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## **Modern Indian History**

Session- 1  
Unit 1 and 2

**Q1.** The factors that led Europeans to the quest for a sea route to India were:

1. Arab domination of land and sea routes made it difficult for Europeans to establish direct contact with India.
2. During the Renaissance, the economic development of many regions of Europe was declining rapidly, making it difficult for Europeans to purchase oriental goods at high prices.

Which among the above statement(s) is/ are true?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

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**Q2.** Which of the following is/are true about the Treaty of Tordesillas?

1. Under the treaty, the rulers of Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world between them by an imaginary line in the Atlantic.
2. Under the treaty, Portugal could claim and occupy everything to the west of the line, while Spain could claim everything to the east.

Select the correct answer given below

- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both
  - (d) None
-

Q3. Blue Water Policy was the vision of:

- (a) Alfonso de Albuquerque
  - (b) Francisco De Almeida
  - (c) Nino da Cunha
  - (d) Pedro Alvarez Cabral
- 

Q4. Consider the following statements about Farrukhsiyar's Farmans

1. The East India Company's imports and exports were exempted from additional customs duties excepting the annual payment of 3,000 rupees in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
2. The Company was permitted to issue dastaks.
3. It was decreed that the coins of the Company minted at Bombay were to have currency throughout India.

Which among the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
-

Q5. Consider the following statements about First Carnatic War

1. The First Carnatic War was an extension of the Anglo-French War in Europe which was caused by the Austrian War of Succession.
2. The First Carnatic War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Peace of Paris, bringing the Austrian War of Succession to a conclusion.

Which among the above statement(s) is/are true?

- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both
  - (d) None
- 

Q6. Consider the following statements

1. The first Battle of Panipat in 1526 was between Babur and Hemu.
2. The Second Battle of Panipat in 1556 was between Akbar and Ibrahim Lodi.
3. The Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 was between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali.

Which among the above statement(s) is/ are true?

- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1 and 2 only
-

Q7. Consider the following statements

1. The Successor States were the states set up by the rebels against the Mughal empire.
2. The New States were the Mughal provinces that turned into states after breaking away from the empire without challenging the sovereignty of the Mughal ruler and remaining virtually independent.
3. Independent Kingdoms were those states that came into existence primarily due to the destabilisation of the Mughal control over the provinces

Which among the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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Q8. Consider the following pairs:

**Maratha Family**      **Associated Region**

- |             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 1. Gaekwad  | Nagpur  |
| 2. Bhonsle  | Baroda  |
| 3. Holkars  | Indore  |
| 4. Sindhias | Gwalior |
| 5. Peshwa   | Nashik  |

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All five pairs

Q9. With reference to the British administrative policy during the late 18th century and the late 19th century, consider the following statements:

1. Warren Hastings followed a policy of ring-fence, which aimed at creating buffer zones to defend the Company's frontiers.
2. The subsidiary alliance system was used by Lord Wellesley, which allowed the permanent stationing of a British force within the territory of an allying Indian ruler and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance.
3. Under the doctrine of lapse policy followed by Lord Dalhousie, the adopted son could be the heir to his foster father's private property, but not the state; it was for the paramount power (the British) to decide whether to bestow the state on the adopted son or to annex it.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q10. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Battle of Buxar—Mir Jafar vs. Clive
- (b) Battle of Wandiwash—French vs. East India Company
- (c) Battle of Chilianwala—Dalhousie vs. Marathas
- (d) Battle of Kharda—Nizam vs. East India Company

Q11. Who among the following was the first European to initiate the policy of taking part in the quarrels of Indian princes with a view to acquire territories?

- (a) Robert Clive
  - (b) Dupleix
  - (c) Albuquerque
  - (d) Warren Hastings
- 

Q12. Consider the following princely States of the British rule in India:

1. Jhansi
2. Sambalpur
3. Satara

The correct chronological order in which they were annexed by the British is:

- (a) 1, 2, 3
  - (b) 1, 3, 2
  - (c) 3, 2, 1
  - (d) 3, 1, 2
-

Q13. Consider the following

1. The officials of the Company made rampant misuse of its trade privileges that adversely affected the finances of the nawab of Bengal.
2. The workers of the company stopped paying the taxes.
3. The English fortified Calcutta without the nawab's permission.

