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QUESTION BANK

(solved)

Class VIII

SOCIAL SCIENCE

SUBJECT EXPERTS

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2

FROM TRADE TO TERRITORY THE COMPANY ESTABLISHES POWER

IMPORTANT POINTS

- Aurangzeb was the last powerful Mughal ruler.

- **East India Company comes East :**

- (i) In 1600 royal charter granted to East India Company granting the sole right to trade with the East.

- (ii) East India Company bought goods at a cheap price and sold them at higher price in Europe.

- (iii) Cotton and silk produced in India had a big market in Europe.

- (iv) Pepper, cloves, cardamom and cinnamon were in great demand.

- **East India Company begins Trade in Bengal :**

- (i) In 1651, the first English factory was set up on the banks of river Hugli.

- (ii) Aurangzeb issued a farman granting the company the right to trade duty free.

- (iii) The company tried to press for more concessions and manipulate existing privileges.

- **How did Trade Lead to Battles :**

- (i) After the death of Aurangzeb, the Bengal Nawabs asserted their power and autonomy.

- (ii) The Nawabs of Bengal refused to grant the company concessions.

- **The Battle of Plassey :**

- (i) On 23rd June 1757, Battle of Plassey was fought and was the first major victory of English in India.

- (ii) Alivardi Khan died in 1756 and Sirajuddaulah became the Nawab of Bengal.

- (iii) In 1757, Robert Clive led the Company's army against Sirajuddulah at Plassey.

- (iv) Main reason for defeat of the Nawab was that the forces led by Mir Jafar, one of Sirajuddaulah's commanders, never fought the battle.

- (v) Mir Jafar was promised by Clive to be made Nawab after crushing Sirajuddaulah.

• **The Battle of Buxar :**

- (i) After the defeat at Plassey, Sirajuddaulah was assassinated and Mir Jafar was made the Nawab.
- (ii) Mir Jafar was just a puppet in the hands of britishers.
- (iii) In 1764, the battle of Buxar was fought between britishers and Mir Qasim.
- (iv) In 1765 Mir Jafar died.
- (v) In 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the company as the Diwan of the provinces of Bengal.

• **Company Officials became 'Nabobs' :**

- (i) In 1764, Robert Clive was appointed Governor of Bengal.
- (ii) 'Nabobs'-an anglicized version of the Indian word Nawab.

• **Company Rule Expands :**

- (i) The process of annexation of Indian states by the East India Company from 1757 to 1857 brought forth some key aspects like the company rarely launched a direct military attack on as unknown territory.
- (ii) After battle of Buxar, the company appointed residents in Indian states.
- (iii) The company forced the states into a 'subsidiary alliance'.
- (iv) The Nawab of Awadh and the Nizam of Hyderabad were forced to cede territories and accept the subsidiary alliances.

• **Tipu Sultan- 'The Tiger of Mysore'**

- (i) Tipu Sultan was the son of Haidar Ali, ruler of Mysore.
- (ii) Tipu Sultan ruled Mysore from 1782 to 1799.
- (iii) Four wars were fought between Britishers and Mysore and were known as the Anglo- Mysore wars(1767-1769, 1780-84, 1790-92 and 1799).
- (iv) In 1799, the Britishers won the battle of Seringapatam against Mysore.
- (v) Tipu Sultan was killed defending his capital Seringapatam.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

1. Match the following:

Diwani	Tipu Sultan
'Tiger of Mysore'	Right to collect land revenue
Faujari adalat	Sepoy
Rani Channamma	Criminal court
Sipahi	Led an anti-British movement in Kitoor

Ans.

Diwani	Right to collect land revenue
'Tiger of Mysore'	Tipu Sultan
Faujari adalat	Criminal court
Rani Channamma	Led an anti-British movement in Kitoor
Sipahi	Sepoy

2. Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The British conquest of Bengal began with the Battle of
- (b) Haider all and Tipu Sultan were the rulers of
- (c) Dalhousie implemented the Doctrine of
- (d) Maratha kingdoms were located mainly in the part of India.

