

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SR. SEC. SCHOOL

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Session: 2024-2025

CLASS: 8

SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: HISTORY

Rural Life Under British India

● VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS.

1) Explain the term absentee landlords.

Zamindars who lived in the cities and came to the villages only for the collection of rent, were called absentee landlords.

2) Why were the British interested in the production of cash crops?

Production of cash crops enabled the British to make a lot of profit and they were in high demand in Europe.

3) Make a list of crops which enabled the British to make profits.

Cotton, Opium, Cotton, tea and Sugarcane.

4) Write two ways in which moneylenders exploited the peasants.

Two ways through which moneylenders exploited the peasants.

1. Charged with high interest rates.

2. By false accountings and forgings.

5) Why did the British start opium production?

The British came up with corrupt plan of producing opium in India and exporting it into China to finance their tea-trade.

● SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS.

1) What was the impact of the Permanent Settlement on the zamindars of Bengal?

a) This helped the British to do financial planning. The revenue arrangement ensured that the company got a fixed amount on regular basis.

b) The zamindars were made permanent and hereditary land owners.

c) The British had fixed the land revenue at a very high rate and many zamindars could not pay the amount.

2) Which system of land revenue was introduced by Thomas Munro? Explain the two main features of the revenue system.

The Ryotwari Settlement was introduced by Thomas Munro in Madras, Berar, Bombay and Assam in 1820.

Features of Ryotwari System

1. The peasants were recognised as the owners of the land.
2. The land was not taken away from the peasants as long as they paid the revenue.

3) How did Indigo planters exploit the farmers?

- The farmers got a very low price for the indigo.
- The cycle of loans were never ended.
- The farmers were forced by the planters to produce indigo on their most fertile land.
- The farmers were forced to sign the contract.

4) Why did the Moplahs revolted against the zamindars?

- 1) Exploitative land revenue systems, the oppression of the zamindars and the atrocities of the moneylenders led to a series of revolt by the peasants.
- 2) The peasants of Kerala called the Moplahs revolted in 1860's and 1870's due to the increasing burden of taxation.
- 3) This was a rebellion against the rich landlords.

● **LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS.**

1) Explain the main features of zamindari system.

Features of Permanent Settlement

1. The zamindars of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were made hereditary owners of the entire land in their zamindari. In return, they had to collect rent from the peasants and pay a fixed amount of revenue to the company.
2. The amount to be paid was fixed as it was not be increase in future.
3. As long as the zamindar paid the land revenue, he had hereditary rights over his zamindari or landholding.

2) What was Mahalwari system? What was its impact

The Mahalwari System was introduced by a British officer, Holt Mackenzie in Punjab, North-West provinces and Awadh. In this system, a settlement was made with a group of villages collectively called Mahal. The village headman used to collect revenue from the village and pay it to the company.

Impact of Mahalwari System:

1. In this arrangement also, the big and powerful zamindars dominated and exploited the smaller and the poor peasants.
2. Many small farmers were deprived of ownership of their land by the rich landlords or moneylenders of the villages.
3. Thus, there was a concentration of land and authority in the hands of a few rich landlords.

3) List down the impacts of the Ryotwari System.

Impacts of Ryotwari System:

1. Even though the ryots had to pay land revenue directly to the British, they were exploited.
2. The British fixed the land revenue at a high rate and the ryots were often forced to take loans from the moneylenders who cheated on them and often took away their land.
3. Unable to pay the land revenue, many peasants fled to the countryside and villages became deserted in many regions.
4. The British expected that the new system would transform peasants into enterprising farmers but this did not happen.

4) 'Commercialization of agriculture was a boon for the company, but a bane for the peasants.' Justify the statement.

Commercialization of agriculture was a boon for the company but as far as the peasants were concerned, they were ruined. Production of the cash crops enabled the British to make a lot of profit while the peasants were brutally exploited. They were forced to cultivate cash crops like Indigo, Cotton and Opium.

● **MULTIPLE CHOICE TYPE QUESTIONS:**

- a) (ii)
- b) (iii)
- c) (i)
- d) (ii)
- e) (ii)

● **FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

- a) Non-payment
- b) Headman
- c) Bihar
- d) Mahatma Gandhi
- e) Indigo

● **TRUE/FALSE**

- a) False
- b) True
- c) False
- d) False
- e) True