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# ANSWER SHEET

## SECTIONAL TEST- VI

### (MODERN INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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

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

Q.1 (a) How far do you agree with the view that the Quit India movement was a Spontaneous Revolution? [10 Marks]

The Quit India movement, starting on 9th August, 1942 has been described as a spontaneous revolution due to the unprecedented nature of mass action and violence that accompanied it.

### A Spontaneous Revolution

- With the arrest of top leaders, leadership passed onto the more radical students, peasants, workers
- There was unprecedented use of violence and destruction of telegraph lines, railway property, government offices
- The movement was totally uncontrolled and local initiative of regional leaders guided the movement
- Lord Linlithgow decried it as the "Most serious rebellion since 1857"

- Due to the decentralized leadership and lack of top-down guidance, it has been argued as a spontaneous revolution

But, at the same time, the reaction was in some manner anticipated because:

→ Gandhi's "Do or Die" speeches had fired up imaginations for a final battle for freedom

→ Provincial Congress Committees had drawn up advisories which contained direction for subversive action

→ The Kisan Sabha movement in UP, Bihar had radicalized peasants into action mode

→ Excesses such as price rise, famine, atrocities of army during World War II had jilted people with anger

Despite above, the reaction during Quit India was much bigger than expected.

Q.1 (b) Delineate the evolution of the Congress's attitude towards the Peoples' Movements (Praj Mandal Movements) in the Princely States. [10 Marks]

The Congress started with an apathetic mood towards people's movements in Princely states but in 1930s, it steadily assumed leadership and provided support to them.

1885-1927

- In this period, Congress remained completely aloof from the affairs of Princely states

1927

- The Congress announced its general support for the "legitimate interests" of peoples in princely states
- But at same time, it decided to not take participate directly in any movement
- Congress at this point didn't want to enrage the native princes

1930s

- Gradually, Congress leaders on individual basis attended meetings of States' People's Conferences
- Jawaharlal Nehru attended 1936 session of the All India States People's Conference
- The 1938 Haripura Session officially accepted and endorsed Congress' direct support to state's Conference movements to achieve responsible government
- Nehru became president of All India States People's Conference in 1938
- Grandhiji himself led a protest against policies of the King of Rajkot

Hence gradually Congress accepted leadership of people in princely states in their struggle against the princes and the British.

Q.1 (c) "In the late 19th century, the Congress movement started in India as a limited elitist politics for limited reforms." Elucidate. [10 Marks]

The Congress, founded in 1885, was initially limited in terms of its membership, politics as well as its goals.

Due to this, men like Lord Dufferin could easily ignore it, for representing a "microscopic minority".

### Elitist Nature of Congress

- While the 1st Congress session's Report claimed it was attended by 'most classes' - in reality it was mostly the elites like Zamindars, lawyers, doctors, teachers, journalists, etc.
- Between 1892-1908, about 39% attendees were Zamindars, lawyers, 17% zamindars, 15% merchants
- About 90% attendees between 1892-1908 were Hindus, of which 42% were Brahmanas

- Hence the participation from social groups like dalits, muslims was minimal
- Women participation was absent; also peasants and workers didn't find much representation

### Objective of Limited Reforms

Given the elitist nature of its members, most reforms demanded were suited to their interests:-

- 1) More representation of Indians in legislatures
- 2) Inclusion of Indians in Viceroy's executive council
- 3) Indianisation of civil services - raising age limit and simultaneous exams
- 4) Decrease in military expenditure, extension of permanent settlement, custom tax on imports, investment in agriculture, irrigation, etc.

Despite the limited nature of demands, the early Congress set a template upon which the future of national movement grew upon.

Q.3 (a) "The foundation of the Indian National Congress in 1885 was not a sudden event, or a historical accident. It was the culmination of a process of several events and political awakening that had its beginnings in the 1860s and 1870s and took a major leap forward in the late 1870s and early 1880s." Elaborate. [20 Marks]

The foundation of Indian National Congress in 1885 was preceded by the gradual political awakening and awareness of a section of Indian population that was happening since 1860s.

Foundation of INC - a culmination of Processes

Events that Shaped It

→ Mutiny and Revolt of 1857

- Though condemned by intelligentsia, they acknowledged that some flaws of British rule had prompted it

→ Fear of Christianity

- Passing of Lex Loci Act, 1850, activities of missionaries had filled Indians with regret

→ Religious reforms by British

- Acts like widow remarriage act, Age of Consent act 1860, banning of child sacrifice, etc

were seen as colonial interference in domestic sphere

### → Racism and Discrimination

- Events like Lytton's Army Act, 1878 or withdrawal of Ilbert Bill shocked the liberal Indians and showed the Britishers racist ideology

→ Other events like Famine of 1876-78, military expenditure and impoverishment of poor had created variety of "national issues" which drew together the Indian intelligentsia on a common platform.

