

XII INDIAN ECO. ASSIGNMENT- INDIAN ECONOMY ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE

HOTS REMEMBERING • UNDERSTANDING • APPLICATION BASED QUESTIONS

1. State with reason whether the following statements are True or False:
 - i. India's Economy was poor and backward before the Colonial Rule.
 - ii. India was well known for its handicraft industries before the advent of British Rule.
 - iii. Primary motive of de-industrialisation by the British Rule was to promote India's economy.
2. "There was huge 'Drain of Wealth' during British Rule." Do you agree with the given statement?
3. "Indian agricultural sector did not suffer due to Partition." Defend or Refute.
4. "India became exporter of primary products and importer of finished goods during the British Rule." Comment.

NCERT QUESTIONS

1. What was the focus of the economic policies pursued by the colonial government in India? What were the impacts of these policies?
2. Name some notable economists who estimated India's per capita income during the colonial period.
3. What were the main causes of India's agricultural stagnation during the colonial period?
4. Name some modern industries which were in operation in our country at the time of independence.
5. What was the two-fold motive behind the systematic deindustrialization effected by the British in pre-independent India?
6. The traditional handicrafts industries were ruined under the British rule. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.
7. What objectives did the British intend to achieve through their policies of infrastructure development in India?
8. Critically appraise some of the shortfalls of the industrial policy pursued by the British colonial administration.
9. What do you understand by the drain of Indian wealth during the colonial period?
10. Which is regarded as the defining year to mark the demographic transition from its first to the second decisive stage?
11. Give a quantitative appraisal of India's demographic profile during the colonial period.
12. Highlight the salient features of India's pre-independence occupational structure.
13. Underscore some of India's most crucial economic challenges at the time of independence.
14. When was India's first official census operation undertaken?
15. Indicate the volume and direction of trade at the time of independence.
16. Were there any positive contributions made by the British in India? Discuss.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. **The main reason for stagnation in agricultural sector during British rule was:**
 - a. Land settlement system
 - b. De-industrialisation
 - c. Lack of technology
 - d. Commercialization of Agriculture

2. **The first official census was conducted in the year _____.**
 a. 1891 b. 1921 c. 1781 d. 1881
3. **The export surplus during the British rule was used:**
 a. To make payments for expenses incurred by an office set up by the colonial government in Britain.
 b. To meet expenses on war fought by the British government.
 c. To import invisible items.
 d. All of these
4. **The foundation of British Empire in India was laid by Battle of Plassey fought in _____.**
 a. 1757 b. 1857 c. 1763 d. 1747
5. **Which industry received the major set back during the colonial rule?**
 a. Cement b. Handicraft c. Paper d. Iron and Steel
6. **India's jute industry suffered heavily due to _____ after partition.**
 a. Lack of raw material b. Famines c. Earthquakes d. None of these
7. **British rule introduced railways in India in the year _____.**
 a. 1849 b. 1850 c. 1851 d. 1852
8. **More than half of India's foreign trade was restricted to:**
 a. China b. Britain c. Korea d. Sri Lanka
9. **Decline of handicraft industries led to:**
 a. Massive Unemployment b. Import of Finished Goods
 c. Both (a) and (b) d. Neither (a) nor (b)
10. **Which industry was adversely affected due to partition?**
 a. Silk b. Cotton c. Jute d. Nylon
11. _____ **was the main source of livelihood for most of the people during the colonial rule.**
 a. Industries b. Agriculture c. Both (a) and (b) d. Neither (a) nor (b)
12. **The opening of Suez canal served as a direct route for ships operating between:**
 a. India and America b. India and Sri Lanka c. India and Pakistan d. India and Britain
13. **Which year is described as a "Year of Great Divide"?**
 a. 1931 b. 1921 c. 1941 d. 1911
14. _____ **was the most important infrastructure developed during the British rule.**
 a. Airways b. Railways c. Waterways d. None of these
15. **Occupational structure refers to**
 a. Distribution of working force among the different occupations
 b. Nature of different occupations
 c. Size of working force in a country d. Number of people living in a country
16. **Major contribution to the GDP of the country on the eve of independence was from**
 a. tertiary sector b. secondary sector
 c. primary sector d. both primary and secondary sector
17. **Despite being the major source of livelihood, the agriculture sector continued to experience stagnation and deterioration during the British rule in India because of**
 a. decline of handicraft b. land tenure system c. drain of India;s wealth d. none of the above

