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# ANSWER SHEET

## SECTIONAL TEST- V

### (MODERN INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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There are FOUR questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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**Comments for Improvement after Evaluation:**

THEY WERE  
VERY HAPPY  
AND SINGING

Q.1 Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10x3=30

Q.1 (a) "Absentee landlordism was a consequential feature of Bengal's Permanent land settlement."  
Comment. [10 Marks]

The Permanent Settlement system, introduced in Bengal by Lord Cornwallis in 1793, fixed the revenue on land permanently, to be collected from the zamindars.

### Features of Permanent Settlement

- Land revenue fixed at a high value - Rs. 22.6 million - According to BB Chaudhuri, it was double the average amount that existed in 1757
- Zamindars were under pressure from the 'sunset laws' - if they didn't pay in time, their land was confiscated and auctioned off
- This resulted in outgoing of many old zamindars and creation of new zamindars, who mostly were the 'amlas' under previous zamindars or the sub-ordinate to government revenue officials

## Absentee Landlordism as a Consequence

- In the last decade of 18th century, twelve large zamindari houses paid more than 60% of the land revenue
- Most zamindars resided in <sup>the</sup> far off city like Calcutta and deputed their hired muselmans and 'amlas' to collect rent on their behalf
- Often the landed classes themselves worked in other professions as lawyers, journalists, doctors, teachers, etc
- Some zamindari houses such as the Burdwan Raj resorted to subinfeudation - with as many as 12 levels of intermediaries between zamindar and the peasant

Absentee landlordism caused landlords to take no interest in agriculture or improving land quality, which finally burdened the yeoman farmer under the 'twin exactions' of the lord and the state.

Q.1 (b) The railways, instead of serving as the catalyst of an industrial revolution, acted in India as 'the catalyst of complete colonization'." Comment. [10 Marks]

The railways, which started in India under Lord Dalhousie in 1853, were fully geared towards complete subordination of India under Britain.

Railways - 'The catalyst of complete colonization'

Objective of Railways

- 1) Military movements - To enable swift movement of army to contain impending crises
- 2) Convenient Freight mode
  - ↳ (a) For raw materials from inland to the ports
  - ↳ (b) For finished goods from ports to market places
- 3) Sometimes, due to exigencies, famine lines were constructed

Economic Colonization

- 1) Guaranteed interest of 5% were paid along with full return of principal if lease held for less than 99 years - "private investment at public risk"

5) Preferential freight rates

- From port to markets - rates were cheaper to facilitate imports
- From interior to ports - rates were expensive to discourage exports

6) All equipment such as steel, wagons and even coal upto a stage were imported from Britain

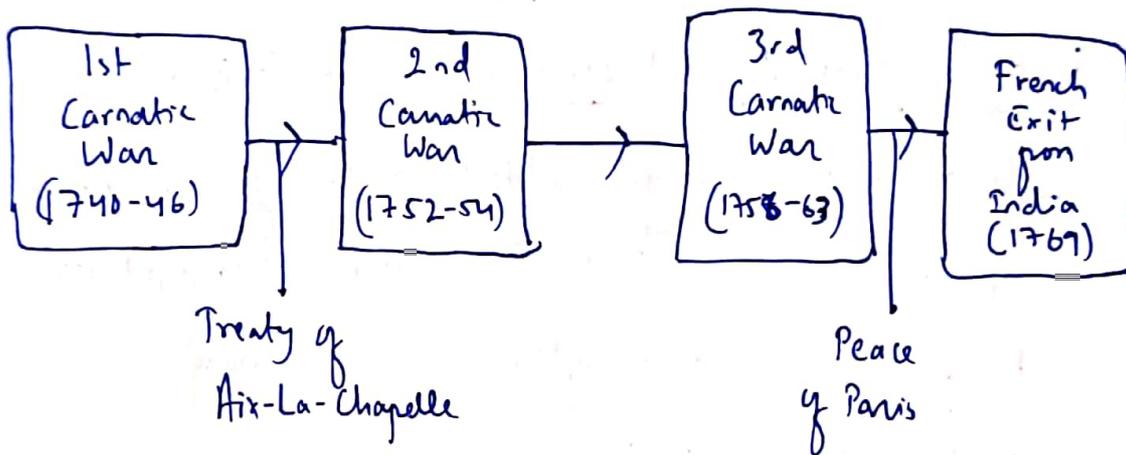
7) No technology transfer occurred, only low skills jobs like tunnelling, track-laying, etc were Indianised