Which among the above factors led to the Battle of Plassey?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 

Q14. Arrange the following in chronological order

1. First Anglo-Burmese War
2. First Anglo-Afghan War
3. First Anglo-Maratha War
4. First Anglo-Mysore War

Select the correct code from below

- (a) 1-2-3-4
  - (b) 4-3-1-2
  - (c) 3-1-2-4
  - (d) 2-4-1-3
-



Q15. The Treaty of Yandabo is related to

- (a) Second Anglo-Afghan War
  - (b) Third Anglo-Maratha War
  - (c) First Anglo-Burmese War
  - (d) Second Anglo-Burmese War
- 

Q16. Consider the following

1. The importance of this battle lay in the fact that not only the Nawab of Bengal but also the Mughal Emperor of India was defeated by the English.
2. The victory made the English a great power in northern India and contenders for the supremacy over the whole country.
3. This battle laid the real foundation of the English power.

The above facts are in reference to which of the following?

- (a) Battle of Plassey
  - (b) Battle of Buxar
  - (c) Battle of Kharda
  - (d) Battle of Wandiwash
- 

Q17. Consider the following

1. He organised his army on the European model with Persian words of command.
2. He is credited as the 'pioneer of rocket technology' in India.
3. He gave his support to the French soldiers in his kingdom in setting up a Jacobin Club and planted the Tree of Liberty.

The above statements depict which of the following prominent figure?

- (a) Chatrapati Shivaji
- (b) Peshwa Baji Rao I
- (c) Hyder Ali
- (d) Tipu Sultan

Q18. The Governor-General who followed a spirited "Forward" policy towards Afghanistan was:

[ UPSC 1999]

- (a) Minto
  - (b) Dufferin
  - (c) Elgin
  - (d) Lytton
- 

Q19. Who among the following Indian rulers established embassies in foreign countries on modern lines? [ UPSC 2001]

- (a) Haider Ali
  - (b) Mir Qasim
  - (c) Shah Alam II
  - (d) Tipu Sultan
- 

Q20. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the battles fought in India in the 18th Century? [2005 UPSC]

- (a) Battle of Wandiwash–Battle of Buxar–Battle of Ambur–Battle of Plassey
  - (b) Battle of Ambur–Battle of Plassey–Battle of Wandiwash–Battle of Buxar
  - (c) Battle of Wandiwash–Battle of Plassey–Battle of Ambur–Battle of Buxar
  - (d) Battle of Ambur–Battle of Buxar–Battle of Wandiwash–Battle of Plassey
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*All the best!*

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**Solutions****Q1. Answer: (a)**

**Statement 1 is correct: In 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks**, who were on the ascendant. Merchandise from India went to the European markets through Arab Muslim intermediaries. **The Red Sea trade route was a state monopoly** from which Islamic rulers earned tremendous revenues. **The land routes to India were also controlled by the Arabs**. In the circumstances, these Europeans were keen to find a direct sea route to India.

**Statement 2 is incorrect: The economic development of many regions of Europe** was also **progressing rapidly** with expansion of land under cultivation, the introduction of an improved plough, scientific crop management such as crop rotation, and increased supply of meat (which called for spices for cooking as well as for preservation). **Prosperity also grew, and with it the demand for oriental luxury goods also increased.**

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**Q2. Answer: (a)**

**Statement 1 is correct: In 1497, under the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), the rulers of Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world between them by an imaginary line in the Atlantic**, some 1,300 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands.

**Statement 2 is incorrect: Under the treaty, Portugal could claim and occupy everything to the east of the line, while Spain could claim everything to the west.** The situation was thus prepared for the Portuguese incursions into the waters around India.

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**Q3. Answer: (b)**

Almeida's vision was to make the Portuguese the master of the Indian Ocean. He opposed establishing a territorial empire in India and wanted that the Portuguese should maintain supremacy on sea and confine their activities to purely commercial transactions. This policy was known as Blue water policy. The Blue water policy was reversed by Alfonso de Albuquerque.

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**Q4. Answer: (b)****Farrukhsiyar's Farmans**

In 1715, an English mission led by John Surman to the court of the Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar secured three famous farmans, giving the Company many valuable privileges in Bengal, Gujarat and Hyderabad. The farmans thus obtained were regarded the Magna Carta of the Company. **Their important terms were:**

- **In Bengal**, the Company's imports and exports were exempted from additional customs duties excepting the annual payment of 3,000 rupees as settled earlier. **Hence statement 1 is wrong.**
  - The Company was permitted to issue dastaks (passes) for the transportation of such goods. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - The Company was permitted to rent more lands around Calcutta.
  - In Hyderabad, the Company retained its existing privilege of freedom from duties in trade and had to pay the prevailing rent only for Madras.
  - In Surat, for an annual payment of 10,000 rupees, the East India Company was exempted from the levy of all duties.
  - It was decreed that the coins of the Company minted at Bombay were to have currency **throughout the Mughal empire. Hence statement 3 is wrong.**
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**Q5. Answer: (a)****First Carnatic War (1740–48)**