- 18. Main intension of the British rulers behind the introduction of railways in India was**
- to earn profit through foreign trade.
 - to break geographical and cultural barriers.
 - cheap and rapid movement of people from one place to another.
 - to develop India's cotton and jute industry.
- 19. Which of the following statement is true regarding demographic profile of India during the colonial rule?**
- Life expectancy was 63 years.
 - Infant mortality rate was around 70 per thousand live birth.
 - Overall literacy level was less than 16 percent.
 - Both birth rate and death rate were quite low.
- 20. One of the following statements about Indian economy is not true. Identify the false statement.**
- Indian agriculture was flourishing before the advent of the British.
 - India's foreign trade throughout the colonial period was marked by a large export surplus.
 - India had a sound industrial base under the British.
 - British developed the Railway system in India for their own benefit.
- 21. Which of the following is not a true statement?**
- On the eve of Independence, agriculture was the principal occupation of the people in India.
 - Mining is the main secondary occupation.
 - Indian manufactured products enjoyed a worldwide before the British established themselves in India.
 - The role of the public sector under the British rule was confined only to a few industries.
- 22. What was the most important characteristic of India's foreign trade throughout the colonial period?**
- Import surplus
 - Import deficit
 - Export surplus
 - Export deficit
- 23. The Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) was incorporated in**
- 1807
 - 1870
 - 1907
 - 1970

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- What was the main reason for the stagnation in the agricultural sector under the British rule?
- What was the main focus of the economic policies pursued by the colonial government in India?
- What was the rate of growth of per capita output per year during the first half of the twentieth century?
- What percentage of India's population depended on agriculture under the British rule?
- Which traditional industries was India particularly well known for before the advent of the British rule?
- Give two reasons for low level of agricultural productivity during the colonial rule.
- Which Indian industry was adversely affected due to the partition?
- Give the meaning of occupational structure.
- What was the effect of the decline of the handicraft industry in India?
- What do you mean by commercialization of agriculture?
- What was the main cause of food shortage in India after partition?
- What was the infant mortality rate during the British period?
- Mention the most important infrastructure developed during the British period.

14. What was the effect of the decline of the handicraft industry in India?

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the land settlement system introduced under the British Rule.
2. How did commercialization of agriculture resulted in famines?
3. Why was there low level of productivity in agriculture during the British rule?
4. Discuss the adverse effects of partition of the country on the agriculture sector.
5. "Decline of handicraft industry adversely affected the Indian economy". Comment.
6. What do you mean by capital goods industry? Discuss the status of such industry during the British rule.
7. Write a short note on drain of India's wealth during the British rule.
8. Mention two important features of India's occupational structure during British period.
9. Briefly discuss the state of roads and railways during the British rule.
10. State three reasons for development of railways in India.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the main reasons for India's agricultural stagnation during the colonial period.
2. "British rule adversely hampered the Industrial sector of India." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.
3. Discuss the state of India's foreign trade during the colonial rule.
4. "The demographic condition during the British rule exhibited all features of a backward Indian economy" Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer.
5. Describe the salient features of India's occupational structure during British period.
6. Briefly discuss the state of infrastructural facilities during the British period.
7. Briefly discuss the various reasons for development of infrastructure by the British Government.

XII ECO INDIAN ECONOMY ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE ANSWERS

HOTS REMEMBERING • UNDERSTANDING • APPLICATION BASED QUESTIONS

1. **State with reason whether the following statements are True or False:**

- i. India's Economy was poor and backward before the Colonial Rule.
- ii. India was well known for its handicraft industries before the advent of British Rule.
- iii. Primary motive of de-industrialisation by the British Rule was to promote India's economy.

Ans. i. False. India's Economy was independent, self-reliant and prosperous before the Colonial Rule.

ii. True. Indian handicraft industries enjoyed worldwide reputation.

iii. False. Their primary motive was: (a) To get raw materials from India at cheap rates; and (b) To sell finished products of British industries in Indian market at higher prices.