8) A lot of wasteful expenditure occurred due to guaranteed interest rates - which often subverted local environment and for example created malaria epidemic in Bengal

Despite British objective of using railways as a tool for complete colonization, Indian freedom fighters and businessmen later turned it around to their own advantage.

Q.1 (c) What factors contributed to the British success in the Carnatic Wars? [10 Marks]

In total, there were three Carnatic wars fought between the British and the French.



### Factors Responsible for British Success

#### 1) Superior Navy of Britain

- British always had an upper hand in naval warfare over France as seen in multiple colonial wars

#### 2) Nature of the East India Company<sup>(EIC)</sup> of British

- The French EIC was a department of the government, who paid no attention to it - hence it was under repeated financial crises and inefficient

- The British EIC was a private body whose stakeholders had personal motives to turn it profitable - hence it was more efficient

3) Superior leadership qualities of British officers

- British officers like Robert Clive, Stringer Lawrence, Drake showed superior organisational and management skills unlike the French under Dupleix, de Lally or Bussy

4) Bengal conquest and strong finances of British

- Winning over Bengal added to the financial power of British EIC while the French suffered under terrible finances ~~often~~ often with not enough money to pay their soldiers

5) Continental obsession of French to expand frontiers in Europe enabled Britain to concentrate to increase stranglehold of India

6) Strong focus on trade and commerce by the British also enabled them to implement their political strategies with greater ease than French

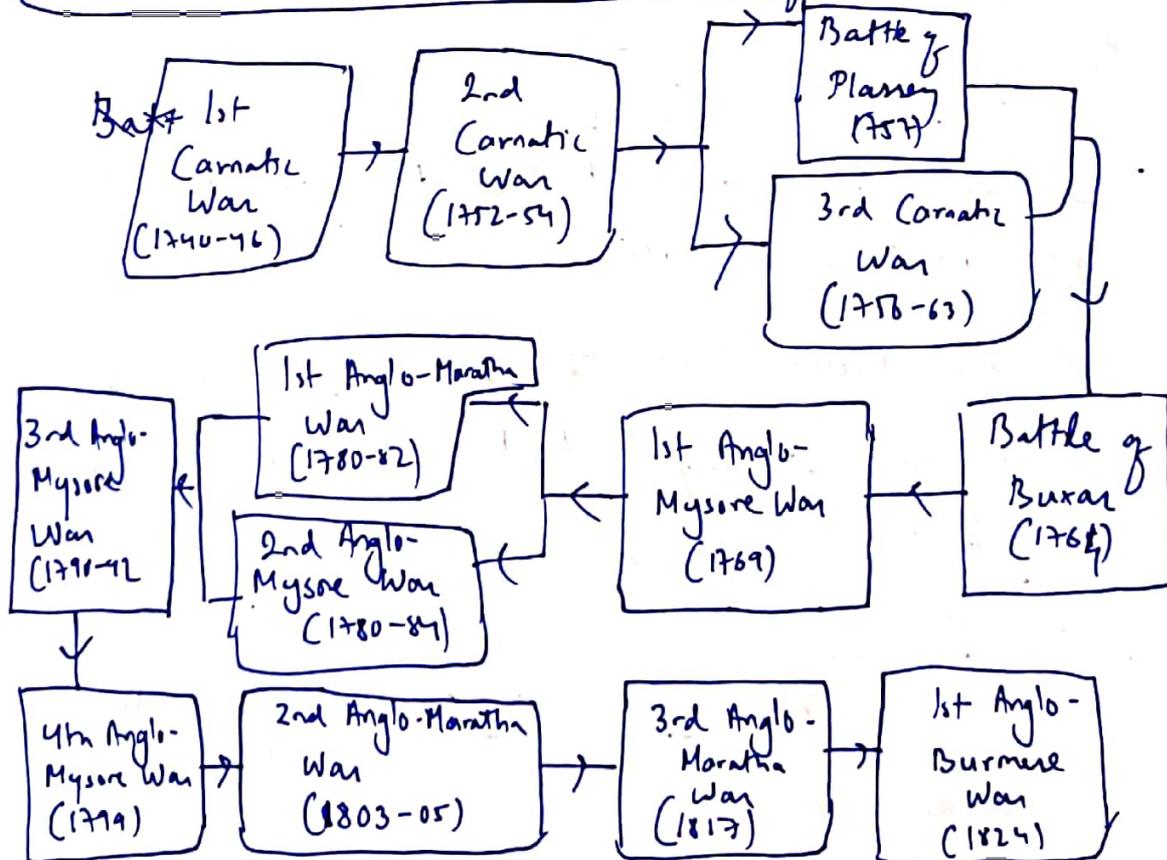
Due to above factors it became possible for British to completely drive out the French out of India by 1769.

