



CLASS - VIII SOCIAL SCIENCE NOTES SEPTEMBER

HISTORY: 5. When People Rebel

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. What was the demand of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?

To accept her adopted son to succeed the throne of the king, after the death of her husband.

2. What did the British do to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity?

Those who converted to Christianity would inherit the property of his ancestors.

3. What objections did the sepoys have to the new cartridges that they were asked to use?

Objections the sepoys had to the new cartridges were:

- The cartridges were greased with the fat of cows and pigs.
- The sepoys had to use mouth to remove the covering of the cartridges.
- They termed the cartridges to be a violation of the religious sentiments.
- Hence, they rebelled.

4. How did the last Mughal emperor live the last years of his life?

The last Mughal emperor lived a very pathetic life during the last years of his life. He was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. He and his wife were sent to prison in Rangoon. He died there after four years.

5. What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?

Reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857

1. The traditional rulers failed to develop independent leadership.
2. They also failed to have independent social, economic, and political aims of their own.
3. They fought among themselves and could not present a united front against the foreign rule.
4. A section of the people practiced inhuman social practices. They did not rise in revolt against the Britishers.

6. What impact did Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion have on the people and the ruling families?

Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion boosted the morale of the people and the ruling families. They became united to fight the British authority with double spirit.

People of the towns and villages rose up in rebellion and rallied around local leaders, zamindars and chiefs. Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the late Peshwa Baji Rao, who lived near Kanpur, gathered armed forces and expelled the British garrison from the city. He proclaimed himself Peshwa.

He declared that he was a Governor under emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. In Lucknow, Birjis Qadr, the son of the deposed Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, was proclaimed the new Nawab. He too acknowledged the suzerainty of Bahadur Shah Zafar. In Jhansi, Rani Lakshmbai joined the rebel sepoys and fought the British along with Tantia Tope, the general of Nana Saheb.

7. How did the British succeed in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh?

British succeeded in securing the submissions of the rebel landowners of Awadh:

- They provided inheritance rights to the landowners (who would enjoy traditional rights over their land).
- They were exempted from taxes.
- They were rewarded.
- They would be safe and their rights and claims would not be denied to them.

8. In what ways did the British change their policies as a result of the rebellion of 1857?

Some important changes brought by the British after the revolt were:

1. According to the Act of 1858 powers of the East India Company were transferred to the British Crown in India.

- Secretary of State was appointed for governance and Governor-General was given the title of Viceroy.
- Secretary of State was to be assisted by a council of 15 members. It was only an advisory body.
- Governor-General was answerable to the Secretary of State.

2. All rulers were made to acknowledge British Queen as Sovereign Paramount and were allowed to pass their kingdoms to their heirs.

- The proportion of Indian soldiers in the army was reduced. More soldiers were taken from Gurkhas, Sikhs and Pathans.

3. Muslims were seen held responsible for rebellion and their land was confiscated.

4. Social and religious practices were given respect.

- Zamindars and landlords were given protection and rights over their lands.

CIVICS: 4. Judiciary

I. Answer the following Questions:

- 1. The main functions of the judiciary is 'upholding the law and Enforcing Fundamental Rights'. Why do you think an independent judiciary is necessary to carry out this important function?**

The independent judiciary is necessary to carry out this function because of the following reasons:

The Independent judiciary does not work under any pressure from the legislature or the executive. It can protect the Fundamental Rights.

It works independently to give every citizen, whether rich or poor, equal rights and he/she cannot be discriminated against any other considerations.

In a situation where a politician or the executive has the power to appoint the judges, the judiciary will not be able to take independent decisions. For example, a judge appointed by a politician will not be able to judge a case against that person on its merit. Rich and powerful might try to influence the judiciary. To prevent such a situation Constitution provides for an independent Judiciary.

- 2. How do you think the Right to Constitutional Remedies connects to the idea of judicial review?**

Judicial review of court decisions is carried out when the judgment given by a court violates any constitutional provision. In the Constitution, every citizen has equal rights and none can be discriminated against. If there is any violation, the judiciary is free to review the earlier judgments even by' the Supreme Court.

- 3. Why do you think the introduction of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the 1980s is a significant step in ensuring access to justice for all?**

Before the 1980s filing of litigation into the courts was very costly.

The poor could not afford to go to courts.

Since the 1980s, the people can file their case through a letter or a telegram addressed to the Supreme Court or the High Courts without spending any money.

The Courts take it as PIL (Public Interest Litigation).

Thus, it is a significant step in ensuring access to justice to all the citizens.

- 4. Re-read excerpts from the judgment on the Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation case. Now write in your own words what the judges meant when they said that the Right to Livelihood was part of the Right to Life.**

Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation case portrays the plight of lakhs of persons who live on pavements and in slums in the city of Bombay. They constitute nearly half the population of the city. These men and women came to Court to ask for a judgment that they cannot be evicted from their shelters without being offered alternative accommodation. They rely for their rights on Article 21 of the

Constitution which guarantees that no person shall be deprived of his life except according to the procedure established by law.

They do not contend that they have a right to live on the pavements. Their contention is that they have a right to live, a right which cannot be exercised without the means of livelihood. They have no option but to flock to big cities like Bombay, which provide the means of bare subsistence. They only choose a pavement or a slum which is nearest to their place of work. Their plea is that the right to life is misleading without a right to the protection of the means by which alone life can be lived.

5. What is unpopular and controversial laws?

Laws which are passed by the Parliament by due procedure but are repressive and are opposed by a large section of society are known as unpopular laws.

Controversial laws are those which favour one section of the society against the other.