### Political Awakening

- Regional associations such as British India Association asked for higher participation of Indians in administration since 1950s
- Associations like Poona Sarvajani Sabha started taking interest in representing people's

grievance to the British

- There were debates on issues of "rights of the citizens", freedom of speech, responsible government
- The Press was used to train people in political ideology
- Newspapers like Bengalee, Amrita Bazaar Patrika, etc criticized government policies and educated public opinion
- It was in these processes that, there was a "rise of civil society" in words of Rabindranath Tagore and a "nation was in the making" as per Sri Banerjee
- The regional associations, breakdown of barriers due to communication systems like press, telegraph and railways had set the background for the formation of an all India Association.

It was in the background of these processes, that Congress was formed in 1885.

Q.3 (b) Explain the different major trends of the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal. [20 Marks]

As per Sumit Sarkar, there were four distinct trends of Swadeshi movement in Bengal - a moderate trend, constructive swadeshi, political extremism and revolutionary terrorism, all occurring simultaneously.

### Moderate Trend

- This represented the writing of letters, memoranda and requests to the British government to annul the partition of Bengal
- Speeches were made and conferences were done to change Britishers policy
- This lasted from 1903-1905, from the time of announcement of partition to the actual partition in 1905
- Clearly the moderates failed - as partition was done

## Constructive Swadeshi

- Establishment of National schools, arbitration centres, swadeshi factories
- Bengal National College started with Anurobindo as Principal
- Bengal Chemical Factory, Swadeshi steam company by V. Chidambaram Pillai, matchbox factories, soap factories established
- Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti in Bahangarj district of Bengal acted as arbitration centre
- The government schools and courts were boycotted, and British items like cloth were also boycotted

## Political Extremism

- This began with demand of 'Swaraj', with the 1905 Congress Session endorsing it
- There was picketing of shops dealing with foreign articles of trade

- '~~Swami~~ Swami' was still understood as self-rule within British empire
- Non-cooperation was also done and British laws were violated

### Revolutionary Terrorism

- Consisted of individual heroic action, attacks on British officials and offices
- ~~For~~ Anusilan Samitis were started to impart physical training and plan revolutionary action
- 'Yugantar' newspaper started to train revolutionaries through propaganda
- 'Maniktala Bomb making unit started by Barindra Kumar Ghosh
- Unsuccessful assassination attempt on Presidency magistrate Kingsford

The above four trends were the major markers of Swadeshi movement in Bengal.

Q.3 (c) "Leftism was clearly visible in the socio-economic agenda of the Congress during the National Independence Movement." Comment. [10 Marks]

Leftism, especially from 1930s, became visible in the socio-economic agenda of the Congress during National Independence Movement.

### Rise of Leftism

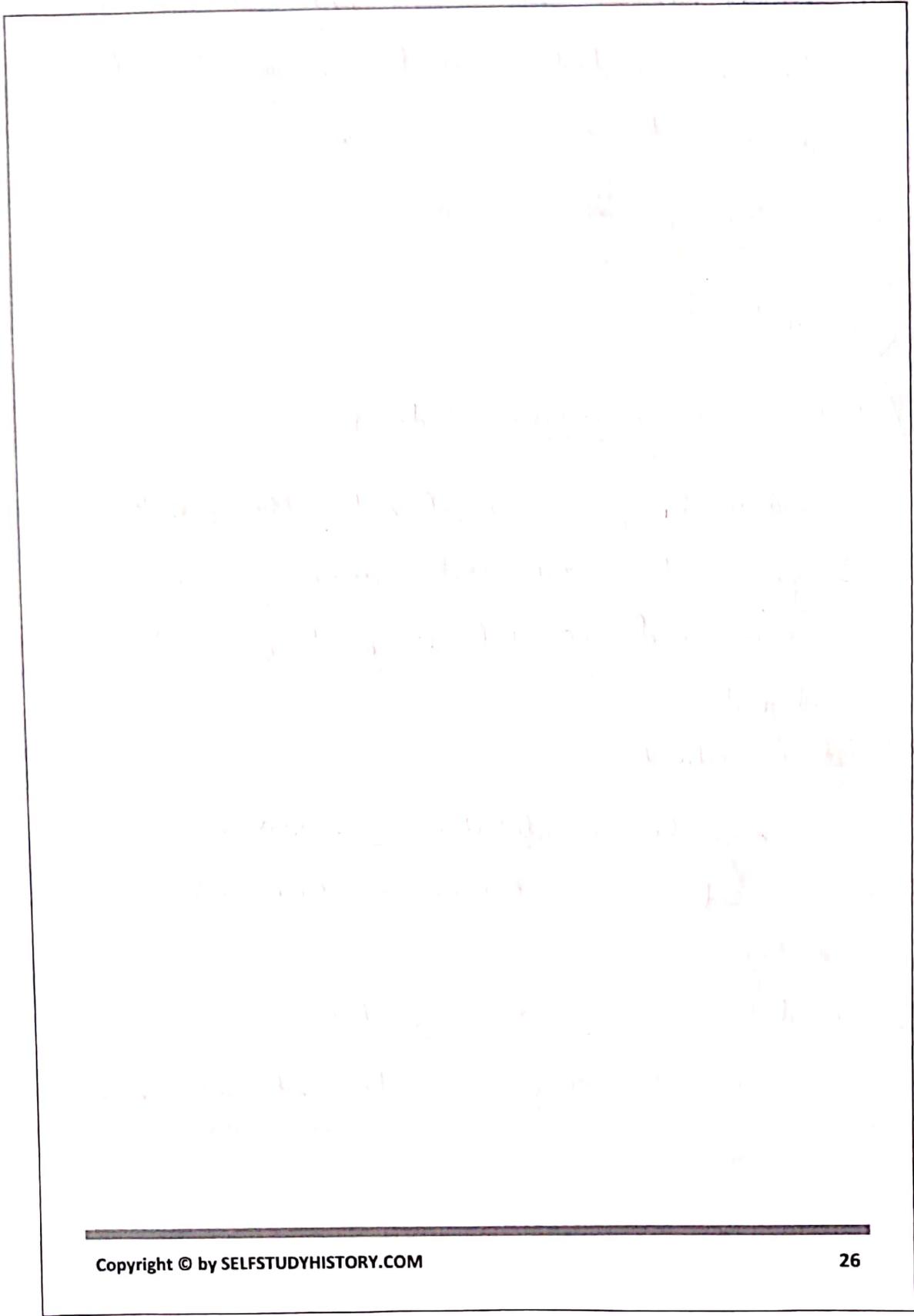
- Young leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose led the left's rise within Congress
- In 1934, Congress Socialist Party was formed within Congress by leaders like Minoo Masani, Jayprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev, etc
- In the 6th COMINTERN, the Communist Party called on communists to work on a broad front with Congress, and many communist leaders joined ranks of Congress

