

BCM SCHOOL, BASANT AVENUE, DUGRI ROAD, LUDHIANA

Revision Assignment (Answer Key)

CLASS VIII SOCIAL SCIENCE

Question 1: Discuss the primary causes of the Revolt of 1857.

Answer: The primary causes of the Revolt of 1857 include:

- **Political Causes:** Annexation policies like the Doctrine of Lapse, which led to the displacement of many rulers and the annexation of their states by the British.
- **Economic Causes:** Exploitative revenue policies, heavy taxation, and the destruction of traditional industries which led to widespread economic distress among peasants and artisans.
- **Military Causes:** Discontent among Indian soldiers (sepoys) due to discrimination, low pay, and harsh treatment. The introduction of the Enfield rifle, which required soldiers to bite cartridges greased with cow and pig fat, offended both Hindu and Muslim religious sentiments.
- **Social and Religious Causes:** Reforms introduced by the British, such as the abolition of sati and the introduction of widow remarriage, were perceived as an interference in Indian social and religious practices.

Question 2: Explain the significance of land as a resource. What are the different uses of land?

Answer: Land is a vital resource as it provides the foundation for human life and economic activities.

Its significance includes:

- **Habitat:** It serves as the habitat for humans, plants, and animals.
- **Agriculture:** It is essential for growing crops and raising livestock.
- **Forestry:** Land supports forests that provide timber, fuel, and other forest products.
- **Industry:** Industrial activities are conducted on land, including mining and manufacturing.
- **Infrastructure:** Land is used for building infrastructure such as roads, buildings, and airports.

Question 3: How does the Indian Constitution promote secularism?

Answer: The Indian Constitution promotes secularism in several ways:

- **Fundamental Rights:** Articles 25 to 28 guarantee freedom of religion to every citizen. This includes the freedom to profess, practice, and propagate any religion.
- **Article 14:** Ensures equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- **Article 15:** Prohibits discrimination by the state against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Encourage the state to strive for the promotion of a society where social, economic, and political justice prevails.

Question 4: How can secularism be strengthened in a society where religious identities are strong and deeply rooted?

Answer: Strengthening secularism in such a society can be achieved by:

- **Inclusive Education:** Educating citizens about secular values, human rights, and the benefits of religious diversity.
- **Promoting Interfaith Dialogue:** Encouraging conversations and collaborations between different religious groups to build mutual respect and understanding.
- **Legal Protection:** Enforcing laws that protect individuals from religious discrimination and uphold the separation of religion and state.
- **Civic Engagement:** Involving communities in decision-making processes and ensuring their voices are heard in matters affecting their lives, irrespective of religious affiliation.
- **Media Role:** Utilizing media to highlight positive stories of coexistence and secular practices, countering narratives of division.

Question 5: Analyze the role of the Doctrine of Lapse in the outbreak of the Revolt of 1857.

Answer: The Doctrine of Lapse played a significant role in the outbreak of the Revolt of 1857:

- **Dispossession of Rulers:** Many Indian rulers lost their kingdoms due to the policy, leading to widespread discontent among the nobility. The annexation of states like Jhansi and Satara created resentment.
- **Loss of Sovereignty:** The policy undermined the traditional authority and legitimacy of Indian rulers, leading to anger and resistance.
- **Economic Disruption:** Annexation disrupted local economies and affected those dependent on the royal courts, further fueling discontent.

Question 6: Evaluate the impact of water scarcity on agriculture and food security. Suggest sustainable practices to mitigate this issue.

Answer: Impact of water scarcity on agriculture and food security:


- **Reduced Crop Yields:** Lack of sufficient water affects crop growth and productivity, leading to **Reduced yields**. This can result in food shortages and increased prices.
- **Soil Degradation:** Insufficient water can lead to soil salinization and degradation, making the land less fertile and further reducing agricultural productivity.
- **Economic Stress:** Farmers dependent on Agriculture face economic stress due to reduced income from lower crop yields, potentially leading to poverty and food insecurity.

Sustainable practices to mitigate water scarcity

- **Rainwater Harvesting**
- **Drip Irrigation**
- **Crop Rotation and Diversification**
- **Water-Conserving Techniques**

Question 7. Read the source given below & Answer the following Questions

On 8 April 1857, a young soldier, Mangal Pandey, was hanged to death for attacking his officers in Barrackpore. Some days later, some sepoys of the regiment at Meerut refused to do the army drill using the new cartridges, which were suspected of being coated with the fat of cows and pigs. Eighty-five sepoys were dismissed from service and sentenced to ten years in jail for disobeying their officers. This happened on 9 May 1857. The response of the other Indian soldiers in Meerut was quite extraordinary. On 10 May, the soldiers marched to the jail in Meerut and released the imprisoned sepoys. They attacked and killed British officers. They captured guns and ammunition and set fire to the buildings and properties of the British and declared war on the firangis. The soldiers were determined to bring an end to their rule in the country. But who would rule the land instead? The soldiers had an answer to this question – the Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. Unnerved by the scale of the upheaval, the Company decided to repress the revolt with all its might. It brought reinforcements from England, passed new laws so that the rebels could be convicted with ease, and then moved into the storm centres of the revolt. Delhi was recaptured from the rebel forces in September 1857. The last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. He and his wife Begum Zinat Mahal were sent to prison in Rangoon in October 1858. Bahadur Shah Zafar died in the Rangoon jail in November 1862. The recapture of Delhi, however, did not mean that the rebellion died down after that. People continued to resist and battle the British. The British had to fight for two years to suppress the massive forces of popular rebellion. Lucknow was taken in March 1858. Rani Lakshmbai was defeated and killed in June 1858. A similar fate awaited Rani Avantibai, who after initial victory in Kheri, chose to embrace death when



surrounded by the British on all sides. Tantia Tope escaped to the jungles of central India and continued to fight a guerrilla war with the support of many tribal and peasant leaders. He was captured, tried and killed in April 1859. Just as victories against the British had earlier encouraged rebellion, the defeat of rebel forces encouraged desertions. The British also tried their best to win back the loyalty of the people. They announced rewards for loyal landholders would be allowed to continue to enjoy traditional rights over their lands. Those who had rebelled were told that if they submitted to the British, and if they had not killed any white people, they would remain safe and their rights and claims to land would not be denied. Nevertheless, hundreds of sepoys, rebels, nawabs and rajas were tried and hanged.

Q1. Define the term 'Firangis'?

Ans: The meaning of 'Firangis' is Foreigners. The term reflects an attitude of contempt.

Q2. Who was the last Mughal emperor? And when did he die?

Ans: Bahadur Shah Zafar was the last Mughal emperor. Bahadur Shah Zafar died in the Rangoon jail in November 1862.

Q3. Where did Tantia Tope escape? And when was he captured?

Ans: Tantia Tope escaped to the jungles of central India and continued to fight a guerrilla war with the support of many tribal and peasant leaders. He was captured, tried and killed in April 1859.