occupation separately.
- The British also carried on several other surveys such as botanical surveys, zoological surveys, archaeological surveys, forest surveys, etc. In this way, they gathered all the facts that were essential for administering a country.

Ans.3: In History, the dates are really important because the dates focus on a particular set of events and changes that took place during a particular period of time.

The History that was written by the British historians in India had considered the rule of 1st Governor-General, Warren Hastings which extended till last Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten. In brief, we can say that the British historians wrote only those points which were important to them and have only glorified their deeds and events in their historical accounts.

Ans.4: James Mill was a Scottish economist and a political philosopher, who had published a massive three-volume work i.e. "A History of British India. James Mill divided the history of

India in three periods – Hindus, Muslims and British. Mill thought that the Asian Society was at a lower level of civilization than that of Europe. According to him before the rule of the British, the Indian Society was ruled by Hindu and Muslim despots and religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstition were spread.

Ans.5: The problem behind the classification is that the periodization has been borrowed from the west where the Modern Period was associated with the growth of all the forces of modernity – science, reason, democracy, liberty and equality. Medieval was used to define society where there was absence of modern forces. So this was unacceptable as British rule was the period in which all liberty, equality, freedom were taken from Indians.



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