**Background:** Carnatic was the name given by the Europeans to the Coromandel Coast and its hinterland. The First Carnatic War was an extension of the Anglo-French War in Europe which was caused by the Austrian War of Succession. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**Result:** The First Carnatic War ended in 1748 when the **Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle** was signed, bringing the Austrian War of Succession to a conclusion. Under the terms of this treaty, Madras was handed back to the English, and the French, in turn, got their territories in North America. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

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**Q6. Answer: (c)**

- **The first Battle of Panipat** in 1526 was between **Babur and Ibrahim Lodi**. The result of the battle laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire by ending the rule of the Delhi Sultanate.
  - **The Second Battle of Panipat** in 1556 was between **Akbar and Hemu**; it decided in favour of the continuation of the Mughal rule.
  - **The Third Battle of Panipat** in 1761 between the **Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali** put an end to the Maratha ambition of ruling over India.
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**Q7. Answer: (b)**

(i) **Successor States:** These were the Mughal provinces that turned into states after breaking away from the empire. Though they did not challenge the sovereignty of the Mughal ruler, the establishment of virtually independent and hereditary authority by their governors showed the emergence of autonomous polity in these territories. Some examples are **Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad**.

(ii) **Independent Kingdoms:** These states came into existence primarily due to the destabilisation of the Mughal control over the provinces, examples being **Mysore and the Rajput** states.

(iii) **The New States:** These were the states set up by the rebels against the Mughal empire, examples being the **Maratha, the Sikh, and the Jat** states.

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**Q8. Answer: (b)**

**Bajirao I** (1720–40), considered greatest of all the Peshwas, had started a confederacy of prominent Maratha chiefs to manage the rapidly expanding Maratha power, and to some extent appease the Kshatriya section of the Marathas (Peshwas were brahmins) led by the Senapati Dabodi. Under the arrangement of the Maratha confederacy, each prominent family under a chief was assigned a sphere of influence which he was supposed to conquer and rule, but in the name of the then Maratha king, Shahu. **The Maratha families which emerged prominent were:**

- a. Gaekwad of Baroda
- b. Bhonsle of Nagpur
- c. Holkars of Indore

- d. Sindhias of Gwalior
  - e. Peshwa of Poona
- 

**Q9. Answer: (d)**

**The Policy of Ring-Fence: Warren Hastings** took charge as the governor general at a critical period of British rule when the British were to encounter the powerful combination of the Marathas, Mysore, and Hyderabad. He followed a policy of ring-fence which aimed at creating buffer zones to defend the Company's frontiers. Broadly speaking, it was the policy of defence of their neighbours' frontiers for safeguarding their own territories.

**Subsidiary Alliance:** The subsidiary alliance system was used by **Lord Wellesley**, who was governor general from 1798–1805, to build an empire in India. Under the system, the allying Indian state's ruler was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within his territory and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance. The Indian ruler had to agree to the posting of a British resident in his court. The Indian ruler could not employ any European in his service without the prior consultation with the Company. Nor could he go to war or negotiate with any other Indian ruler without consulting the governor-general. In return for all this, the British would defend the ruler from his enemies and adopt a policy of non-interference in the internal matters of the allied state.

**Doctrine of Lapse:** In simple terms, the doctrine stated that the adopted son could be the heir to his foster father's private property, but not the state; it was for the paramount power (the British) to decide whether to bestow the state on the adopted son or to annex it. Though this policy is **attributed to Lord Dalhousie**, he was not its originator. Dalhousie showed too much zeal in enforcing this policy which had been theoretically enunciated on some previous occasions.

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**Q10. Answer: (b)**

**Battle of Wandiwash in 1760** - French were finally defeated by the English.

**Battle of Buxar (1764)** - English under Munro defeated Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-daula and Shah Alam II.

**The Battle of Chillianwala** was fought in January 1849 during the **Second Anglo-Sikh War**.

**The Battle of Kharda** took place in 1795 **between Nizam and Maratha Empire**, in which Nizam was badly defeated.

**Q11. Answer: (b)**

**Dupleix** succeeded Dumas as the French governor of Pondicherry. His ambition was to acquire for France vast territories in India. For this purpose, **he entered into relations with the native princes and adopted a style of oriental splendour in his dress and surroundings.** He built an army of native troops, called sepoy, who were trained as infantrymen in his service, that also included the famous Hyder Ali of Mysore.

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**Q12. Answer: (c)**

These princely states were annexed by **Lord Dalhousie under the Doctrine of Lapse.** Jhansi - 1854, Sambalpur- 1849 and Satara - 1848.

