COLONIAL CITIES

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Bombay was given to the company in _____
   (a) 1690
   (b) 1661
   (c) 1639
   (d) 1680

2. First census survey was held in _____
   (a) 1872
   (b) 1882
   (c) 1892
   (d) 1852

3. Madras, among the British population, was known as _____
   (a) Fort William
   (b) Fort Saint George
   (c) Fort Augustus
   (d) All of these

4. Civil lines were established for the _____
   (a) Clerks
   (b) Kings
   (c) Labourers
   (d) British

5. Lottery committee was established in _____
   (a) 1795
   (b) 1800
   (c) 1817
   (d) 1805

Answer

| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) | 5. (c) |

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did the colonial cities reflect the mercantile culture of the British rulers? Explain.
   Or
   how did the colonial cities reflect the mercantile culture of the new rulers during the mid 19th century? Explain.
   Answer: The colonial cities reflected the mercantile culture of the new rulers. Political power and patronage shifted from Indian rulers to the merchants of East India Company. Indians who worked as middlemen, interpreters, traders and suppliers of goods also had an important place in these new cities. Economic activity near the river or the sealed to the development of docks and Ghats. Along the shore were godowns, mercantile offices, insurance agencies for shipping, transport depots, and banking establishments. Further inland was the chief administrative officer of the company. The writer's building in Calcutta (Kolkata) was one such office. Around the periphery of the fort, European merchants and agents built palatial houses in

European styles. Some build garden houses in the suburbs. Racially exclusive clubs, racecourses and theatres were also built for the ruling elite.

2. Describe the characteristics of public buildings built in the new classical style with special reference to the Town Hall' of Bombay. (C.B.S.E. 2011 (O.D.))
Answer: For constructing public buildings, three main architectural styles were used. Two of these were prevalent in England. The first one was neo-classical or the new classical. Its characteristic included constructions of geometrical structures fronted with lofty pillars. It was considered particularly appropriate for the British empire in India. The British imagined that a style that embodied the grandeur of imperial Rome could now be made to express the glory of imperial India.

The Town Hall in Bombay was built in this style in 1833. Another group of commercial buildings, built during the 1860s was the Elphinstone circle. This building was inspired by the models in Italy. It made innovative use of covered arcades at ground level to shield the shopper and pedestrian from the fierce sun and rain of Bombay.

3. Why did the British colonial power import European style in Bombay's architecture? Explain briefly three architectural styles adopted by them. (C.B.S.E. 2013 (D))
Answer: European style created an atmosphere of familiarity for the British. When they saw buildings in the European style, they found a familiar landscape in India, which was an alien country for them. So, they felt at home in Bombay. Moreover, they thought that the buildings would distinguish them from the Indian.
Three architectural styles were:

- **The Neo-Classical Style**: The buildings constructed in this style had geometrical structures.
- **The Neo-Gothic Style:** The buildings made in this style had high pitched roofs, pointed arches and extensive decoration.
- **Indo-Saracenic Style**: This style was a mixture of the Indian style with European style.

4. Explain how the conversion of Census data into convenient statistical data by the Britisher in India riddled. With ambiguities in the late nineteenth century. (C.B.S.E. 2015 (D))
Answer: The conversion of census data into convenient statistical data by the British in India riddled with ambiguities because of the overlapping identities, the people gave wrong information during surveys. They were suspicious of the census which would impose new taxes. They even feared of being low status. Moreover, the figures of mortality and disease were difficult to collect as all the deaths were not registered and illness were neither reported nor treated by licensed doctors.

5. Explain why some hill stations were developed during the colonial period in India. (C.B.S.E. 2018)
Answer: The Hill station was very important for the British as they fulfilled the following objectives:

1. They were strategic places for the stay of troops.
2. They facilitated defence and guarded the frontiers.
3. They were the best places to launch a campaign against enemy rulers.
4. The temperate and cool climate of the hill- stations was suitable for the British who associated hot weather with epidemics.
5. Hill stations served as cantonments for the army in the hills. They also protected the army in the hills. They also protected the army from diseases like cholera and malaria.
6. They were developed as sanitariums. These were the places where soldiers cosmic be sent for rest, recreation and recovery from diseases.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. While explaining the process of urbanization in Madras, describe the development of White Town and Black Town over there.

