

A. Multiple choice questions.

Answers:

1. b Kamini Ray
- 2.a. Mahatma Gandhi
3. d.1829
4. c. Dr. BR Ambedkar
5. c. 1889
6. a. Jotiba phule
7. b. Lord Bentinck

B. Match the following:

1. d. Gandhiji
2. a. Jotiba Phule
- 3.b. KVeerasalingam
4. e. Dr. BR Ambedkar
5. c. Periyar Ramaswami

C. Answer these questions in about 50-70 words.

1. Female infanticide was prevalent in India society in this century. Polygamy was common, as were child marriage resulting in young girls becoming windows. Windows were ostracised and sati was practised. The dowry system was prevalent so girls from poor families remained unmarried or committed suicide. Women did not have access to education and were unaware of their rights. They did not have the right to inherit property.

2. Notable literary figures were Toru Dittos, Swarnakumari Devi, Kamini Ray, Pandita Ramabai, Savitri Phule and Begum Rokeya Sakhawat.

3. Some measures legal measures taken to emancipate women were as follows:

- . Sati was banned in 1829.
- . Slavery was declared illegal in 1843.
- . Window remarriage was legalised in 1856.
- . Intercast marriages were legalised in 1872.
- . The Sharda Act (or the Child marriage Restraint Act) of 1929 the marriageable age of girls to boys to 18.

Women were encouraged to be educated and were given the right to inherit property.

4. Mahatma Gandhi founded the Harijan Sevak Sangh, which was initially known as the national untouchability League. According to Gandhi, the inhuman institution of untouchability had no sanction in the

hindu scriptures. It was Gandhiji who coined the term Harijan and started a magazine called Harijan in 1933. He assigned utmost importance to the removal of Untouchability, declaring that this was no less important than the political struggle for freedom.

5. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar insisted on the necessity of separate electorates for the oppressed classes, which Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress were against. This was the cause of dissent between the two, although both were vehemently against the practice of Untouchability. This dissent was resolved through the Poona Pact which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the oppressed classes, but increased the seats reserved for them in the legislatures.

D. Long answers :

1. Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidhyasagar were great advocates of modern education and emancipation of women to achieve social transformation and equality. Their dedicated efforts resulted in the eradication of various social evils like Sati, child marriage and female infanticide. To raise the status of women, they preached in favour of widow remarriage. They were deeply interested in making modern education available to women and they also advocated an equal share for women in inheritance of property.

2. Sati and untouchability were two major social evils. A widow who burnt herself on her husband's funeral pyre was revered as a Sati. Raja Ram Mohan Roy proved through various ancient religious texts that nowhere was such a practice recommended and in 1829, the Governor General of India, Lord Bentinck, declared the practice of Sati was illegal.

Untouchability was another social evil. According to the caste system Shudras were regarded as untouchables. The Indian Constitution of 1950 abolished untouchability and forbade restrictions on the use of Wells, tanks, bathing Ghats or on the access of shops, restaurants, hotels and Cinemas.

3. Dr. Ambedkar organised the All India Scheduled Castes Federation to fight caste oppression. On returning from London School of Economics, he started a weekly called Mooknayak to criticise orthodox beliefs. He also founded the Bahishkrit Hitakarni Sabha to promote education for the oppressed. Between 1926 and 1935, he led non-violent protest to arrest the right of untouchables to enter temples and to draw water from public Wells and tanks. Ambedkar wanted separate electorates for the oppressed classes, but had to settle for an increase in the seats reserved for them in the Legislatures.

4. Many social reformers fought to give everyone equal rights in society. Jyotiba Phule founded Satyashodhak Samaj. His wife Savitribai Phule opened a school for untouchable girls. Gopal Hari Deshmukh attacked the priestly class and the caste system. Ram Balkrishna Jaikar and Ranade formed Prarthana Samaj. Kandukuri Veeresalingam encouraged inter-caste marriages. Periyar Ramaswami founded Dravid Kazhgam which fought for the reservation of government jobs for the Dalits resulting in the first amendment in the Indian Constitution to safeguard the rights of discriminated Indians. Sri Narayana Guru founded the Shri Narayan Dharma Paripalana Yogam and laid the foundation of many temples without the image of Gods and goddesses. Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission to propagate the teachings that no religion advocates suppression of people. Mahatma Gandhi started a magazine called Harijan as well as the Harijan Sevak Sangh. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar organised the All India Scheduled Caste Federation and started a weekly called Mooknayak as well as Bahishkrit Hitakarni Sabha. He led non-violent protests to arrest the right of the untouchables. Dr. Ambedkar insisted on the necessity of separate electorates but this was opposed by the Congress and only the reserved seats in the legislatures were increased as a result of all these efforts the Indian Constitution of 1950 abolished untouchability and forbade any restrictions on the use of Wells, tanks, bathing Ghats or on the access to shops, restaurants, hotels and Cinemas.

5. This should be a subjective answer.