Q.2 (a) "The British India experienced the 'wind of change' with the arrival of Lord William Bentinck and gave a period of respite from continuous war and annexation." Comment. [20 Marks]

Right from 1757, the quest for trading privileges, revenue extraction and stable frontiers, all took a driving seat in embroiling the British into successive wars with native Indian states.

This only changed after arrival of Lord William Bentinck as Governor-General in 1828.

### Wars and Annexations upto the time of Bentinck



## 'Winds of Change' After Arrival of Bentinck

- Lord Bentinck's period involved no major wars or annexations and hence was a period of relative peace.
- Apart from temporary annexation of Mysore (1831) and Coorg, there was no major confrontation with Indian powers.
- Bentinck's period could be associated with following features:

### An Age of Social Reforms

- It was under him that resolution was passed for abolition of sati.
- He also passed laws to ban child sacrifice.
- During his Governorship, Charter Act 1833 was passed to abolish slavery in India.

### Utilitarianism

- Passed the Thuggee Act (xxx), 1835 to prosecute

wandering mendicants whom British considered 'Thugs'

- Constituted Law Commission under Thomas Macaulay and tasked it to codify civil and criminal laws
- Considered Jeremy Bentham as his spiritual master and vowed to rule according to his ideals of utilitarianism

### Education

- Appointed Thomas Macaulay as head of Public Committee on education
- Endorsed Macaulay's Minute on Indian education, and thus introduced western education to be taught in English medium
- Endorsed principle of 'downward filtration', where a few educated natives will pass it down to the masses

Hence, William Bentinck's period was a departure from the bloody wars of annexation of the past in the early 19th century.

Q.2 (b) "The emergence of press and its growth in India during 18th and 19th century was also associated with diversities and divergence of opinions, ideas and objectives and it catered to the demand of targeted audience." Elaborate. [20 Marks]

The newspapers and press in 18th and 19th century India acted as "viewpapers" - taking their views, opinions and ideas to the wider public.

### Diversity of Press and its ideas

The nature of ideas, opinions and objectives of press varied as per its disseminators. The various agents could be broadly categorised into following:

#### 1) Missionary Press

- Printed and translated Bible into local languages for proselytisation
- Ex. Srirampur Press by missionaries like William Carey, Joshua and Ward Marshall

#### 2) The Anglican Press

- Was run by Britishers with connections and interest in working of the British in India
- Carried out propagand in support of government

policies and criticised Indian acts of rebellion

### 3) Early Indian Press

- Voiced Indian concerns while proclaiming support for the British in order to not raise anger of British
- Ex. Hindoo Patriot, Amrita Bazar Patrika

### 4) Pro-landlord Press

- Advocated extension of permanent settlement, criticized peasant movements such as Agrarian League movement in Bengal (1875) and supported pro-landlord policies

### 5) Social reforms oriented

- They attempted to abolish social evils like sati, child marriage, polygamy, caste system, etc.
- Ex. Rast Goftar by Dadabhai Naoroji

### 6) Early Nationalist Press

- Trained people in political ideas of liberty, equality, freedom of speech
- Started the culture of opposing British policies

directly

- Ex. Mahratta (Bal Gangadhar Tilak), Bengalee, etc.

