

# Chapter 1 – Indian Economy on the Eve of Independence

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## Question 1

When was the 1st census data compiled during the British Raj?

- 1882
- 1881
- 1981
- 1985

**Answer:** 1881

## Question 2

What was the life expectancy during British India and what is it today?

**Answer:** As per the government issued data, life expectancy during British India was 32 years and today it is 68 years.

## Question 3

Mention 1 significance of Suez canal.

**Answer:** The Suez Canal was opened in the year 1869, which drastically reduced the cost of transportation of the goods between Britain and India.

## Question 4

When were the Railways introduced in India?

- 1830
- 1860
- 1853
- 1900

**Answer:** 1853

## Question 5

What was IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) during British India?

**Answer:** It was 218 per 1000

## Question 6

What is Muslin?

**Answer:** Muslin is considered as one of the best fabrics that are available today. It is the softest and purest fabric across the globe. It was originated years ago, and this fabric got the name from a British Indian Port known as Maisolos.

### **Question 7**

In which year were the Iron and Steel industries began?

- 19th Century
- 17th Century
- 20th Century
- 14th Century

**Answer:** 20th Century

### **Question 8**

Which industries were adversely affected during the partition of India?

**Answer:** The Textile and Jute industries

### **Question 9**

What is the export surplus?

**Answer:** The total amount of goods and services that a nation exports that is in excess of the commodities and services its imports is known as export services.

### **Question 10**

When did the commercialisation of agriculture begin in India?

**Answer:** The commercialisation of agriculture begin in India during the British Rule.

### **Question 11**

What are the changes that agriculture has brought in India?

**Answer:** The notion of railways was raised in the early 1830s. They had initiated to link the 3 ports of Madras, Bombay and Kolkata by a railway line. It has certainly helped India in cracking both the cultural and geographical barriers and the people could travel long distances.

### **Question 12**

Write a note on Zamindari system in India.

**Answer:** Zamindari system was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in India, in the year 1793 via the Permanent Settlement Act (PSA). It was introduced in the provinces of Varanasi, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. The Zamindars were considered and recognised as the landlords as long as they paid the revenue to the East India Company regularly.

British primarily adopted 3 types of land tenure systems. Namely:

- **Zamindari system:** On an average 19% of the total area under the British rule – Benaras, NWFP divisions, Bihar and Bengal.
- **Ryotwari system:** Covered about 51% of the area under the British rule – Madras, Bombay and Assam.
- **Mahalwari system:** Covered 30% under the British rule – Major parts of NWFP, central provinces and Punjab.

### Question 13

Name a few individuals who tried to estimate colonial India's per capita income.

**Answer:** Some individuals like – Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Desai, Shirras, Findlay, V.K.R.V. Rao and William Digby tried to estimate such figures.

### Question 14

How did the export surplus lead to an economic drain of wealth during the colonial rule?

**Answer:** Export surplus was an instrument to perpetuate the 'drain of wealth' from India to Britain. The surplus amount that was earned by India through exports was siphoned off to the colonial British under various expenses such as 'home charges' or the military payments or remittances of British residents and officials in India to Britain.

### Question 15

What was the % of labour that was employed in the manufacturing and service sector in pre-independent India?

**Answer:** 10% of the workforce was engaged in manufacturing and 18 % was engaged in the service sector.

### Question 16

What is GDP?

**Answer:** Gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all the finished commodities and services manufactured within a nation's frontiers in a particular time period. Though GDP is normally measured on an annual basis, it can be computed on a quarterly basis as well.