2. **“There was huge ‘Drain of Wealth’ during British Rule.” Do you agree with the given statement?**

Ans. Yes, I agree with the given statement. During the British rule, India became an exporter of primary products and there was huge export surplus due to excess exports. However, this export surplus, i.e. wealth was used:

- i. To make payments for expenses incurred by an office set up by the colonial government in Britain.
- ii. To meet expenses on war fought by the British government.
- iii. To import invisible items.

3. **“Indian agricultural sector did not suffer due to Partition.” Defend or Refute.**

Ans. The given statement is refuted. India's agricultural production received a set back due to the country's partition at the time of independence.

- A sizeable portion of undivided country's highly irrigated and fertile land went to Pakistan.
- Almost, the whole of jute producing area became part of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). India's jute goods industry, which had enjoyed a world monopoly, suffered heavily for lack of raw material.

4. **“India became exporter of primary products and importer of finished goods during the British Rule.” Comment.**

Ans. The given statement is correct. British Government systematically destroyed Indian handicraft industries and their primary motive behind this de-industrialisation was two-fold: (i) To get raw materials from India at cheap rates to be used by upcoming modern industries in Britain; (ii) To sell finished products of British industries in Indian market at higher prices.

As a result, India became an exporter of primary products such as raw silk, cotton, wool, etc. and an importer of finished consumer goods like cotton, silk, woollen clothes, etc. produced in the British Industries.

NCERT QUESTIONS

1. **What was the focus of the economic policies pursued by the colonial government in India? What were the impacts of these policies?**

Ans. The economic policies pursued by the Colonial Government in India, were concerned more with the protection and promotion of their own economic interests, than with the development of the Indian economy.

For impact of these policies, discuss “British Rule - Systematic Exploitation of India” given on Page on notes.

2. **Name some notable economists who estimated India's per capita income during the colonial period.**

Ans. Dadabhai Naoroji, V.K.R.V. Rao, William Digby, Findlay Shirras and R.C. Desai.

3. **What were the main causes of India's agricultural stagnation during the colonial period?**

Ans. Discuss 'Main Reasons for Stagnation in Agricultural Sector' given on Notes.

4. Name some modern industries which were in operation in our country at the time of independence.

Ans. Iron and Steel company (TISCO), sugar, cement, chemical and paper industries.

5. What was the two-fold motive behind the systematic deindustrialization effected by the British in pre-independent India?

Ans. i. To get raw materials from India at cheap rates to be used by upcoming modern industries in Britain;
ii. To sell finished products of British industries in Indian market at higher prices.

6. The traditional handicrafts industries were ruined under the British rule. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Ans. Yes, I agree with this view. British Government systematically destroyed Indian handicraft industries in order to serve their following two-fold motive:

i. To get raw materials from India at cheap rates to be used by upcoming modern industries in Britain;
ii. To sell finished products of British industries in Indian market at higher prices.

Colonial government enforced discriminatory tariff policy, which allowed free export of raw materials from India and free import of final goods of British industry to India. But, heavy duty was imposed on the export of Indian handicrafts. As a result, Indian markets were full of finished goods from Britain, which led to the decline of Indian handicrafts, both in the domestic market as well as the export market.

7. What objectives did the British intend to achieve through their policies of infrastructure development in India?

Ans. Discuss 'Reasons for Infrastructural Development' given on Notes.

8. Critically appraise some of the shortfalls of the industrial policy pursued by the British colonial administration.

Ans. The industrial policy pursued by the British colonial administration suffered from the following shortfalls:

i. De-industrialisation - Decline of Handicraft Industry: British Government systematically destroyed Indian handicraft industries and no modern industrial base was allowed to come up. The primary motive of British rule behind the de-industrialisation was two-fold: (a) To get raw materials from India at cheap rates to be used by upcoming modern industries in Britain; (b) To sell finished products of British industries in Indian market at higher prices.

ii. Adverse effects of decline of Handicraft Industry: Decline of handicraft industries adversely affected the Indian economy in the following ways: (a) It resulted in unemployment on a mass scale; (b) It encouraged import of manufactured goods from Britain as Indian made goods could not withstand foreign competition of machine made cheap goods.

iii. Lack of Capital Goods Industries: During the British rule, there was hardly any capital goods industry to promote further industrialisation in India.

iv. Limited role of Public Sector: The limited area of operation of the public sector was also a significant reason for drawback of the industrial sector. The Public sector remained confined only to the railways, power generation, communications, ports and some other departmental undertakings.

