

Exercises

Q. A. MCQ

Answers:

1. C. 1761
2. C. 1707
3. B. E-mail
4. B. Imperialism
5. A. Jaipur

Q. B. Match the following

Answers:

1. D. Bengal
2. E. Explorer
3. A. Invader
4. Europe
5. Max Muller

Q. C. Short answers

1. The vast Mughal Empire broke up under Aurangzeb's weak successors. Independent Hindu states arose like Marwar under Sawai Jai Singh, and the Marathas under their Peshwas. Awadh, Bengal, Hyderabad and Mysore declared independence. Maharaja Ranjit Singh established a Sikh state. Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah Abdali invaded the Mughal Empire. Portuguese, Dutch, French and English trading companies came to South India. The English eventually became politically dominant. The exploitative rule of East India Company led to the freedom struggle.

2. Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama were two European explorers who set to discover sea routes to Asia. Columbus sailed west and reached America in 1492, which he thought was India. Vasco da Gama discovered a sea route to India by travelling East around the continent of Africa, arriving in 1498.

3. The decline of Mughal empire saw the rise of small independent states which were constantly at war with each other and the Mughal Army. Further political instability was caused by the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali, and the arrival of Portuguese, French, Dutch and English trading companies. Eventually in the battles between the European powers, the English emerged the strongest. Their victories at Plassey and Buxar were their first steps to colonizing all of India.

4. Bengal was one of the successor states of the 18th century which declared independence when the successor of Aurengzeb proved too weak to control the vast Mughal Empire. Following the emergence of the English as the most powerful European trading power, the East India Company became interested in political domination in order to further its trading interests. The eventual victory of the English in battles of Plassey and Buxar led to British coming to power in Bengal.

5. The primary sources include archaeological sources like buildings, coins, paintings, and weapons; original documents like government orders and official correspondence; letters, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, printed books, films, photographs, audio recordings and videotapes.

D. Long answers:-

1. The vast Mughal Empire disintegrated Aurangzeb's death with the rise of powerful Hindu and Sikh rulers like Sawai Jai Singh of Marwar, the Maratha Peshwas and Maharaj Ranjit Singh. When the successors of Aurangzeb proved to be too weak to control the empire, states like Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad declared their independence, while Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan consolidated the kingdom of Mysore. Invaders like Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali further threatened the weakened empire. In this atmosphere of political instability, European trading powers sought to dominate politically. Eventually the English emerged victorious and colonised India.

2. Printed books are important in tracing modern history as they record achievements in all disciplines, ranging from art and literature to medicine, science and technology. Books depict the social, economic and political conditions of a period. They offer a commentary on everything from the current political milieu to the impact of politics on the external social world and the domestic space. They also highlight the glorious past or reflect present grievances. Biographies and autobiographies immortalize the life and ideology of famous personalities.

3. Primary sources are documents and objects that remain from a period. For example, archaeological source include buildings, coins or paintings from a period. Documentary sources include books, newspapers, videos and photographs taken in an era. On the other hand, secondary sources are derivative and based on primary sources. The information or opinions in secondary sources depend on the historian's interpretation of primary sources. Thus primary sources are authentic, although they may be obscure and, in case of older periods, difficult to locate or preserve, while secondary sources may be prejudiced depending on the ideology of the author.

4. The industrial revolution began in England in the mid-eighteenth century, and subsequently spread to other parts of Europe. It was marked by new inventions such as steam engine, power loom and cotton gin. The invention of astrolabe, mariner's compass and gunpowder, as well as improvements in cartography and shipbuilding facilitated travel. Through sea voyages, Europeans discovered vast geographical areas which were sources of cheap raw material and labour, as well as markets for their finished products. The race for capturing these areas resulted in the establishment of various colonies of European powers in different parts of the world.

5. The European Renaissance gave rise to a spirit of enquiry which led to great inventions as well as a renewed interest in exploring. Thus the modern period saw Europeans travelling around the world. With improved machinery and technology, Europeans were able to dominate wherever they went. They found the new regions to be good sources of cheap raw material and labour. The subsequent quest for commercial advantage by European powers led to rise of imperialism. This resulted in the

suppression of glorious ancient cultures and the ruthless exploitation of human beings and natural resources.

Note: Here are the links for video.

1. <https://youtu.be/EthrTkpz8wQ>

2. <https://youtu.be/hEQ5oBrpIZs>

