

Q. A. Multiple choice questions:

Answers

1. B. Kunwar Singh      2. B. 1856
3. C. Rangoon      4.D.Nana Saheb
5. B. The Indians fought with modern weapons

Q. B. Match the following:

- 1.- E. Rani Lakshmibai
- 2.- D. Bahadur Shah II
- 3.- A. Hazrat Mahal
- 4.- C. Nana Saheb
- 5.- B. Kunwar Singh

C. Short answers:

1. In 1856, the Enfield rifle was introduced in the Indian Army. The cartridges of the rifle were smeared with grease and covered with caps, which had to be bitten off before use. The sepoys believed that the grease was made from the fat of animals that would hurt the religious sentiments of both the Hindus and the Muslims. So, they revolted against the use of the new cartridges.

2. The Doctrine of Lapse reduced the native kings and princes to mere subordinates. Using this expansionist policy, the British refused to recognise the right of an adopted son to the throne and annexed states where the ruler died without leaving a son to succeed him. Satara, Jhansi, Sambalpur, Nagpur and Awadh were some of the states that were annexed by the British through this policy.

3. The artisans and craftsmen were ruined by some of the economic policies of the British. The large-scale import of cheap British-manufactured goods disrupted sales of handmade Indian goods which were comparatively more expensive. As a result, the demand for handicrafts decreased. Due to another commercial policy, Indian goods were subjected to very heavy duties when sold in England. Thus neither craftsmen nor merchants stood to make profits from export.

4. The General Service Enlistment Act (1856) made it mandatory for new recruits to serve overseas. This was a taboo for Hindus. The British forbade wearing sectarian marks such as tilak, turban or bread. The final blow was the introduction of Enfield rifle whose cartridges were supposedly greased with the fat of animals that were forbidden to Hindus and Muslims.

5. The Revolt of 1857 marked an end to the rule of the East India Company. In 1858, the administration was taken over by Queen Victoria. The Board of control and Directors were replaced by the secretary of state. The

Governor-General was made subordinate to the secretary of state and given the title of Viceroy. The army was also reorganised. The Revolt sowed the first seeds of nationalism among people.

D. Long answers-

1. Various British land revenue policies made the lives of peasants miserable. High rates of revenue and force collection of taxes by Zamindars created immense dissatisfaction. Even when crops failed due to droughts, taxes were not waived off. The peasants often lost their rights on land and had to work as bonded labourers on plantations of cash crops set up by the British. The importance given to cash crops and the negligence towards new methods of agriculture or irrigation further weakened the agrarian set-up. The subsequent famines added to the grievances of Indian farmers.

2. The Revolt of 1857 was the clearest expression of popular resistance against an oppressive rule that wanted to retain control over India at all costs. It is called the 'First War of Independence' as it registered the participation of peasants, craftsmen, soldiers, artisans, noble and rulers. The uprising united Hindus and Muslims across the nation through one common feature- their hatred for the British. Though the revolt failed to achieve the desired goal, it united, though in a limited way, many sections of Indian society for a common cause and sowed the seeds of Indian nationalism.

3. The Revolt failed for many reasons. Most of the leaders were motivated by their personal gains, rather than love for their country, and lacked foresight or strategic planning. The rebels had no centralised planning or coordination plans. They failed to capitalise on their gains. Moreover, their outdated weapons could not match the sophisticated British weapons.

4. This should be a subjective answer

5. The British used utmost brutality and ruthlessness to suppress the revolt of 1857, which lasted for nearly a year. Governor General Lord Canning mobilised all his forces and utilised his best Commanders such as John Lawrence, Campbell, Outram, Neill, Rose and Havlock. The British burnt down villages and resorted to public hangings and blowing people by tying them to the mouth of cannons. Through the brutality of their methods they wanted to scare people from repeating such a movement.

<https://youtu.be/8HEI9E70SxU>

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[https://youtu.be/g\\_5guJ5EOJg](https://youtu.be/g_5guJ5EOJg)

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