9. What do you understand by the drain of Indian wealth during the colonial period?

Ans. Drain of Indian wealth during the colonial period means that national product of India was used by the British government for development of their own country and not for India.

India's foreign trade generated large export surplus. However, there was drain of such surplus into Britain. India's export surplus was used:

i. To make payments for expenses incurred by an office set up by the colonial government in Britain.

ii. To meet expenses on war fought by the British government.

iii. To import invisible items.

10. Which is regarded as the defining year to mark the demographic transition from its first to the second decisive stage?

Ans. 1921 is the defining year.

11. Give a quantitative appraisal of India's demographic profile during the colonial period.

Ans. Discuss 'Demographic Condition' given on Notes.

12. Highlight the salient features of India's pre-independence occupational structure.

Ans. Discuss 'Occupational Structure' given on Notes.

13. Underscore some of India's most crucial economic challenges at the time of independence.

Ans. Some of India's most crucial economic challenges at the time of independence were:

i. Increasing dependence of population on agriculture.

ii. Traditional methods of cultivation.

iii. Inadequate industrialisation.

iv. Destruction of Indian Handicrafts.

v. High level of Unemployment and underemployment.

vi. High infant mortality rate, low life expectancy and literacy rate;

vii. Widespread Mass Poverty.

14. When was India's first official census operation undertaken?

Ans. The First official census was undertaken in the year 1881.

15. Indicate the volume and direction of trade at the time of independence.

Ans. The volume and direction of trade at the time of independence is discussed as under:

i. **Exporter of Primary Products and Importer of Finished Goods:** India became an exporter of primary products (raw silk, cotton, wool, etc.) and an importer of finished consumer goods (cotton, silk and woollen clothes) and capital goods like light machinery, produced in the British Industries.

ii. **Monopoly Control of British Rule:** British Government maintained a monopoly control over India's exports and imports. More than $\frac{1}{2}$ of India's foreign trade was restricted to Britain while the rest was allowed with few other countries like China, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Persia (Iran).

16. Were there any positive contributions made by the British in India? Discuss.

Ans. Discuss 'Positive Contributions of British Rule' given on Notes.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. The main reason for stagnation in agricultural sector during British rule was:

a. Land settlement system

b. De-industrialisation

c. Lack of technology

d. Commercialization of Agriculture

2. The first official census was conducted in the year _____.

a. 1891

b. 1921

c. 1781

d. 1881

3. The export surplus during the British rule was used:

a. To make payments for expenses incurred by an office set up by the colonial government in Britain.

- b. To meet expenses on war fought by the British government.
 c. To import invisible items.
 d. All of these
4. The foundation of British Empire in India was laid by Battle of Plassey fought in _____.
 a. 1757 b. 1857 c. 1763 d. 1747
5. Which industry received the major set back during the colonial rule?
 a. Cement b. Handicraft c. Paper d. Iron and Steel
6. India's jute industry suffered heavily due to _____ after partition.
 a. Lack of raw material b. Famines c. Earthquakes d. None of these
7. British rule introduced railways in India in the year _____.
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15. Occupational structure refers to
 a. Distribution of working force among the different occupations
 b. Nature of different occupations
 c. Size of working force in a country
 d. Number of people living in a country
16. Major contribution to the GDP of the country on the eve of independence was from
 a. tertiary sector b. secondary sector
 c. primary sector d. both primary and secondary sector
17. Despite being the major source of livelihood, the agriculture sector continued to experience stagnation and deterioration during the British rule in India because of
 a. decline of handicraft b. land tenure system c. drain of India;s wealth d. none of the above
18. Main intension of the British rulers behind the introduction of railways in India was
 a. to earn profit through foreign trade.
 b. to break geographical and cultural barriers.