Ans. (a) Plassey (b) Mysore (c) Lapse (d) Western

3. State whether true or false:

- (a) The Mughal empire became stronger in the eighteenth century.
- (b) The English East India Company was the only European company that traded with India.
- (c) Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the ruler of Punjab.
- (d) The British did not introduce administrative changes in the territories they conquered.

Ans. (a) False (b) False (c) True (d) False

4. What attracted European trading companies to India?

Ans. European trading companies were attracted due to the following reasons:

- (i) Cheap and fine quality of silk and cotton.
- (ii) For spices like pepper, cloves, cardamom and cinnamon etc.

5. What were the areas of conflict between the Bengal Nawabs and the East India Company?

- Ans.**
- (i) The Bengal nawabs asserted their power and autonomy and refused to grant the Company concessions,
 - (ii) They demanded large tributes for the Company's right to trade,
 - (iii) They denied the Company any right to mint coins,
 - (iv) They stopped the Company from extending its fortifications
 - (v) Accusing the Company of deceit, they claimed that the Company was depriving the Bengal government of huge amounts of revenue and undermining the authority of the Nawab. It was refusing to pay taxes, writing disrespectful letters, and trying to

humiliate the Nawab and his officials. These were the areas of conflict between the Bengal Nawabs and the East India Company.

6. How did the assumption of Diwani benefit the East India Company?

Ans. The Mughal emperor, in 1765, appointed the Company's the Diwan of the provinces of Bengal. The Diwani allowed the Company to exploit the vast revenue resources of Bengal. This solved a major problem that the company had earlier faced. Although its trade had expanded, it had to buy most of the goods in India with gold and silver imported from Britain. The overflow of gold from Britain stopped after the assumption of Diwani. Now revenue from India could finance Company expenses. These revenues they used to purchase cotton and silk textiles in India, maintain Company troops and meet the cost of building the Company fort and offices at Calcutta.

7. Explain the system of 'subsidiary alliance'.

Ans. Subsidiary Alliance System

(i) **The Britishers as a supreme power:** Whichever state wanted to sign this treaty, had to accept the English as a supreme authority. The East India Company behaved as a guardian of that state.

(ii) **Appointment of resident:** The state kept an English Resident in their court, to check the activities of the king.

(iii) **Keeping of an English army:** Indian rulers were not allowed to have their army to protect the state from external and internal invasion. The state had to keep an English army. The state had to bear financial burden of the army.

(iv) **Giving to the territory:** If the Indian rulers failed to make payments, part of their territories were taken away as penalty.

e.g.,

- The Nawab of Awadh was forced to give over half of his territory to the company in 1801.

- Hyderabad was also forced to cede territories on similar grounds.

(v) **Protection by the English:** In return for the above-mentioned conditions the English Company promised to protect the state from its enemies. They also promised the state not to interfere in the internal affairs of the state but this was a promise they seldom kept.

8. In what way was the administration of the Company different from that of Indian rulers?

Ans. The administration of the Company was different from that of the Indian rulers in the following ways:

(i) The Company divided its administrative units called Presidencies. There were three Presidencies – Bengal, Madras and Bombay. In India, districts were the main administrative units.

(ii) Each presidency was ruled by a Governor. Districts were ruled by the Collectors.

From Trade to Territory the Company Establisher Power

(iii) The supreme head of the administration of the Company was the Governor-General. But in India, the head of the administration was the king. .

(iv) The main job of the Governor-General was to introduce administrative reforms while the main job of the Collector was to collect revenue and taxes and maintain law and order in his district.

9. Describe the changes that occurred in the composition of the Company's army.

Ans. (i) East India Company adopted its own method when it began recruitment for the army.

(ii) It was known as the sepoy army (from the Indian word sipahi, meaning soldier).

