

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SR. SEC. SCHOOL
9th Avenue, I.P Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092
Session 2026-27

CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: History	CH-5
-------------	---------------------	----------------	------

INDIA UNDER COLONIAL RULE -II

A. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. The large-scale closure of Indian traditional industries under British rule is termed:
Answer: ✓ (iii) Deindustrialisation
2. The English Education Act (Macaulay's Minute) was introduced in:
Answer: ✓ (ii) 1835 CE
3. The primary purpose of railway construction under British rule was to:
Answer: ✓ (iii) transport raw materials and move troops
4. The Santhal Revolt (1855–1856) was led by:
Answer: ✓ (iii) tribal communities resisting exploitation
5. The Indigo Revolt occurred due to:
Answer: ✓ (ii) forceful cultivation of indigo instead of food crops
6. The immediate trigger of the Great Rebellion of 1857 was:
Answer: ✓ (iii) greased Enfield rifle cartridges
7. After the revolt of 1857, India came under the direct rule of:
Answer: ✓ (iii) British Crown

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The closure of traditional industries and unemployment of artisans is called deindustrialisation.
2. English education aimed to create a class of Brown Englishmen.
3. The first railway line in India in 1853 connected Bombay and Thane.
4. Railways and telegraphs were built mainly to support economic and military needs.
5. The Santhal Revolt took place in Rajmahal Hills.
6. The Indigo Revolts were carried out by peasants in Bengal and Bihar.
7. The Government of India Act 1858 ended the rule of the East India Company.

C. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False statements:

1. Traditional Indian industries flourished under British rule. **[False (F)]**
2. Macaulay believed that Indian languages were inferior and should be replaced by English education. **[True (T)]**
3. The telegraph helped the British suppress the 1857 revolt more quickly. **[True (T)]**
4. The Indigo Revolts were supported by local writers and intellectuals. **[True (T)]**

5. Railways were financed by British capital for Indian welfare. **[False (F)]**
6. The Sepoys formed the main force in the 1857 rebellion. **[True (T)]**
7. The rebellion of 1857 led to the beginning of direct British rule known as the British Raj. **[True (T)]**

D. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. What is meant by deindustrialisation?

Deindustrialisation is the process where traditional industries are destroyed due to competition from foreign machine-made goods.

2. What was the purpose of Macaulay's Minute on Education?

The purpose was to introduce Western education through the English medium to create a class of educated Indians who would assist in British administrative administration while adopting British tastes and values.

3. Why did the British build railways and telegraphs in India?

They were built primarily for colonial interests: to quickly transport raw materials to ports, distribute British manufactured goods into interior markets, and rapidly mobilize troops to control revolts.

4. Who were the Santhals, and what were they protesting against?

The Santhals were a tribal agricultural community of the Rajmahal Hills who revolted against severe exploitation, unfair taxes, and land dispossession by British officials, zamindars, and moneylenders.

5. Why were peasants forced to grow indigo?

Peasants were forced to grow indigo because British needed blue dye for cloth factories and made huge profits from it.

6. What triggered the Great Rebellion of 1857?

The immediate trigger was the introduction of the new Enfield rifle cartridges rumored to be greased with cow and pig fat, which offended the religious sentiments of Hindu and Muslim soldiers.

7. What was the main consequence of the revolt of 1857?

It ended the rule of the East India Company and transferred the direct administrative governance of India to the British Crown under the Government of India Act 1858.

E. Answer the following questions in detail :

1. Explain the reasons behind the decline of India's traditional industries.

- **Cheap Machine Goods:** Cheap, machine-made British clothes flooded Indian markets, making it hard for handmade Indian goods to compete.
- **Loss of Royal Support:** Indian kings and nawabs lost power, so Indian weavers and artisans lost their main buyers and patrons.
- **Unfair British Taxes:** Heavy taxes were placed on Indian goods exported to Britain, while British products entered India almost tax-free.
- **Export of Raw Materials:** The British took raw materials like cotton directly to Britain, causing a shortage and high prices for local craftsmen.

2. Discuss the impact of English education on Indian society.

- **Spread of Modern Ideas:** It introduced Indians to modern concepts like democracy, freedom, equality, and rational thinking.

- **Rise of Social Reformers:** Educated Indians began questioning harmful social practices such as Sati and the caste system.
- **Rise of Nationalism:** English acted as a common language, connecting people across different regions to unite against British rule.
- **Decline of Traditional Learning:** Traditional Indian languages, gurukuls, and madrasas were neglected in favor of English schooling.

3. Analyse how railways and telegraphs helped strengthen British rule.

- **Quick Troop Movement:** Railways allowed the British army to quickly move soldiers to any part of India to crush revolts.
- **Instant Communication:** The telegraph allowed officials to send urgent military orders and intelligence within minutes.
- **Easy Resource Extraction:** Railways made it simple to carry raw materials from villages to ports for export to Britain.
- **Wider Market Access:** British factory-made goods were easily distributed deep into Indian interior markets using trains.

4. Why is the Great Rebellion of 1857 considered a landmark event?

- **End of Company Rule:** It brought an end to the East India Company's rule and placed India under the direct control of the British Queen.
- **First Major United Fight:** It brought together diverse groups—soldiers, peasants, and rulers against foreign rule on a large scale.
- **Changes in Army and Policy:** The British reorganized their army, stopped annexing Indian states, and reduced interference in religious matters.
- **Foundation of Freedom Movement:** It inspired future freedom fighters and laid the foundation for the Indian national movement.

5. Evaluate the positive and negative legacy of colonial rule in India.

- **Positive –**
 - a. **Infrastructure & Reforms:** The British built modern railways, telegraph lines, roads, and modern educational institutions.
 - b. **Social Modernisation:** New laws helped curb rigid social evils like Sati and child marriage.
- **Negative –**
 - a. **Economic Ruin:** India's traditional industries were destroyed, causing mass poverty, debt, and frequent famines.
 - b. **Divide and Rule:** British policies created deep religious and social divisions that permanently scarred the country.