- c. cheap and rapid movement of people from one place to another.
 d. to develop India's cotton and jute industry.
19. Which of the following statement is true regarding demographic profile of India during the colonial rule?
 a. Life expectancy was 63 years.
 b. Infant mortality rate was around 70 per thousand live birth.
 c. Overall literacy level was less than 16 percent.
 d. Both birth rate and death rate were quite low.
20. One of the following statements about Indian economy is not true. Identify the false statement.
 a. Indian agriculture was flourishing before the advent of the British.
 b. India's foreign trade throughout the colonial period was marked by a large export surplus.
 c. India had a sound industrial base under the British.
 d. British developed the Railway system in India for their own benefit.
21. Which of the following is not a true statement?
 a. On the eve of Independence, agriculture was the principal occupation of the people in India.
 b. Mining is the main secondary occupation.
 c. Indian manufactured products enjoyed a worldwide before the British established themselves in India.
 d. The role of the public sector under the British rule was confined only to a few industries.
22. What was the most important characteristic of India's foreign trade throughout the colonial period?
 a. Import surplus b. Import deficit c. Export surplus d. Export deficit
23. The Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) was incorporated in
 a. 1807 b. 1870 c. 1907 d. 1970

Ans. 1. a; 2. d; 3. d; 4. a; 5. b; 6. a; 7. b; 8. b; 9. c; 10. c; 11. b; 12. d; 13. b; 14. b; 15. a 16. c; 17. b; 18. a; 19. c; 20. c; 21. b; 22. c; 23. c

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What was the main reason for the stagnation in the agricultural sector under the British rule?
Ans. Land settlement system introduced by the British rule.
2. What was the main focus of the economic policies pursued by the colonial government in India?
Ans. The main aim of colonial government was to protect and promote economic interests of their home country than with the development of the Indian economy.
3. What was the rate of growth of per capita output per year during the first half of the twentieth century?
Ans. It was only half per cent (0.5 per cent).
4. What percentage of India's population depended on agriculture under the British rule?
Ans. About 85% of the country's population.
5. Which traditional industries was India particularly well known for before the advent of the British rule?
Ans. Handicraft Industries.
6. Give two reasons for low level of agricultural productivity during the colonial rule.
Ans. a. Poor and outdated technology.
 b. Lack of irrigation facilities.
7. Which Indian industry was adversely affected due to the partition?

Ans. Jute industry was adversely affected as most of the jute producing areas went to Pakistan.

8. Give the meaning of occupational structure.

Ans. Occupational structure refers to distribution of working persons across different industries and sectors.

9. What was the effect of the decline of the handicraft industry in India?

Ans. Massive unemployment and rise in demand for Britain's manufactured goods.

10. What do you mean by commercialization of agriculture?

Ans. Commercialization of agriculture means production of crops for sale in the market rather than for self consumption.

11. What was the main cause of food shortage in India after partition?

Ans. The main cause was that the food surplus areas of West Punjab and Sindh went to Pakistan.

12. What was the infant mortality rate during the British period?

Ans. 218 per thousand.

13. Mention the most important infrastructure developed during the British period.

Ans. Railways.

14. What was the effect of the decline of the handicraft industry in India?

Ans. It created massive unemployment and increased demand for Britain's manufactured goods in the domestic market.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the land settlement system introduced under the British Rule.
2. How did commercialization of agriculture resulted in famines?
3. Why was there low level of productivity in agriculture during the British rule?
4. Discuss the adverse effects of partition of the country on the agriculture sector.
5. "Decline of handicraft industry adversely affected the Indian economy". Comment.
6. What do you mean by capital goods industry? Discuss the status of such industry during the British rule.
7. Write a short note on drain of India's wealth during the British rule.
8. Mention two important features of India's occupational structure during British period.
9. Briefly discuss the state of roads and railways during the British rule.
10. State three reasons for development of railways in India.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the main reasons for India's agricultural stagnation during the colonial period.
2. "British rule adversely hampered the Industrial sector of India." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.
3. Discuss the state of India's foreign trade during the colonial rule.
4. "The demographic condition during the British rule exhibited all features of a backward Indian economy" Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer.
5. Describe the salient features of India's occupational structure during British period.
6. Briefly discuss the state of infrastructural facilities during the British period.
7. Briefly discuss the various reasons for development of infrastructure by the British Government.