(iii) With the change in warfare technology from the 1820s, the cavalry needs of the Company's army declined, because the British empire was fighting in Burma, Afghanistan, and Egypt. There the soldiers were armed with **muskets** and **matchlocks**

(iv) The soldiers had to keep pace with changing military requirements.

(v) Its infantry regiments now became more important.

(vi) In the early 19th century the British began to develop a uniform military culture.

(vii) Soldiers were given European-style training drills and discipline.

(viii) They regulated their life far more than before.

(ix) Often this created problems since caste and community feelings were ignored in building a force of professional soldiers.

10. After the British conquest of Bengal, Calcutta grew from a small village to a big city. Find out about the culture, architecture, and the life of Europeans and Indians of the city during the colonial period.

Ans. Hints: Visit the school library or get information from the internet.

Indians were influenced by British culture, architecture and lifestyle.

(i) **Culture:** British influence began.

(ii) **Architecture:** Influenced by the British Architecture (fortification of the city, churches, etc.). Rich Indians started constructing bungalows in the English style.

(iii) **Life:** English education, English clothes, became to be popular.

11. Collect pictures, stories, poems, and information about any of the following – the Rani of Jhansi, Mahadji Sindhia, Haidar Ali, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Lord Dalhousie, or any other contemporary ruler of your region.

Ans. The Rani of Jhansi: Collect information and photographs

Hints:

1. Early childhood

2. Early marriage

3. Death of husband
 4. Adopted son
 5. Fight with British
 6. Died fighting with the British.
 7. History would always remember her.
1. Rani of Jhansi:



Lakshmibai was born probably on 19 November 1828 in the holy town of Varanasi in a Marathi brahmin family. Her father was Moropant Tambe. Her father worked for a court of Peshwa of Bithoor district. Peshwa brought Manikarnika up like his own daughter. The Peshwa called her “Chhabili”, which means “playful”.

She was educated at home and was more independent in her childhood than others of her age; her studies included archery, horsemanship, and self-defense.

Rani Lakshmibai was accustomed to ride on horseback accompanied by a small escort between the palace and the temple. The Rani Mahal, the place of Rani Lakshmibai, has now been converted into a museum. She died, fighting British Army bravely, to save her state Jhansi.

2. Mahadaji Shindhia



Mahadaji Shinde (1730-1794 A.D.) also spelled as Mahadji Scindia or Mahadaji Scindia, was a Maratha ruler of the state of Gwalior in central India.

Mahadaji was instrumental in resurrecting Maratha power in North India after the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 and rose to become a trusted lieutenant of the Peshwa, leader of the Maratha Empire. During his reign, Gwalior became the leading state in the Maratha Empire and one of the foremost military powers in India.

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He accompanied Shah Alam II (Mughal Badshah) in 1771 to Delhi in order to restore the Mughals in Delhi. The Marathas were practically at that time ruling Delhi. He annihilated the power of Jats of Mathura and during 1772-73 and destroyed the power of Pashtun Rohillas in Rohilkhand and captured Najibabad. His role during the 'First Anglo Maratha War was greatest from the Maratha side since he humbled the British in Central India, single-handed, which resulted in the Treaty of Salbai in 1782, where he mediated between the Peshwa and the British.

3. Hyder Ali Of Mysore



Hyder Ali (1721-1782) was the sultan and de facto ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore in southern India. Born Hyder Naik, he distinguished himself militarily, eventually drawing the attention of Mysore's rulers. Rising to the post of Dalavayi (commander-in-chief) to Krishnaraja Wodeyar II, he came to dominate the titular monarch and the Mysore government. He became the de facto ruler of Mysore as Sarvadhikari (Chief Minister) by 1761. He offered strong anti-colonial resistance against the military advances of the British East India Company during the First and Second Anglo Mysore Wars and he was the innovator of military use of the 'iron-cased Mysorean rockets.