**Annexed Lapsed States**

It was a matter of chance that during Lord Dalhousie's term, many rulers of states died without a male issue, and seven states were annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse. The most important of these were Satara (1848), Jhansi, and Nagpur (1854). The other small states included Jaitpur (Bundelkhand), Sambhalpur (Orissa), and Baghat (Himachal Pradesh).

**Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh in 1856** after deposing Nawab Wajid Ali Shah **on the grounds of misgovernment.** Thus, **Dalhousie annexed eight states** during his eightyyear tenure (1848–56) as governor general. In these eight years, he annexed some quarter million square miles of the territory of India. His reign almost completed the process of expansion of British power in India, which began with the victory over Siraj-ud-Daulah at Plassey in 1757.

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**Q13. Answer: (d)**

**The Battle of Plassey (1757 AD): The Battle of Plassey was a decisive victory of the British East India Company over the Nawab of Bengal and his French allies on 23 June 1757.**

**Background:** The officials of the Company made rampant misuse of its trade privileges that adversely affected the nawab's finances. The English fortified Calcutta without the nawab's permission. Also, The workers of the company stopped paying the taxes. The Company further tried to mislead him and compounded their sin by giving asylum to a political fugitive, Krishna Das, son of Raj Ballabh, who had fled with immense treasures against the nawab's will. The Company, on its part, suspected that Siraj would drastically reduce its trade privileges in

collusion with the French in Bengal. Thus, when Siraj attacked and seized the English fort at Calcutta, it brought their hostility into the open.

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**Q14. Answer: (b)**

First Anglo-Burmese War (1824- 26)

First Anglo-Afghan War (1838- 42)

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775- 82)

First Anglo-Mysore War (1767- 69)

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**Q15. Answer: (c)**

**The Treaty of Yandabo, or the Yandabu Accord**, was the peace treaty that resulted in the end of the **First Anglo-Burmese War**. This treaty was signed on February 24, **1826**, after two years of the war between the British and Burmese.

**It led to the Annexation of Assam** in British India. This treaty **ended not only the most expensive war of the British in Indian territory but also led to end of independence of Burmese** in due course. **It resulted in end of the Third Burmese Empire** (which was known as terror of British India). Burma was no longer a threat to British on eastern frontiers.

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**Q16. Answer: (b)****The Battle of Buxar (1764)**

**The combined armies of Mir Kasim, the Nawab of Awadh, and Shah Alam II were defeated by the English forces under Major Hector Munro at Buxar on October 22, 1764**, in a closely contested battle. The English campaign against Mir Kasim was short but decisive.

The importance of this battle lay in the fact that not only the Nawab of Bengal but also the Mughal Emperor of India was defeated by the English. The victory made the English a great power in northern India and contenders for the supremacy over the whole country.

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**Q17. Answer: (d)**

**Tipu Sultan** was born in November 1750 to Haidar Ali and Fatima. A well-educated man, he could freely converse in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese, and Urdu. **Tipu was a great warrior (he was known as the ‘Tiger of Mysore’)** and gave maximum care to the raising and maintenance of an efficient military force. **He organised his army on the European model with Persian words of command.** Though he took the help of the French officers to train his soldiers, he never allowed them (French) to develop into a pressure group. Like his father, Tipu realised the importance of a naval force. In 1796, he set up a Board of Admiralty and planned for a fleet of 22 battleships and 20 large frigates. Three dockyards were established at Mangalore, Wajedabad, and Molidabad. However, his plans did not fructify.

**Tipu was a patron of science and technology. He is credited as the ‘pioneer of rocket technology’ in India.** He wrote a military manual explaining the operation of rockets. He was also a pioneer

in introducing sericulture to the Mysore State.

**Tipu was a great lover of democracy and a great diplomat. He gave his support to the French soldiers at Seringapatam in setting up a Jacobin Club in 1797.** He ordered a salute of 2,300 cannons and 500 rockets to celebrate the occasion. Tipu himself became a member of the Jacobin Club and allowed himself to be called **Citizen Tipu**. He planted the **Tree of Liberty** at Seringapatam.

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**Q18. Answer: (d)****Lord Lytton (1876-80)**

**The forward policy followed under the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton** was a set of foreign policies applicable to territorial ambitions and disputes in which emphasis was placed on securing control of targeted territories by invasion and annexation or by the political creation of compliant buffer states.

It became the standard policy during the Great Game, a period where the Russian and British Empires both tried to control Afghanistan either through military or political means. Lord Lytton was criticized for his aggressive pursuit of this policy as it put economic pressure on British India. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

**Q19. Answer: (d)**

Tipu Sultan established embassies in France, Turkey and Egypt on modern lines.

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**Q20. Answer: (b)**

Battle of Ambur-1749, Battle of Plassey-1757, Battle of Wandiwash-1760, Battle of Buxar-1764.

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