

MAHATMA GANDHI AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENT

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Where did Gandhi use Satyagraha for the first time?
(a) India
(b) South Africa
(c) South America
(d) England
2. _____ was the moderate leader of Congress
(a) Lala Lajpat Rai
(b) Bipin Chandra Pal
(c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
3. Gandhiji took back Non Cooperation movement in _____
(a) January 1921
(b) February 1922
(c) February 1921
(d) January 1922
4. Peasant Satyagraha at Bardoli was hold in _____
(a) 1928
(b) 1929
(c) 1930
(d) 1931
5. _____ was the congress President at its Lahora Session.
(a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Jawahar Lai Nehru
(c) Sardar Patel
(d) Subhash Chandra Bose

Answer

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

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What was the significance of the campaigns initiated by Gandhiji in Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda?

Answer: In 1917, Mahatma Gandhi spent most of his time in Champaran. He sought the security of tenure for the peasants. He also wanted that the peasants should be free to cultivate the crops of their choice.

1. In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi went to Ahmedabad. He intervened in a labor dispute and demanded better working conditions for the workers of the textile mills.
2. In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi was again involved in another campaign at Kheda in Gujarat. He supported the cause of peasants and sought the remission of taxes from the state as the harvest of crops had failed.

Thus, Gandhiji carried out various campaigns in Champaran, Ahmedabad, and Kheda. These campaigns had made him a true nationalist. They also showed the sympathetic attitude of Gandhiji toward the poor.

2. What methods were adopted to oppose the British rule during the Non-Cooperation Movement?

Answer: The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. It had a definite program for the people to follow. It included the following methods to oppose British rule:

1. The students were asked not to attend their schools and colleges.
2. The lawyers were asked not to attend law-courts.
3. The ordinary people were asked to renounce voluntary association with the British Government.
4. There were strikes by the working class in many towns and cities. There were 396 strikes in different cities in 1921. It involved six lakh workers which caused a loss of seven million workdays.
5. The Hill-tribes in the Northern part of Andhra Pradesh violated the forest laws.
6. The farmers did not pay taxes in Awadh. They refused to carry loads for colonial officials in Kumaun.

Though the aforesaid methods were laid down for all the protestors, yet, many of them adopted the methods which better suited their interests.

3. Find out similarities between Salt Satyagraha (Civil Disobedience Movement) and Non-Cooperation Movement. Give any five points.

Answer: The similarities between the Civil Disobedience Movement and Non-Cooperation movement were as follows:

1. In both the movements, the peasants had participated whole-heartedly. Most of the peasants hated the colonial forest laws as they and their cattle could not enter the forest.
2. At many places, the factory workers went on strike.
3. The lawyers boycotted the British courts.
4. The students did not attend their classes in the government-run educational institutions.
5. All the ordinary people participated in both of these movements in one way or the other. They in their own way expressed their discontent with the British rule.
6. Many people even left their government jobs and joined the freedom struggle.
7. Some people even refused to pay the taxes.

4. The Salt March of Gandhiji was notable for at least three reasons. What were they?

Answer: The Salt March (Dandi March) of Gandhiji was notable because of the following three reasons:

1. By leading the Salt March. Mahatma Gandhi became very popular in the world. He got world attention as his march was widely covered by the European and American Press.
2. This Salt March was the first nationalist activity in which women had participated enthusiastically. They joined the march in large numbers. In fact, Gandhiji had allowed the women to participate in his Dandi March on the persuasion of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, a socialist activist.
3. The Salt March made the British realize for the first time that their rule in India would not last forever. They had understood that they would have to decentralize their power by involving Indians in the administration.

5. Describe the events that led to the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Answer: Gandhiji started the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920 because of the following reasons:

1. **Rowlatt Act:** After the First World War, the Rowlatt Act was passed in 1919. In accordance with this law, the government could imprison anyone without a trial. Gandhiji was not content with this Act and launched the Non-Cooperation Movement.
2. **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:** A meeting was held in Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar to protest against the Rowlett Act. General Dyer appeared on the scene and started shooting bullets on the gathered people. Gandhiji was moved at this bloody climax of the meeting in which more than four hundred people were killed and therefore started the Non-Cooperation Movement against the British rule.
3. **Khilafat Movement:** The Sultan of Turkey was known as the Caliph of all the Muslims. But the British had snatched his empire. The Indian Muslims could not bear this insult and joined hands with Gandhiji and started Non-Cooperation Movement.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. What were the reasons for the beginning of the Khilafat Movement? What was the contribution of this movement to the freedom struggle of India?

Answer: Khilafat is associated with the Caliphate who was the religious head of all the Muslims. The Sultan of Turkey was accepted as the head of the Muslim world. After the war, the Indian Muslims were unhappy with the British because they had ill-treated the Sultan of Turkey and even divided the Ottoman Empire and snatched Three, a part of Turkey. This was all contrary to the War Declaration made by Lloyd George, the then British Prime Minister.

He had openly declared that the British had no intention to devoid Turkey of Asia Minor and Three. The main population of these areas was of Turkish origin. The Muslims wanted that

the Sultan of Turkey should not be shown a bit of insult in any way. When the white rulers acted contrary to their avowed statements, the Muslims started a severe struggle against the British.