4. Maharaja Ranjit Singh



Ranjit Singh was born to Sardar Maha Singh and Raj Kaur on 13 November 1780, in Gujranwala, Punjab (now in Pakistan). As a child, he suffered from smallpox which resulted in the loss of one eye. At the time, much of Punjab was ruled by the Sikhs under a Confederate Sarbat Khalsa system, which had divided the territory among factions known as misls Ranjit Singh's father was the commander of the Sukerchakia Misl and controlled a territory in west Punjab based around his headquarter at Gujranwala.

In 1799, Ranjit Singh captured Lahore (now in Pakistan) from the Bhangi Misl and later made it his capital. This was the first important step in his rise to power. In the following years, he brought the whole of central Punjab from the Sutlej to the Jhelum under his sway. This area includes north of Satluj (Jullundhar, Amritsar, Pathankot, etc.); and Lahore, Multan, etc. of Pakistan.

5. Lord Dalhousie



Governor-general of India (1848 to 1856): Lord Dalhousie is one the most negatively remembered personality in the rule of East India Company. He ruled India with his full efficiency from 1848 to 1856 A.D. In India, he was famous for various negative and positive reasons.

Positive:

1. Starting of Railway in 1853 A.D. for the first time, between Bombay to Thane.
2. Starting with postal and telegraph services in India.
3. Starting with widow remarriage in 1856 A.D.
4. Completion of Ganges Canal.
5. Reform in Indian civil services.

Negative

1. East India Company captured the princely state of Punjab in 1849 A.D.
2. Second Anglo-Burmese War.
3. Doctrine of Lapse (Most Controversial).
4. Annexation of Awadh.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. State True (T) or False (F).
 - i. The principal figure in an Indian district was the Collector. _____
 - ii. The Mughal Empire became stronger in the eighteenth century. _____

From Trade to Territory the Company Establisher Power

- iii. The English East India Company was the only European company that traded with India. _____
- iv. Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the ruler of Punjab. _____
- v. The British did not introduce administrative changes in the territories they conquered. _____
- vi. The royal charter could not prevent other European powers from entering the Eastern markets. _____
- vii. The Third Anglo-Maratha War of 1817-19 crushed Maratha power. _____
- viii. Tipu Sultan disallowed local merchants from trading with the Company. _____

- Ans.** i. True ii. False
iii. False iv. True
v. False vi. True
vii. True viii. True

2. Fill in the blanks.

- i. Murshid Quli Khan was followed by _____ and then _____ as the Nawab of Bengal.
- ii. British territories were broadly divided into administrative units called _____.
- iii. The first Anglo-Maratha war ended with the Treaty of _____.
- iv. Sirajuddaulah marched with 30,000 soldiers to the English factory at _____.
- v. The first English factory was set up on the banks of the river _____ in 1651.

- Ans.** i. Alivardi Khan, Sirajuddaulah ii. Presidencies.
iii. Salbai iv. Kassimbazar. v. Hugli

3. What was the earliest name of the present day Kolkata?

Ans. Kalikata

4. What was farman?

Ans. Farman was a royal order.

5. Who was called tiger of Mysore?

Ans. Tipu Sultan was called tiger of Mysore.

6. When did the company take over Awadh?

Ans. The Company took over Awadh in 1856.

7. What was the prime objective of East India Company?

Ans. Its prime objective was the expansion of trade.

8. Who was the ruler of England in 1600?

Ans. Queen Elizabeth I was the ruler of England in 1600.

9. Who was the last of the powerful Mughal rulers?

Ans. Aurangzeb was the last of the powerful Mughal rulers.

10. Who became the Nawab of Bengal after Alivardi Khan?

Ans. Sirajuddaulah became the Nawab of Bengal after Alivardi Khan.

11. Who was made the Nawab of Bengal after the Battle of Plassey?

Ans. Mir Jafar was made the Nawab of Bengal after the Battle of Plassey.

12. Which governor general was impeached by British Parliament?

Ans. Warren Hastings was impeached by British Parliament.

13. Who led the Company's army against Sirajuddaulah at Plassey?

Ans. Robert Clive led the Company's army against Sirajuddaulah at Plassey.

