

**MODERN HISTORY UPSC Civil Services Exam Questions (2016-17)**

**Q1. 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

**Ans :D**

**Explanation**

- Sir Stafford Cripps(1889 – 1952) was a senior left-wing politician and government minister in the war cabinet of Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- A mission headed by Stafford Cripps in March 1942, was sent to India with **constitutional proposals** to seek Indian support for the Second World War.
- Cripps promised to give **dominion status** after the second world war as well as elections to be held after the war.
- But this attempt, known as the Cripps Mission, was a total failure as the Indians did not agree to it.

**Q2. 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

**Ans : B**

**Explanation**

- The Surat split (Congress split) happened in 1907.
- The Moderates were dissatisfied by extremists methods of boycott. They felt that it involved the use of force. But, the **extremists lack their faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate** with the British Government. Hence, split was inevitable.

**Q3. 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

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

- The partition of Bengal in 1905 is a prime example of the British divide and rule policy acted as the catalyst for the growth of **anticolonial swadeshi nationalism**.
- When the partition came into effect, the people of Bengal organised protest meetings and observed a day of mourning.
- The whole political life of Bengal underwent a change.
- The anti-partition movement culminated into the **Swadeshi Movement (Swadeshi and 'Boycott) for the first time** and spread to other parts of India.

Hence, option (a) was correct.

**Q4. 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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

- Satyashodhak Samaj was a social reform society founded by Jyotirao Phule in Pune, **Maharashtra**, on 1873. It espoused a mission of education and increased social rights and political access for underprivileged groups, focused especially on women, Shudras, and Dalits, in Maharashtra.
- It **rejected all kinds of Brahman domination** and exploitation on the basis of religion and all religious sources of inequality. Hence it is a anti-caste movement.
- Satyashodhak Samaj was open to all castes, sects and religions.

**Q5. Consider the following :**

1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation
3. Indian Reform Association

**Keshab 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

**Ans : B**

## Explanation

- **Calcutta Unitarian Committee** was formed by Raja Rammohan Roy, Dwarkanath Tagore and William Adam. Hence, **it was not relevant.**
- In 1881 Keshab founded the **Church of the New Dispensation** (Naba Bidhan) for the purpose of establishing the truth of all the great religions in an institution that he believed would replace them all. When he died in 1884, the Brahmo Samaj began to decline.
- The **Indian Reform Association** was formed on 1870 with Keshb Chandra Sen as president. It represented the secular side of the Brahmo Samaj and included many who did not belong to the Brahmo Samaj. The objective was to put into practice some of the ideas Sen was exposed to during his visit to Great Britain.

## Q6. 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.

**Ans : D**

## Explanation

- The Indian States committee appointed a committee under the Sir Harcourt Butler. It was popularly known as the **Butler Committee.**
- The objective of the Butler Committee 1927 is to investigate and clarify the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.
- The Butler Committee visited 16 states and submitted its report in 1929.

**Q7. 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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

- Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy - 1946
- Quit India Movement launched - 1942
- Second Round Table Conference – 1931

Hence, the correct option is (c).

**Q8. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.
2. N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : B**

**Explanation**

The Factories Act, 1881 aimed to **improve the working conditions of labour**. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.

It will prohibit the employment of children under the age of seven and also limited the number of working hours for children below the age of twelve and required that dangerous machinery should be fenced properly.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- Narayan Meghaji Lokhande (1848–1897) was a **pioneer of the labour movement** in India.
- He is remembered not only for ameliorating the working conditions of textile mill-hands in the 19th century but also for his courageous initiatives on caste and communal issues.

**Q9. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of 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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

Lord Cornwallis was associated with Permanent settlement. Hence, eliminate 1 and the answer is C.

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The **Ryotwari Settlement** was devised by Capt. **Alexander Read and Thomas Munro** at the end of the 18th century and introduced by the latter when he was governor (1820–27) of Madras. The principle was the direct collection of the land revenue from each individual cultivator by government agents. For this purpose all holdings were measured and assessed according to crop potential and actual cultivation. The advantages of this system were the elimination of middlemen, who often oppressed villagers, and an assessment of the tax on land actually cultivated and not merely occupied. Offsetting these advantages was the cost of detailed measurement and of individual collection. This system also gave much power to subordinate revenue officials, whose activities were inadequately supervised.

