



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: History
Chapter 4 Worksheet: 5	Topic: The Colonial Era in India	Year :2026-27

I	Choose the correct option: -
Q 1	Which European power was the first to arrive in India for trade? A. British B. French C. Portuguese D. Dutch
Q 2	The British introduced railways in India mainly to: A. Help Indians travel B. Promote tourism C. Transport raw materials and troops D. Improve communication
Q 3	Which of the following was a major economic impact of colonial rule in India? A. Development of Indian industries B. Decline of cotton industries C. Increase in Indian exports D. Free trade for Indian merchants
Q 4	What was one major reason for the devastating Bengal Famine of 1770–1772? A. Decline of European trade B. Harsh revenue collection by the East India Company C. Shortage of British soldiers D. Closure of Indian ports
Q 5	Who led the Santhal Rebellion of 1855–1856? A. Nana Saheb and Tantia Tope B. Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu C. Mangal Pandey and Bahadur Shah Zafar D. Mir Jafar and Siraj-ud-daulah
Q 6	The British introduced land policies that favour outsiders over the traditional inhabitants of a region. The local tribal community then rises in rebellion. Which uprising from the chapter best matches this situation? A. Indigo Revolt B. Kol Uprising C. Vellore Mutiny D. Great Rebellion of 1857
Q 7	Assertion (A): The Bengal Famine of 1770–1772 became extremely devastating partly because of the East India Company's harsh revenue policies. Reason (R): The Company continued to demand high cash taxes from farmers regardless of the harvest conditions. A. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. C. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false. D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 8	Assertion (A): The British East India Company used the strategy of 'divide and rule' to strengthen its control in India. Reason (R): Robert Clive conspired with Mir Jafar, who betrayed the Nawab of Bengal during the Battle of Plassey. A. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. C. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false. D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
II	Short answer questions: -
Q 9	What was the role of the East India Company in the conquest of India? • The East India Company (EIC) played a major role in conquering India through political manipulation, dishonest trade practices, and economic exploitation. • Transformation from Traders to Political Power Brokers: The EIC began as a trading company that initially hid its imperial ambitions, establishing coastal footholds while pretending to be mere traders. • They used a "divide and rule" strategy, inserting themselves into local succession disputes and regional rivalries as power brokers rather than foreign invaders.
Q 10	Explain the Doctrine of Lapse. • The Doctrine of Lapse was an annexation policy introduced by the British East India Company in the 19th century. • Rule of Annexation: Any princely state would be automatically annexed by the British if its ruler died without a natural male heir. • Impact: This policy allowed the British to rapidly expand their territorial control, but it caused deep resentment among Indians and was a major factor contributing to the Great Rebellion of 1857.
Q 11	What was the immediate cause of the 1857 rebellion? • The immediate cause of the 1857 rebellion was the spread of rumours that rifle cartridges were greased with cow and pig fat. • These rumours deeply offended the religious sensibilities of both Hindu and Muslim sepoys.
Q 12	How did the British use education as a colonial tool? • Creating 'Brown Englishmen': Following Macaulay's 1835 Minute, the goal was to produce a class that was "Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect". • Providing Cheap Labour: This system created a pool of clerks and minor officials to staff the lower ranks of the colonial administration at a much lower cost than British personnel. • Side-lining Traditional Knowledge: The new system replaced diverse indigenous traditions like paṭhashalas and madrasas, disconnecting Indians from their own cultural heritage.
III	Long answer questions: -
Q 13	Discuss the economic impact of British colonial rule on Indian agriculture. • The economic impact of British colonial rule on Indian agriculture was devastating and can be summarized in three main points: • Harsh Taxation: The British imposed high cash taxes regardless of harvest conditions, often increasing demands even during droughts, which forced farmers into debt and led to catastrophic famines. • Forced Commercialization: Peasants were often coerced into growing cash crops like indigo instead of food, which trapped them in a cycle of debt slavery and poverty.

	• Overburdened Land: The deliberate ruin of India's manufacturing industries forced millions of unemployed artisans back into subsistence agriculture, creating unsustainable pressure on overtaxed land.
Q 14	Describe the causes of tribal uprisings with a few examples. Causes of Tribal Uprisings • Loss of Forest Rights: The British declared forests as government property and restricted tribal communities from hunting, collecting forest produce, and practising shifting cultivation. • Land Alienation: Tribal lands were taken away by landlords, moneylenders, and the British, forcing many tribes to lose their traditional livelihoods. • Heavy Taxes and Exploitation: High taxes, forced labour, and exploitation by revenue officials and moneylenders caused widespread hardship. • Interference with Tribal Customs: British laws and administration ignored tribal traditions, self-governance, and cultural practices. Examples of Tribal Uprisings • Santhal Rebellion (1855–56): Led by Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu, the Santhals revolted against British officials, landlords, and moneylenders. • Kol Uprising (1831–32): The Kols rebelled against the exploitation of tribal lands by outsiders supported by the British.
Q 15	Explain the major causes of the Great Rebellion of 1857. • The Great Rebellion of 1857 was one of the largest uprisings against British rule in India. Its main causes were: • Political Causes: The British annexed many Indian states through policies such as the Doctrine of Lapse and removed several Indian rulers from power, creating widespread resentment. • Economic Causes: Heavy land taxes, exploitation of farmers, destruction of traditional industries, and unfair trade policies caused great hardship to peasants, artisans, and landlords. • Military Causes: Indian soldiers (sepoys) were paid less than British soldiers, faced discrimination, and were unhappy with British service rules. • Religious and Social Causes: Many Indians feared that the British were interfering with their religious beliefs and social customs, leading to widespread suspicion. • Immediate Cause: The introduction of the new Enfield rifle cartridges, believed to be greased with the fat of cows and pigs, offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. Refusing to use these cartridges led to the outbreak of the rebellion.
IV	Case Study- Based Questions: -
Q 16	The Bengal Famine of 1770 was one of the earliest disasters under British rule, caused by harsh revenue demands, crop failure, and grain export during the crisis. Historians like William Digby and Dadabhai Naoroji criticized the East India Company's policies, which led to the death of nearly one-third of Bengal's population. 1. What led to the Bengal famine of 1770? The famine was caused by crop failure, harsh revenue demands by the East India Company, and the export of grain during the crisis. 2. How did the East India Company respond to the famine? The East India Company continued to demand heavy land revenue and allowed grain exports, making the suffering of the people worse. 3. What do the historians say about British revenue practices? Historians like William Digby and Dadabhai Naoroji criticised the British revenue practices as harsh and exploitative, arguing that they worsened the poverty and suffering of Indians.