

BCM School, Basant Avenue, Dugri Road, Ludhiana

**Answer Key of Practice Assignment**

**Class-VIII**

**Social Science**

1 Explain the meaning of coercion.

**Answer:** It means to force someone to do something. It refers to the force used by a legal authority.

2. What do you understand from the statement 'freedom to interpret religious teachings differently' in context with the practice of untouchability?

**Answer:** Untouchability refers to the social practice of excluding a minority group (untouchables) by regarding them as "ritually polluted" and segregating them from the mainstream by social custom.

According to the Indian constitution everyone has the freedom to interpret religious teachings in their own way. Similarly the Dalit's who are called untouchables have the freedom to interpret religion in their own way. The Indian constitution has abolished 'Untouchability'.

3. What do you mean by the freedom to interpret'?

**Answer:** 'Freedom to interpret' means an individual's liberty to develop his own understanding and meaning of the religion that one practices.

4. What was the Sepoy mutiny called and when did it start?

**Answer:** The Sepoy mutiny started in March 1857 and was known as the First war for independence against the British.

5. What were the grievances of the Sepoys?

**Answer:** The Sepoys were unhappy about their pay, allowances and conditions of service. The new rules violated their religious sensibilities and beliefs. In 1824 the Sepoys were asked to go to Burma by the sea route to fight for the Company. The Sepoys refused to do so as they believed that if they crossed the sea they would lose their religion and caste. The Sepoys were severely punished for not obeying the British. In 1856 the Company passed a new law which stated that every new person who took up employment in the Company's army had to agree to serve overseas if required. The Sepoys were unhappy with this new law.

6. What are the three objectives of a secular State?

**Answer:**

The three objectives of a secular State are:

One religious community does not dominate another.

Some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.

The State does not enforce any particular religion nor does it take away the religious freedom of individuals.

7. Why is it important to separate religion from the State? Explain with examples.

**Answer:** There are two main reasons why the separation of religion from the State is important:

The first is to prevent the domination of one religion over another. Example: Almost all countries of the world will have more than one religious group living in them. Within these religious groups, there will most likely be one group that is in a majority. If this majority religious group has access to State power, then it could quite easily use this power and financial resources to discriminate against and persecute persons of other religions. This would violate Fundamental Rights.

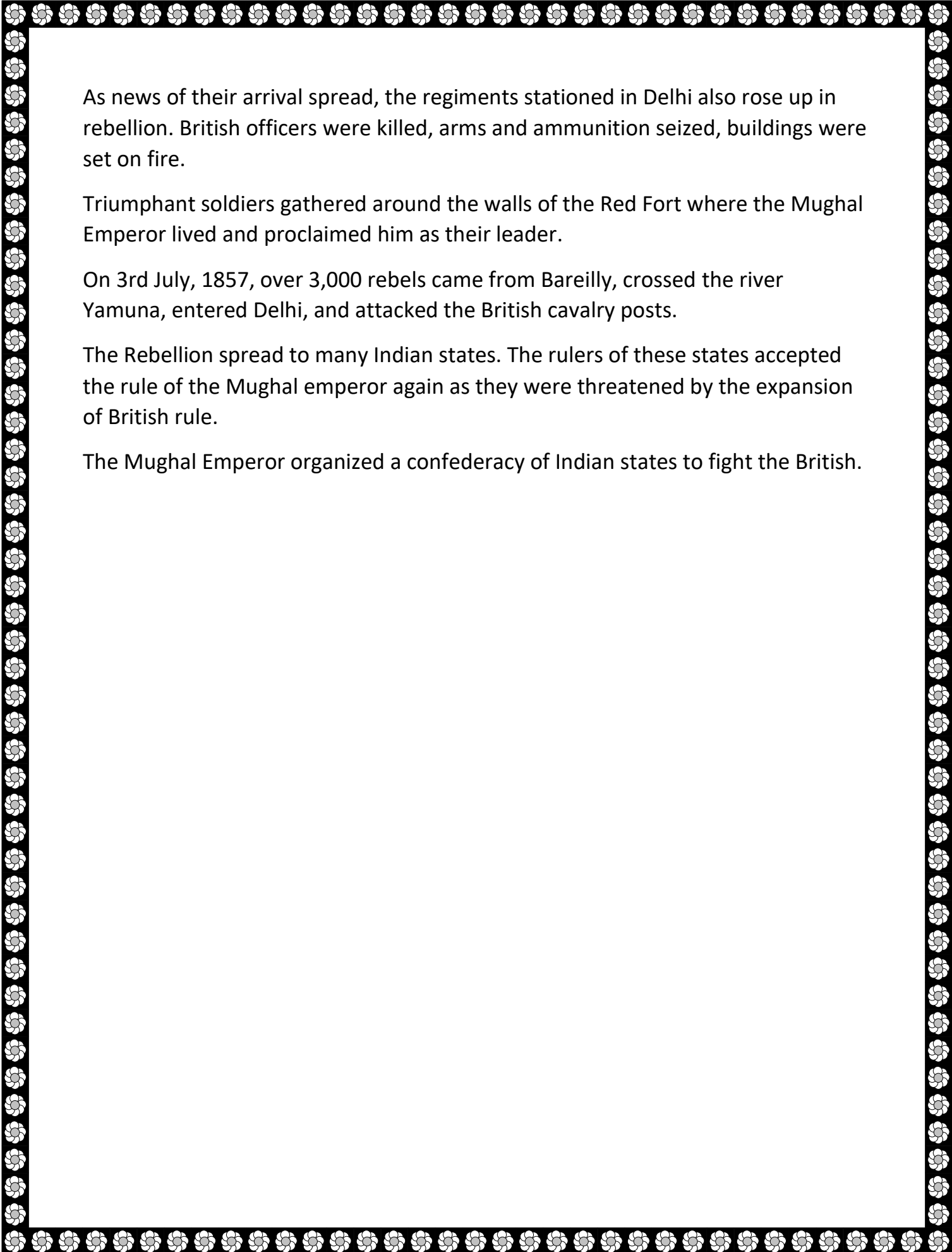
The second is to protect the freedom of individuals to exit from their religion, embrace another religion or have the freedom to interpret religious teachings differently. Example: We can give an example of untouchability in Hindu religious practice. If state power were in the hands of those Hindus who support untouchability, then it would be a difficult task for anyone to abolish this practice.

8. Trace the rebellion from Meerut to Delhi.

**Answer:** On 9th May 1857, some Sepoys of the regiment at Meerut refused to do the army drill using the new cartridges. So, eighty-five Sepoys were dismissed from service and sentenced to ten years in jail for disobeying their officers.

On 10th 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 or foreigners.

The soldiers were determined to bring an end to the British rule in India and they wanted the country to be ruled by the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. So, the Sepoys of Meerut rode all night to reach Delhi.



As news of their arrival spread, the regiments stationed in Delhi also rose up in rebellion. British officers were killed, arms and ammunition seized, buildings were set on fire.

Triumphant soldiers gathered around the walls of the Red Fort where the Mughal Emperor lived and proclaimed him as their leader.

On 3rd July, 1857, over 3,000 rebels came from Bareilly, crossed the river Yamuna, entered Delhi, and attacked the British cavalry posts.

The Rebellion spread to many Indian states. The rulers of these states accepted the rule of the Mughal emperor again as they were threatened by the expansion of British rule.

The Mughal Emperor organized a confederacy of Indian states to fight the British.