   Answer: The Company had, first of all, made the port of Surat, situated on the west coast, as the centre of its trading activities. Later on, the British traders reached the east coast in search of textiles. They constructed a trading post at Madraspatam in 1639 C.E. Local people called this settlement as Chenapattanam. The Company had bought the rights to settle over there from local Telugu lords, the Nayaks of Kalahasti who wanted to encourage trading activities in their region.

   The British had to fortify the Madras because of their rivalry (1746-63) with the French East India Company. They also increased the political and administrative functions of their representatives. French were defeated in 1761 C.E. and Madras became more secure. Now, Madras began to grow as an important commercial town.

   White Town:

   1. Fort St. George became the nucleus of the White Town. Where most of the Europeans lived. It looked unique and distinctive because of the walls and the bastions. A stay in the fort was allowed on the basis of colour and religion.
   2. The Europeans like the English, the Dutch and the Portuguese were allowed to stay in this fort.
   3. The workers of the Company were not allowed to marry with the Indians.
   4. The administrative and judicial system was in favour of the whites. Though small in numbers, the Europeans were still the rulers. The development of Madras was made to fulfill the needs and provide essential comforts to the white people living there.

   Black Town:

   The Black Town was developed outside the Fort. The population of Black Town was laid out in straight lines, which was one of the important features of colonial towns. But it was demolished in the mid-1700s and the area was cleared so that a security zone could be built around the Fort. Later on, another Black Town was developed further to the north. This town comprised artisans, weavers, middlemen and interpreters. They played an important role in the trade of the Company.

   The new Black Town of Madras was just like traditional Indian towns. Living quarters for the people were built around its own temple and bazaar. People of different castes lived over there in the narrow lanes that crisscrossed the township. An area called Chintadripet was only meant for weavers. In the same way, Washermanpet Royapuram was a settlement for Christian boatmen who worked for the Company.

2. Discuss the main aspects of town planning of Calcutta after the departure of Lord Wellesley. What was the result of the opposition of racial division of the city?

   Answer: After the departure of Wellesley, the work of town planning of Calcutta was taken over by the Lottery Committee (1817) with the help of the government. This committee was named as the Lottery Committee because it raised the funds for town improvement through public lotteries. It means that till the early decades of the 19th century, the work of raising funds for the city was considered as the responsibility of not only government but of public-minded citizens as well.

The Lottery Committee prepared a new map for the city so that a new comprehensive picture of Calcutta should come forward. The Committee undertook certain activities, which included road-building in the Indian part of the city and to clear encroachments on the banks of the river. The Committee wanted to make Indian part of the city cleaner, that is why it removed a number of huts and displaced a number of poor labourers. They were given places in the outskirts of Calcutta.

The solution to problems of health and hygiene: In the next few decades, the threat of epidemics gave a boost to town planning in Calcutta. From 1817, cholera started spreading and the plague made its appearance in 1896. Medical science had not yet been able to establish the cause of these diseases. Then, the government acted according to the accepted theory of the time, which says that there is a direct relationship between living conditions and the spread of disease. This idea was also supported by the prominent Indian traders of Calcutta like Dwarkanath Tagore and Cowasjee. They felt that it was necessary to make Calcutta more healthy.

Densely populated areas were considered unsanitary because these areas obstructed direct sunlight and circulation of air. That' is why 'busty' or huts of working people were demolished very quickly. The poor people of the city including hawkers, workers, porters, artisans and the unemployed were forced to move to distant parts of the city. Strict building regulations were made because of frequent fires. In 1836, thatched huts were banned and tiled roofs were made compulsory.

