

## Long Answer Questions

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**Q.1. Describe three challenges faced by India during independence.**

**[CBSE Delhi 2014]**

**OR**

**What were the challenges faced by India as an independent nation?**

**OR**

**Examine the three challenges that India faced at the time of Independence.**

**[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]**

**Ans. 1. Unification:** The first challenge was to maintain unity of the country because India was a country where people spoke different languages, had different culture and religion. It was not easy to maintain unity of the nation with such a vast diversity. For a moral and diverse country like India, it was a very complicated task. It had three stages:

- Emotional level, where attention was to be paid to the lowest class of the society.
- Physical level, where all the citizens were equal before the law and were provided equal protection of law.
- Spiritual level, where the entire society had to understand the needs and desires of diverse ethnic classes of the society.

**2. Establish Democracy:** The second challenge before India was to establish democracy. For this purpose, India adopted representative democracy based on the parliamentary form of the government. These features ensured that there will be political competition within the democratic framework. Democracy requires democratic constitution. In India also, constitution was framed and citizens were given right to vote and fundamental rights. But the challenge was to ensure the functioning of the country in accordance with the constitution.

**3. Homogeneous Development:** The third challenge before India was to ensure such development wherein the entire society could be benefited and not just some regions. To ensure this, provisions were made in the constitution for right to equality and special right were granted to backward classes and cultural and religious minorities. The constitution provided for Directive Principles of State Policy to achieve the goal of public welfare, which must be fulfilled by political establishment. Now the real challenge was to evolve effective policy for economic development and eradication of poverty.

**Q.2. Explain the process of partition of India in 1947.**

**Ans.** Even before independence, the British had sown the seeds of hostility between India and Pakistan which brought the nation on the brink of partition. According to the 'two-nation theory' advanced by the Muslim League, India consisted of two 'people', Hindus and Muslims, and demanded Pakistan, a separate country for the Muslims. On 14-15 Aug 1947, the British government declared partition of the country along with its independence. Religious majority was made the basis of partition. There was no single belt of Muslim majority area in British India. There were two areas of concentration, one in the west and one in the east. There was no way these two parts could be joined. So it was decided that the new country, Pakistan, will comprise of two territories, West and East Pakistan separated by a long expanse of Indian Territory. During the partition, the most serious problem was of minorities. There were minorities on both sides of the border. There were Lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in the areas that were now in Pakistan and an equally large number of Muslims on the Indian side. The declaration of partition made them undesirable aliens in their own home. As soon as it became clear that the country was going to be partitioned, the minorities on both the sides became easy targets of the attacks. The minorities on both the sides of the border were left with no option than to leave their homes to save their lives. During these riots, people were killed, women were abducted and raped. In some cases, women were killed by their own family members to preserve the 'family honour'. Many children were separated from their parents. Partition forced about 80 lakh people to migrate across the new border. Between five to ten lakh people were killed in partition related violence. Partition was described as 'division of hearts'.

**Q.3. Explain the problem of integration of princely states into Indian Union and describe the role played by Sardar Patel.**

**Ans.** With the independence of India, the British administration also announced the independence of Princely States and they were given right to join either India or Pakistan or remain free if they so wished. This gave rise to the possibility of division of India into small principalities of different sizes. This announcement threatened the very existence of a united India. The sheer existence of democracy was in darkness because the princely states were unwilling to give democratic rights to their populations. Integration of princely states into Indian union was a challenging task. The Muslim League took the view that the States should be free to adopt any course they liked. Sardar Patel played a historic role in negotiating with the rulers of princely states and persuaded majority of them to join Indian Union. There were 565 princely states and the rulers of most of the states signed a document called the 'Instrument of Accession' which meant that their state agreed to become a part of the Union of India. Accession of the Princely States of Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur proved more difficult than the rest. Sardar Patel accepted the challenge of integration of princely states into Indian Union. He was aware of the condition in which India would be, in the absence of integrated India. This was a strange situation, since the Indian Independence was aimed at unity, self-determination as well as democracy. Thus, he firmly but

diplomatically brought most of princely states into the Indian Union with his persuasive skills. It was his sheer belief that had unified and integrated India.

