

IAS Mains History 1998

Paper II

Time Allowed: Three Hours Maximum Marks: 300

Candidates should attempt Questions 1 and 5 which are compulsory, and any three of the remaining questions selecting at least one question from each Section. All questions carry equal marks.

Section-A

1. Comment on any three of the following statements in about 200 words each:
 - a. The British “fought the First Maratha War in a period when their fortunes were at the lowest ebb”
 - b. The Arya Samaj “did not; however, succeed in capturing the imagination of modern India as a whole”
 - c. The Montague Declaration (20 August 1917) was observed more closely in the “realm of imperial relations” than anything else.
 - d. “Both freedom and partition were the work of Indian middle classes.”
2. How did the British conquer Bengal in the 18th century? What circumstances helped them?
3. Examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857 and indicate the manifold changes in British civil and military administration of India after 1857.
4. Explain the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards the constitutional changes of 1909, 1919 and 1935.

Section-B

5. Comment on any three of the following statements in about 200 words each:
 - a. One great effect of the geographical discoveries of the 15th century was “the growing belief that America, Asia and Africa were to be used extensively for the benefit of Europeans”
 - b. The American War of Independence “deprived Great Britain of one empire, but it strengthened the foundations of another”
 - c. Lord Beaconsfield after his return from the Congress of Berlin (1878) boasted: “I have brought peace with honour”
 - d. One of the most important impacts of the Second world war was the “division of Europe” eastern and western.
6. The Industrial Revolution brought about great changes in the social and economic life of Europe. Explain.
7. The years 1853 – 1894 witnessed the transformation of Japan. Explain.
8. In Russia, Lenin was “the father of socialism, organiser of the revolution and the founder of the new Russian society.” Examine the statement.