Official intervention in the city became more stringent by the late 19th century. All the initiatives for town planning, including funding, were taken over by the government. As a result, more huts were cleared and the British portions were developed in the towns at the cost of other areas.

The opposition of Racial Divides: The racial divide of the city, i.e., White and Black Town, was reinforced on the basis of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy'. Indian representatives in Municipal Corporation opposed against the more development of European parts of the town. The public also protested against these government policies. It also strengthened the feeling of anti-colonialism and nationalism among Indians.

3. How was the capitalist class of Bombay developed? What was its contribution to the economic development of the city?
   Answer: Bombay was the commercial capital of colonial India. It was a premier port on the western coast and that is why it was the centre of international trade. Half of the imports and exports of India passed through Bombay by the end of the 19th century. Opium was one of the important items of this trade. The East India Company exported this opium to China. Indian traders and middlemen were partners in this trade.
   They helped in integrating Bombay's economy with the opium-growing areas like Malwa, Rajasthan and Sind. This integration with the Company was profitable for them. This profit helped in the growth of an Indian capitalist class. This class included the people of many communities like Parsi, Marwari, Gujarati Bania, Konkani Muslim, Bohra, Jew and Armenian.
   The American Civil War started in 1861 and it stopped the arrival of American cotton into the international market. It increased the demand for Indian cotton. It was a great opportunity for capitalists of Bombay for earning huge profits. Suez Canal was opened in 1869, which further strengthened links of Bombay with the world economy. Bombay government and Indian merchants took advantage of this opportunity and declared Bombay as 'Urbs Prima in India' or the most important city of India. By the late 19th century, Indian merchants were investing their money in industries like cotton mills and also helped in building activities of the city.

4. Discuss the main stages of town planning and architecture of Bombay. Explain mainly the buildings made in neo-classical style.
   Or
   taking the example of Bombay (Mumbai), explain how the imperial vision of the British was realized through town planning.

Or

"The architecture in colonial. Bombay represented ideas of imperial power, nationalism and religious glory." Support the statement with examples. (C.B.S.E. 2015 (O.D.))

Answer: Initially, Bombay was a state of seven islands. With the increase in population, these islands were connected to create more space and a new big city was created. With the growth of Bombay's economy, a need was felt from the mid 19th century to expand railway and shipping and even develop the administrative structure. A number of new buildings were constructed at this time. The architectural style of these buildings was usually European.

Bungalows and Public Buildings: Initially, these buildings looked very strange in comparison with the traditional Indian buildings. But gradually, Indians too used the European style of architecture and they adopted this style. On the other hand, the British adopted some of the Indian styles to suit their needs. One of its examples is bungalows, which were made for government officers in Bombay and the other parts of the country.

The bungalow was constructed on a large piece of land. It not only ensured privacy for the people living in it but also marked a distance horn the Indian world around. It had a traditional pitched roof and surrounding veranda to keep the bungalow cool. There were separate quarters for domestic servants in the compound. Basically, three architectural styles were used for public buildings. Two of these styles were prevalent in England. One of these styles was the neo-classical style. The buildings constructed in this style had geometrical structures. They also had lofty pillars in the front. It resembled the style of buildings in ancient Rome. This style was considered most suitable for the construction of buildings in British India. The Town Hall of Bombay was built in 1833 and based on this architectural style.

A number of commercial buildings were built in the decade of 1860, which was known as Elphinstone Circle. Later on, its name was changed to Horniman Circle.

This building was inspired by the buildings of Italy. It made innovative use of covered arches at ground level to shield the shopper and pedestrian from the fierce sunlight and the rain of Bombay.'