### Targetted Audience

- The missionaries mainly targetted lower caste hindus to carry out conversions.
- The British anglican press had the British readers as its target audience.
- The native press targetted in educating, making people aware of colonial policies and political propaganda.
- Books like 'Neeldarpan' and 'Anandmath' provided graphic details of Indigo Rebellion and Sanyasi rebellion.
- Newspapers like Amrita Bazar Patrika criticized policies like watering down the Ilbert Bill.
- Press became a medium for early nationalism to connect with the masses.

Hence, the growth of Press was marked by its use to communicate diverse ideas to its readers.

Q.2 (c) Analyze the nature of peasant movements during the nationalist phase and discuss their shortcomings. [10 Marks]

Peasant movements ran parallel to the nationalist movements during the early 20th century, focusing on a diverse range of issues.

### Nature of Peasant Movements

#### 1) Demanded gradual reforms

- They were not radical, asked for gradual reforms like reduction of rents, cancellation of illegal abwabs, tenancy reforms, etc

#### 2) Joined demands to the national movement

- As in the case of Champaran or Kheda satyagrah, peasant movements often merged into national demands, though retaining their individuality

#### 3) More organised

- They organised into Kisan Sabhas to articulate their demands better finally leading to formation of All India Kisan Mahasabha

#### 4) Took assistance of national leaders

- Peasant leaders like Swami Sahajansand, Rajkumar Shukla, etc contacted major leaders of Congress like Gandhi, Nehru, Sardar Patel, etc to give weightage to their demands

#### Shortcomings

- 1) Often acquired non-violent and communal tendencies as in the case of Moplah rebellion (1921)
- 2) Became confrontational with Congress after 1936 - asked for abolition of zamindari system, land reforms, etc - ~~a~~ radical demands at that time
- 3) Criticized pro-landlord policies of Congress ~~and~~ <sup>by</sup> conducting no rent campaigns
- 4) Often capitulated under power of kinship and caste based leaders - such as powerful Patidars

Despite their shortcomings, peasant movements in nationalist phase played important role in highlighting grievances of the peasantry.

Q.3 (a) Analyse the circumstances that led to the establishment of the power of East India Company in Bengal (1757-1763) [20 Marks]

The capture of Bengal in the mid-18th century transformed the East India Company from a commercial entity into an empire builder.

### Circumstances leading to Bengal's Capture

#### 1) An assertive Nawab

- Young Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula was determined to bring the East India Company's private trade under control
- Wanted to assert his sovereignty
- Hence, attacked Kasimbazar and Calcutta after British granted asylum to fugitive Krishna Ballabh

#### 2) A disaffected court

- Powerful nobles and merchants like Jagat Seth Brothers, Raja Ram Narain, Raja Janki Ram, etc didn't want to give in to authority of the young nawab

### 3) Kingmakers - 'Jagat Sethi Brothers'

- The Jagat Sethi brothers, Mehrab Rai and Swarn Chond wanted a puppet nawab to suit their own interests and wanted to drive out the nawab

### 4) Communion of Interests

- The interests of Indian Commercial classes and British were in harmony

- Indian traders made greater profit, British were reliable traders and more creditworthy and Calcutta had already overtaken Hughli's pride of a better port

### 5) A Conspiracy Hatched

- The British, Jagat Sethis, Mir Jaffer and others at the court hatched a conspiracy to defeat and kill the nawab in a battle, whose result was already known

### 6) A Great Betrayal

- In the Battle of Plassey, 1757, while Siraj

fought gallantly, the largest contingent under  
Commander-in-Chief Mir Jaffer didn't make a move