14. Who arrested Bahadur Shah Zafar and his sons?

Ans. Bahadur Shah Zafar and his sons were arrested by Captain Hodson.

15. Who was assassinated after the Battle of Plassey?

Ans. After the defeat at Plassey, Sirajuddaulah was assassinated.

16. Who discovered the sea route to India?

Ans. Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer had discovered the sea route to India in 1498.

17. Why did the Battle of Plassey become famous?

Ans. The Battle of Plassey became famous because it was the first major victory the Company won in India.

18. Name Sirajuddaulah's commander who never fought the Battle of Plassey.

Ans. Mir Jafar, one of Sirajuddaulah's commanders, never fought the Battle of Plassey.

19. When did the Mughal emperor appoint the Company as the Diwan of the provinces of Bengal?

Ans. In 1765 the Mughal emperor appointed the Company as the Diwan of the provinces of Bengal.

20. Why did the Company want a puppet ruler?

Ans. The Company was keen on a puppet ruler because he would willingly give trade concessions and other privileges.

21. Explain the term "Mercantile".

Ans. Mercantile means a business enterprise that makes profit primarily through trade, buying goods cheap and selling them at higher prices.

22. What do you mean by puppet?

Ans. Puppet literally means a toy that you can move with strings. The term is used disapprovingly to refer to a person who is controlled by someone else.

23. Name the Mughal emperor seen as the natural leader during the revolt of 1857.

Ans. When a massive rebellion against British rule broke out in 1857, Bahadur Shah Zafar, the Mughal emperor at the time, was seen as the natural leader.

24. List the Kingdoms which were annexed on the basis of "Doctrine of Lapse".

Ans. Kingdoms annexed on the basis of "Doctrine of Lapse" were: Satara (1848), Sambalpur (1850), Udaipur (1852), Nagpur (1853) and Jhansi (1854).

25. What were the grievances of the Company regarding the Nawabs of Bengal?

Ans. The Company on its part declared that the unjust demands of the local officials were ruining the trade of the Company, and trade could flourish only if the duties were removed.

26. Who were called "Nabobs" ?

Ans. Company officials who managed to return Britain with wealth led flashy lives and flaunted their riches. They were called "Nabobs" – an anglicised version of the Indian word Nawab.



SELF ASSESSMENT TEST

1. Whom did the Company install in place of Mir Jafar and why?
2. Who initiated the policy of paramountcy?
3. Why could Delhi no longer function as an effective centre?
4. What led to intense conflict between British and local rulers?
5. What constituted the Mughal army?
6. Name the two rulers under whose leadership Mysore became powerful.
7. Why did Tipu Sultan develop a close relationship with the French in India?
8. Who were two famous Maratha soldiers and statesmen of the late eighteenth century?
9. "After the Battle of Buxar (1764), the Company appointed Residents in Indian states." Who were the Residents?
10. How Plassey got its name?

**ANSWERS**

1. When Mir Jafar protested, the Company deposed him and installed Mir Qasim in his place.
2. Lord Hastings (Governor- General from 1813 to 1823) initiated a new policy of “paramountcy”.
3. As powerful regional kingdoms emerged in various parts of India, Delhi could no longer function as an effective centre.
4. Fortification of settlements and effort to carry on profitable trade led to intense conflict between British and local rulers.
5. The Mughal army was mainly composed of cavalry (sawars: trained soldiers on horseback) and infantry, that is, paidal (foot) soldiers.
6. Haidar Ali and his famous son Tipu Sultan were the two rulers under whose leadership Mysore became powerful.
7. Tipu Sultan established a close relationship with the French in India in order to modernized his army with their help.
8. Mahadji Sindhia and Nana Phadnis were two famous Maratha soldiers and statesmen of the late eighteenth century.
9. They were political or commercial agents and their job was to serve and further the interests of the Company.
10. Plassey is an anglicised pronunciation of Palashi and the place derived its name from the palash tree known for its beautiful red flowers that yield gulal, the powder used in the festival of Holi.