**Q.4. Explain the process and basis of the reorganisation of States of Indian Union.**

**[CBSE Delhi 2013]**

**OR**

**How did the reorganisation of States take place in India after its independence? Explain.**

**[CBSE (AI) 2014]**

**Ans.** After solving the problem of partition and integration of Princely States, India had to face additional challenges. It was not only a matter of administrative divisions. Now the challenge was to draw the internal boundaries of the Indian states. The boundaries had to be drawn in a way so that the linguistic and cultural plurality of the country could be reflected without affecting the unity of the nation. In 1920, during the Nagpur session, Congress had promised the linguistic principle as the basis of formation of states. But after the Independence and partition, our leaders felt that carving out states on the basis of language might lead to disruption and disintegration. Therefore, it was decided to postpone matters. But this decision was challenged by the local leaders and the people. Widespread protest began for the creation of Andhra Pradesh during which Potti Sriramulu, a Congress leader and a veteran Gandhian, went on an indefinite fast that led to his death after 56 days. This caused great unrest and resulted in violent outbursts. Finally, a separate State of Andhra Pradesh was formed in December 1952. The formation of Andhra spurred the struggle in other parts of the country for making of other states on linguistic basis. These struggles forced the Central Government into appointing a States Reorganisation Commission in 1953 to look into the question of redrawing of the boundaries of states. The Commission in its report accepted that the boundaries of the state should reflect the boundaries of different languages. On the basis of its report, the States Reorganisation Act was passed in 1956. This led to the creation of 14 states and six union territories. In 1960, Maharashtra and Gujarat were created as separate states on the basis of Gujarati and Marathi language speaking region. In 1966, Punjabi speaking region was made the State of Punjab and later on, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were carved out of Punjab. In 1972, reorganisation of north-eastern states began. In 1972, Meghalaya was carved out of Assam and the same year Manipur, Tripura were also created. Nagaland was given statehood much earlier in 1963 but Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were created in 1987. Language did not, however, remain the sole basis of organisation of states. In later years, sub-regions raised demands for separate states on the basis of a separate regional culture or complaints of regional imbalance in development. Three such states, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, were created in 2000. The same way Telangana was created in 2014. The story of reorganisation has not come to an end. There are many

regions in the country where there are movements demanding separate and smaller states. These include Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Harit Pradesh in the western region of Uttar Pradesh and the northern region of West Bengal.

**Q.5. What forced the Union Government of India to appoint the States Reorganisation Commission in 1953? Mention its two main recommendations. Name any four new States formed after 1956.**

**[CBSE Delhi 2014]**

**Ans.** The process of nation-building did not come to an end with the partition and integration of Princely States. Now the challenge was to draw the internal boundaries of the Indian states. Our leaders felt that carving out states on the basis of language might lead to disruption and disintegration. It was also felt that this would draw attention away from other social and economic challenges that the country faced. The central leadership decided to postpone matters. This decision of the national leadership was challenged by the local leaders and the people. Protests began in the Telugu speaking areas of the old Madras province. The Vishalandhra movement demanded that the Telugu speaking areas should be separated from the Madras province and be made into a separate state of Andhra Pradesh. Finally, the Prime Minister announced the formation of a separate Andhra state in December 1952. The formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1952 triggered the struggle for making of other states on linguistic lines in other parts of the country. These struggles forced the Central Government into appointing a State Reorganisation Commission in 1953 to look into the question of redrawing of the boundaries of states. The Commission in its report accepted that the boundaries of the state should reflect the boundaries of different languages. On the basis of its report, the States Reorganisation Act was passed in 1956. This led to the creation of 14 states and six union territories. The states created after 1956 are: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Telangana.

**Q.6. Write an essay on 'Kashmir conflict'.**

**Ans.** The issue of Kashmir has been a serious point of contention. Due to this problem, three wars have been fought between India and Pakistan viz. 1948, 1965 and 1971. In 1999 also, an unofficial war was fought between India and Pakistan. In 1947, when India was partitioned the ruler of the Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh had dreamt of independent Kashmir. During partition, riots began in Kashmir in September 1947 and muslims were killed in western Kashmir. Due to this, people of this region rebelled against the Maharaja and announced formation of government of 'Azad Kashmir'. With an aim to reap benefit of the situation, Pakistan sent tribal infiltrators from its side and surrounded Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir from the range of 15 mile to capture Kashmir. This forced the Maharaja to ask for Indian military help. India agreed to extend the military support only after the Maharaja signed the 'instrument of Accession'.

Thereafter Sheikh Abdulla, the supreme leader of National Conference of Kashmir also agreed when Maharaja signed the 'instrument of Accession'. India accepted the integration of Kashmir. India sent its army to Kashmir for its protection whereas Pakistan provided military support to 'Azad Kashmir' movement. On 1 Jan., 1948 Prime Minister, Nehru went to UN against the wishes of Deputy PM Sardar Patel. UNO passed a resolution, according to which, both India and Pakistan were to withdraw their troops and conduct plebiscite. After the failure of UN initiative, Prime Minister Nehru met the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Mohammed Ali Bogara and both decided to resolve the issue by peaceful dialogue. The acquisition of Pakistan by army under the leadership of General Ayub Khan and its newly acquired membership in US security cover SEATO and CENTO forced India to shift its policy and approach on the subject of elections. So, we assumed on the basis of instrument of accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh that Kashmir was a part of India. According to Independence of India Act, 1947, Princely States had liberty to join India or Pakistan. Therefore, Kashmir became part of India through legal process, which cannot be held invalid, as claimed by Pakistan.