## Leftism in Congress' Socio-Economic Agenda

- The formation of All India Kisan Sabha in 1936 within Congress and demand for reforms like reduction in rents, tenancy reforms, graduated income tax, reduction of interest rates, and finally abolition of zamindari and land reforms
- Foundation of All India Trade Union Congress and its agitation for workers rights, higher wages, accidental insurance, social security, etc
- National Planning Committee in 1938 under Nehru's leadership, advocating greater role of state in economic development
- Participation of leaders in labour movements such as Subhas Bose in Jamshedpur TISCO worker's strike

**Q.4 (a) "Jawaharlal Nehru, though a declared socialist, was pragmatist enough to focus on providing building blocks to the making of new India." Examine. [20 Marks]**





Q.4 (b) Evaluate the contribution of Ghadar movement in India National Movement. What factors led to its failure? [20 Marks]

The Ghadar movement, started by Lala Har Dayal in San Francisco, wanted to create an armed revolution to drive out the British from India during first half of 20th century.

### Contribution

#### 1) Awareness among overseas Indians

- Indians living in USA, Canada, Malay states, Singapore, etc were made aware of harsh British policies and provoked to fight for Indian independence

#### 2) Political education

- Through lectures, debates, newspapers, etc the overseas Indians were trained in various political ideologies

#### 3) Provided a voice to freedom fighters

- Through the newspaper Ghadar and poetry issues

called ~~from~~ Ghadar di Goonj, the freedom fighters were able to preach to their audience and fire them into action

1) Many of its leaders became active during 1920s and 30s under Gandhian movements and Communist movements

2) Their bravery as highlighted during the Koragata Mann incident was a great psychological booster for Indian revolutionaries

Why it failed?

1) Miscalculation and Underassessment

- They failed to realise condition in India were not developed for a armed revolution

- They underestimated the loyalty of British Indian Army, which couldn't be caused to mutiny

## 2) Poor planning and organisation

- No attention was made for proper planning,  
execution of activities

- The organisation structure was weak

- Hence most of their plans failed

## 3) Failed at mass mobilisation

- They couldn't cause a mass movement and rather depended on heroic individual action such as an assassination attempt on Lord Hardinge

## 4) Government Repression and superior intelligence of the British foiled most of their plans beforehand

## 5) Lack of proper leadership

- Arrest and subsequent escape of Lala Hardayal, arrests and executions of leaders in India made the movement devoid of leadership

Hence, the Ghadar movement failed to achieve its objective of freeing India through an armed revolt.

Q.4 (c) "During its operation after Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, several limitations and defects of Diarchy came to the surface." Elaborate. [10 Marks]

The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 introduced the concept of dyarchy in the provincial governments of British India.

### Dyarchy System

- The provincial subjects were to be divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects
- Reserved subjects were to be handled by the Governor through his executive council
- Transferred subjects were to be handled by a minister, responsible to the legislative assembly
- It was introduced as a measure of "responsible government" in ~~st~~ provinces

### Limitations and Defects

↳ All important subjects like law and order, finance,

Revenue were kept with the Governor, while those like agriculture, health, education, etc were given to ministers

- 2) Since finance was not under minister's control, they found difficult to raise resources to take initiatives for their portfolios
- 3) The bureaucracy was unresponsive and uncooperative with ministers since it was ultimately responsible to the Viceroy and British government
- 4) Hence, responsibility was given to the Indian ministers without any real power
- 5) This also made Indian ministers appear incompetent and incapable of governance

Hence, the dyarchy method was full of defects and it had to be eliminated in the 1935 Act.