5. Hill stations were a distinctive feature of colonial urban development. In this context, throw some light on the development and importance of hill stations.
   Or
   Explain why hill stations were a distinctive feature of colonial urban development. (C.B.S.E. 2008 (D))
   Or
   Explain why some hill stations were developed during the colonial period in India. (C.B.S.E. 2018)
   Answer: Almost all hill-stations in India were developed by the British. The hill- stations were an important aspect of colonial urban development. They were set-up and developed to fulfill the needs of the British army. Shimla was founded during the course of the Gurkha War (1815-16). Similarly, the British developed Mount Abu during the Anglo- Maratha War of 1818. They snatched Darjeeling from the rulers of Sikkim in 1835.
   IMPORTANT
   the hill-stations were very important for the British as they fulfilled the following objectives:
   1. They were strategic places for the stay of troops.
   2. They facilitated defence and guarded the frontiers.
   3. They were the best places to launch a campaign against enemy rulers.
   4. The temperate and cool climate of the hill stations was suitable for the British who associated hot weather with epidemics.
   5. Hill stations served as cantonments for the army in the hills. They also protected the army from diseases like cholera and malaria.

6. They were developed as sanitariums. These were the places where soldiers could be sent for rest, recreation and recovery from diseases.

7. They were frequently visited by the British rulers like the Viceroys. Most of the British officials moved to hill stations during the summer season. In 1864, John Lawrence, the then Viceroy of India, officially moved its council to Shimla. The official residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army was also in Shimla.

8. The hill stations provided many opportunities for recreation. They served as picnic-spots and place to organize tea-parties, race and visits to the theatre.

9. The hill-stations were important for the economy of the British. They had tea and coffee plantations in the nearby areas. So, they had a large number of immigrant labour.

6. What was the Lottery Committee? Under it, what steps were taken for the town-planning in Calcutta?
   Answer: The town planning of Calcutta was inspired by a vision of what the city should look like. It also meant that all the available space should be well-utilised and organised. The British built Fort William in Calcutta. They also developed the Maidan. When Lord Wellesley became the Governor-General in 1798, he built for himself a massive palace known as the Government House. This building depicted the authority of the British. Lord Wellesley also set up various committees for the development of the city.

   Why was the Lottery Committee constituted?

   The Lottery Committee was constituted in 1817 to help the government in carrying out the work of town planning in Calcutta. This committee was named the Lottery Committee because it raised funds for the development of the town through public lotteries. In other words, the government did not provide all the funds for the development of cities and town-planning. Rather the funds of town-planning were raised by responsible public-minded citizens.

   Steps initiated under Lottery Committee: The Lottery Committee took various steps for the development of Calcutta. They can be enumerated as follows:

   1. The Lottery Committee commissioned a new map of Calcutta so that it may have a comprehensive picture of the city.
   2. It took up road-building in the part of the city where mostly the Indians lived.
   3. It removed all the encroachment from the banks of the river. It also removed many huts to make the city more beautiful and cleaner.
   4. Due to the demolition of the huts, many poor labourers were displaced. The Committee sent all these people to the outskirts of Calcutta.

7. Describe any two architectural styles used by the British in the construction of public buildings in Bombay. Give one example from each.
   Or
   explain briefly a few architectural styles adopted by the British. (C.B.S.E. 2013 (D))
   Answer: Basically, three architectural styles were used for the construction of public buildings in Bombay and two of them are given ahead:

   1. **The Neo-Classical Style:** The buildings constructed in this architectural style had geometrical structures. They also had lofty pillars in the front. It resembled the style of buildings in ancient Rome. This style was considered most suitable for the construction of buildings in British India. The Town Hall of Bombay was

built in 1833 and was based on this architectural style. Similarly, the Elphinstone Circle, a group of commercial buildings was built in 1860.

2. **The Neo-Gothic Style:** The buildings constructed in the Neo-Gothic architectural style had high-pitched-roofs, pointed arches and extensive decoration. This style was adopted in the construction of the churches in northern Europe during the medieval period. It was again revived in England in the mid 19th century. In Bombay, many buildings like the Secretariat, the High Court and the University of Bombay were built in this style.