

Saltora Netaji Centenary College

Department of History

Model Answer

Semester V Honours

Course ID: 50412

Course Title: History of India (1885-1947)

Questions carrying Marks 2

1. What do you mean by Surat split?

Ans: The Surat Split was the split of the Indian National Congress into two factions, the Moderates and the Extremists, at the Surat session of 1907. The split was caused by ideological differences between the two factions. The Moderates advocated for moderate methods of constitutional agitation.

2. What do you mean by Lucknow Pact?

Ans: The Lucknow Pact was an agreement reached between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League (AIML) at a joint session of both the parties held in Lucknow in December 1916. Through the pact, the two parties agreed to allow representation to religious minorities in the provincial legislatures.

3. What do you mean by Morley-Minto Reforms?

Ans: Indian Councils Act, 1909, also known as the Morley-Minto Reforms was majorly aimed at appeasing the moderates of the country. It introduced numerous improvements in the legislative councils and increased the role of Indians in the governance of their country, along with the Britishers.

4. What do you know about the Chauri-Chaura incident?

Ans: Chauri Chaura is a town near Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The town is located at a distance of 16 km from Gorakhpur. In 1922, the Chauri Chaura incident took place in the town when protesters set fire to a police station and killed at least 22 policemen in retaliation to the police firing on several protesters who had taken part in the Non-Cooperation Movement as part of the Indian freedom struggle.

5. Why did Simon Commission come to India?

Ans: The commission was constituted because at the time of introducing the Montagu - Chelmsford Reforms in 1919, the British Government had declared that a commission would be sent to India after ten years to examine the effects and operations of the constitutional reforms and to suggest further reforms. In November 1927, the British government appointed the Simon Commission two years ahead of schedule. The commission was strongly opposed by the Muslim League and the Indian National Congress, and prominent Indian leaders including Nehru, Gandhi and Jinnah., because it contained only British members and no Indians.

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Question carrying marks 5

1. Discuss the importance of Quit India movement.

Ans: The Quit India Movement was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during Second World War, demanding an end to British rule in India. After the British failed to secure Indian support for the British war effort with Cripps Mission, Gandhi made a call to *Do or Die* in his speech delivered in Bombay on 8 August 1942. The then Viceroy Lord Linlithgow remarked the movement to be "by far the most serious rebellion since 1857". The All India Congress Committee launched a mass protest demanding what Gandhi called "An Orderly British Withdrawal" from India. Even though it was at war, Britain was prepared to act. Almost the entire leadership of the Congress party was imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi's speech. Most spent the rest of the war in prison and out of contact with the masses. The British had the support of the Viceroy's Council, of the All-India Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha and some princely states. Many Indian businessmen profiting from heavy wartime spending did not support the Quit India Movement. The movement included boycotting the British government and rejection of transactions involving the government. Various violent incidents took place around the country against the British regime. The British arrested tens of thousands of leaders, keeping them imprisoned until 1945. Ultimately, the British government realised that India was ungovernable in the long run, and the issue for the postwar era became how to exit gracefully and peacefully. The movement ended in 1945 with the release of jailed freedom fighters.