

Indian Economy On The Eve of Independence

1. Read the following statements carefully : (2024)

Statement 1 : Under the colonial rule, basic infrastructure (like railways, post and telegraph etc.) was developed.

Statement 2 : The real motive behind the infrastructural development in India was to strengthen the British interests.

In the light of the given statements, choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (A) Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
- (B) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
- (C) Both Statements 1 and 2 are true.
- (D) Both Statements 1 and 2 are false.

Ans. (C) Both Statements 1 and 2 are true.



Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1.1 Features of Indian Economy : Growth, Agriculture and Industry

MCQ

- During the British rule in India, Indian agricultural output witnessed stagnation due to _____.
(a) Decline in handicrafts
(b) Drain of Indian wealth
(c) Land settlement
(d) Introduction of railways (2023)
- Under the British rule, commercialisation of agriculture resulted in shifting of agricultural production from _____ crops to _____ crops.
(a) Cash, food (b) Cotton, jute
(c) Food, cash (d) Jute, food (2023)
- Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct alternative.
Statement I : Zamindari was introduced by the British, to ensure proper control over the revenue system in India.
Statement II : Zamindars were given full freedom to collect and keep the rent collected by them.
(a) Both statements are correct.
(b) Both statements are incorrect.
(c) Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect.
(d) Statement II is correct but statement I is incorrect. (Term-I, 2021-22) **U**
- Identify the correct statement from the following.
(a) India developed sound industrial base under the colonial rule.
(b) India had very developed capital goods industries structure on the eve of independence.
(c) Under the colonial rule, India generated exports surplus.
(d) The real motive of development of infrastructure under the British rule was to ensure development of India. (Term-I, 2021-22)
- From the following, identify the incorrect statement in the light of India's pre-independence occupational structure.
(a) Agricultural sector accounted for the largest share of workforce.

- (b) Industrial and service sector grew at a faster rate than the agriculture sector.
- (c) Agriculture sector was marked with disguised unemployment.
- (d) Unbalanced growth was created due to unequal distribution of workforce. (Term-I, 2021-22)

1.2 Trade, Demography and Infrastructure

MCQ

- On the eve of independence, India's demographic condition was characterised by which of the following statement?
(a) Low level of literacy, low mortality rates and high life expectancy.
(b) High level of literacy, high mortality rates and low life expectancy.
(c) Low level of literacy, high mortality rates and high life expectancy.
(d) Low level of literacy, high mortality rates and low life expectancy. (Term-I, 2021-22) **An**
- Study the following statements Assertion (A) and Reason (R) :
Assertion (A) : During colonial rule, both mortality rates and infant mortality rates were very high.
Reason (R) : British never paid any heed towards improvement of public health facilities in India.
(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true but R is false.
(d) A is false but R is true. (2021 C)

VSA (1 mark)

- Opening of _____ canal significantly reduced the cost of transportation of goods between Britain and India. (2021 C)
- Define "Tariffs". (2021 C)
- Discuss briefly any two salient features of India's pre-independence occupational structure. (2020)

CBSE Sample Questions

1.1 Features of Indian Economy : Growth, Agriculture and Industry

MCQ

- Prior to India's independence, the stagnation in the agricultural sector was mainly caused by _____.
(a) investment in technology
(b) investment in agriculture facilities
(c) advanced infrastructural facilities
(d) land settlement system (Term-I, 2021-22)

1.2 Trade, Demography and Infrastructure

MCQ

- Identify, which of the following indicates the adverse impact of British rule in India.
(a) Introduction of communication networks in India
(b) Change in composition of India's foreign trade

- (c) Introduction of modern administrative system in India
(d) Introduction of railways in India (2022-23)
3. Arrange the following event in the correct chronological order :
(i) The year of great divide
(ii) Establishment of Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)
(iii) Introduction of Railways in India by the British
(iv) Opening of Suez Canal
(a) (iv) → (ii) → (i) → (iii)
(b) (i) → (iv) → (iii) → (ii)
(c) (ii) → (iii) → (iv) → (i)
(d) (iii) → (iv) → (ii) → (i) (Term-I, 2021-22) **R**
4. Identify the correct statement from the following
(a) Restrictive policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the colonial government adversely affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade.
(b) Effective trade policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the colonial government favourably affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade.
(c) Liberal policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the colonial government adversely affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade.
- (d) Restrictive policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the colonial government favourably affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade. (Term-I, 2021-22)
5. India entered _____ stage of demographic transition after the year 1921. **R**
(a) fourth (b) second
(c) third (d) first (2020-21)
6. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : India became an exporter of primary products and an importer of finished consumer and capital goods produced in Britain.
Reason (R) : Restrictive policies of commodity production, trade and tariff, pursued by the colonial government adversely affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade.
In the context to the above two statements which of the following is correct:
(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true but R is false
(d) A is false but R is true (2020-21) **AB**

Detailed SOLUTIONS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

- (c) : Land settlement
- (c) : Food, cash
- (c) : Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect. Zamindars kept 10/11th of revenue collected by them and the remaining to the government.
- (c) : Under the colonial rule, India generated exports surplus.
- (b) : Industrial and service sector grew at a faster rate than the agriculture sector.
- (d) : Low level of literacy, high mortality rates and low life expectancy.

Related Theory

⇒ Population census is a detailed estimation of population size, along with complete demographic profile of the country.

- (a) : Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Suez
- Tariffs are defined as a tax imposed on the goods imported from abroad so as to make them expensive and discourage their usage in the domestic market.

- The occupational structure of India on the eve of independence had the following two main features :
(i) Predominance of agriculture sector : The agricultural sector accounted for the largest share of workforce with approximately three-fourths of the workforce depending on agriculture, directly or indirectly.
(ii) Growing regional variation : Due to rise of manufacturing and service sector in some parts of India (like Madras, Bombay and Bengal Presidencies) the dependency ratio of workforce on agricultural sector declined.

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- (d) : Land settlement system (0.80)
- (b) : Change in composition of India's foreign trade (1)
- (d) : (iii) → (iv) → (ii) → (i) (0.80)
- (a) : Restrictive policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the colonial government adversely affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade. (0.80)
- (b) : second (1)
- (a) : Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. (1)