- Siraj was finally captured and killed while,  
Mir Jaffer was rewarded with the position of  
Nawab

### 7) Puppet Rulers

- British became the de facto rulers while the  
Nawab was a pretentious head
- Mir Jaffer was removed when he didn't heed to  
British directions and replaced with Mir Kasim
- When Mir Kasim did the same, he was again replaced  
by Mir Jaffer

### 8) The Bengal Plunder

- After Plassey, ~~each~~ army and navy of British each  
received £2,75,000 out of Bengal's treasury
- Clive was rewarded with a personal jagir
- Bengal's wealth was used to finance British  
trade and military expeditions

In the words of 19th century Bengali Poet Nabin Chandra Sen,  
Battle of Plassey and subsequent establishment of power of  
British produced "a night of eternal gloom", at least two centuries.

Q.3 (b) "Plantations and mines, jutes mills, banking, insurance, shipping and export-import concerns in India were run through a system of interlocking managing agencies." Critically examine with examples. [20 Marks]

The Managing Agencies were an innovative method by which British business magnates invested capital in India, profits on which were regularly repatriated back to Britain.

### Working of Managing Agencies

- They consisted a corpus of funds managed by board of directors
- These directors enjoyed wide autonomy and were not directly answerable to shareholders
- Through legal contracts, they hosted a bunch of joint stock companies
- They ensured availability of capital to British business while denying the same to Indian businesses
- They maintained racial exclusivism and didn't partner with Indian businessmen

- Some agencies, such as Andrew Yule grew so big that at one time it held close to sixty companies

### The Agencies Stranglehold

#### 1) Plantations and mines

- Tea plantations and estates almost ~~are~~ <sup>were</sup> totally owned by British capital
- Laws like Inland Emigration Act were made to pass to ensure continuous labour supply
- Coal mines, iron mines, etc were also dominated by foreign capital
- Indigo plantations were also encouraged to profit from the remittance trade

#### 2) Jute mills

- Majority of jute mills were owned by English
- Upto 1920, the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) controlled almost 90% jute mills
- Together they captured all profits and denied the same to jute cultivators.

### 3) Banking and insurance

- Britishers had ready access to capital through a network of banks
- For ex. the Union Bank was established to finance indigo planters
- Insurance facilities were also available through banks
- On the other hand, the Indians had to rely on kinsmen and caste connections for capital

### 4) Shipping, Exports and Imports

- Indian shipping industry was weak and under-developed
- But Britishers building upon their strong navy, were masters of the sea
- This also enabled them to capture export and import business, drawing upon capital assistance through agency houses

Hence, the managing agencies acted as an effective conduit for the "drain of wealth" by their strongholds over a wide range of sectors in India.

Q.3 (c) "The roots of the Moplah uprising of 1921 were clearly agrarian." Do you agree? [10 Marks]

The Moplah uprising occurred at several instances between 1840 to 1921. It involved the rebellion of Muslim tenant and shareholding peasants against the zamindars, who were mostly high caste Hindus.

### Roots of Moplah Uprising

- Moplahs were Muslims, mostly consisting of descendants of Arab traders and settlers and local converts from Cherumans
- The British changed the traditional land relations involving Jenmis, Kanamdars and peasants, who earlier had equal rights
- While Jenmis were given all proprietary rights over the land, other two were reduced to status of tenants, who had no security and could be evicted at will
- The high revenue demands and illegal cesses

drove the peasantry into state of penury and desperation

- This fired the peasants into rebellion against the Jemis and the British

### Communal Nature of the Uprising

- The peasants, mostly muslims, used religious idioms during the movement
- Mosques became the centres of planning and propaganda
- Attacks were on the high caste Hindu Jemis and their temples
- This created tense communal atmosphere

Despite some communal elements, as identified by K.N. Panicker, the roots of the uprising were definitely agrarian discontent. Religion did provide ideological unity and consistency, but it was the uneven land relations, high revenue and illegal cesses which were responsible for the uprising.