Contribution to National Movement for Independence: The Khilafat Movement had strengthened the national struggle for freedom. Due to the Lucknow Pact of 1916, the unity between the Hindus and the Muslims strengthened. Due to the Khilafat Movement, many other nationalist leaders had plunged into the freedom struggle. It is clear from the following points:

- A Khilafat committee was constituted to start a nation-wide struggle against British rule.
- An All India Khilafat Conference was held in Delhi in November 1919. A resolution was passed in the conference which exhorted the British to accept the demands of the Muslims, failing which a struggle against the foreign rule would be launched.
- The Muslim League supported every movement started by the Indian National Congress.
- The Congress supported the Khilafat Movement. This action of the Congress strengthened the Hindu-Muslim unity. It also inspired the Muslims for the national struggle to attain freedom from the alien rule.
- Gandhiji went to the extent of declaring that the issue raised by the Khilafat Movement was much more important than the issue of social reforms initiated by him.
- Gandhiji expressed his desire to start the Non-Cooperation Movement if the British failed to satisfy the Muslims of India. It enabled Gandhiji to emerge as a great leader of India.
- The Khilafat Movement accelerated the pace of the national struggle for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi soon started his Non-Cooperation Movement. It was the first step towards the end of British rule in India.

2. What was the Rowlatt Act? What steps were taken by the British to repress to Satyagraha started by Gandhiji?

Answer: Rowlatt Act was passed by the British Government in March 1919 in the Central Legislative Council. It was passed to repress the nationalists.

The Rowlatt Act had such provisions that annoyed all the nationalists. It empowered the British Government in the detention of revolutionaries without trial. It was not necessary to present the concerned person in the court. In brief, it was such a law that had no argument, no lawyer, and no appeal. So the nationalists considered it a black law as it was a strong blow on individual liberty.

Satyagraha against Rowlatt Act: Gandhiji, like other nationalist leaders, was shocked to hear about the Rowlatt Act. So he laid down the foundation of a Satyagraha Committee in February 1919. All the members of the committee pledged not to adhere to this Act. They offered their arrests and went to jails. It was a new kind of struggle. Till then, the British had seen movement where big assemblies were held and processions were taken out. In such national movements, the people often refused to cooperate with the government.

There was a boycott of foreign goods and government schools. But Satyagraha gave new but elevated stature to the national movement. It provided all nationalists a chance to show their might to the alien rulers.

In March 1919, there was an unprecedented national upsurge in India. Almost every Indian was filled up with new vigor and strength. There were strikes, bandhs, campaigns, processions, and demonstrations. The slogans of Hindu-Muslim unity also rent the air. The people of India were no longer ready to face humiliation and insult.

Repression of the Satyagraha: The Government wanted to crush the Satyagraha. It lathi-charged the unarmed protestors in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Delhi, and a few other cities. The bullets were also hurled at them. So Gandhiji gave a nation-wide call for strike on 6 April 1919. The people followed the directive of Gandhiji with verve and vigor. In Punjab, a large number of people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar on 13 April 1919.

Their intention was to oppose the repressive measures adopted by the British Government. They were also against the Rowlatt Act. But General Dyer reached on the spot with his soldiers who started shooting at the protestors. Hundreds of men, women, and children were killed in this massacre.

3. Discuss the nature of the Civil Disobedience Movement. Discuss its spread in all parts of the country along with its failures. (C.B.S.E. 2008 (O.D.))

Or

Write an essay on Civil Disobedience Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi.

Or

examine why did Gandhiji start the Salt Satyagraha. Why was Salt Satyagraha a rotatable event? (C.B.S.E. 2017 (D.))

Or

The Salt Satyagraha was one of the most successful campaigns in Gandhiji's non-violent struggle against Britishers." Analyze the statement. (C.B.S.E. 2019 (D))

Answer: The Civil Disobedience Movement was started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. It was a mass movement based on truth and non-violence. It was the first important step taken towards complete independence from British rule after the Revolt of 1857. We can discuss its various aspects as under Causes:

- ✓ The Simon Commission visited India in 1928. It was an all-white commission. In other words, it had no member from India. So the people opposed Simon Commission wherever it went. They raised the slogans of "Simon: Go Back" before the Simon Commission. In spite of this, the report of the commission was published. It spread discontent among the people.
- ✓ The British Government did not accept the recommendations of the Nehru Report.
- ✓ The Peasants Movement of Bardoli had succeeded which inspired Gandhiji to start a national movement against British rule.
- ✓ Gandhiji put forward a few conditions before the British Government but the Viceroy did not accept any of them. Under these circumstances, Gandhiji had no option other than to start a Civil Disobedience Movement against British rule.

The Progress of Movement: The Civil Disobedience Movement started with Dandi March. Mahatma Gandhi started his journey from Sabarmati Ashram on 12 March 1930 and reached Dandi, a place near sea-coast on 6 April 1930. He made a fistful of salt from the seawater and broke the salt laws. From there, this movement spread to each nook and corner of the country. In many places, the people defied the government laws. To crush this movement, the British adopted repressive measures. Many people along with Gandhiji were put behind the bars. But it did not dampen the vigor of the people and the pace of the movement. However, a compromise was reached between Gandhiji and the Viceroy. According to this agreement, Gandhiji accepted to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement and take part in the Second Round Table Conference. In this way, the Civil Disobedience Movement came to a halt for some time.

End of the Movement: The Second Round Table Conference was organized in London in 1931. Gandhiji participated in it on behalf of the Congress. But even at this conference, no solution could be found for the redressal of Indian problems. Gandhiji felt depressed and returned to India. He again started the Civil Disobedience Movement. On the other hand, the British Government also initiated repressive measures to control this movement. Because of the atrocities of the government, the movement lost a bit of its momentum. In 1933, Congress officially suspended this movement. It was at last withdrawn in May 1934.

Causes for Failure: The following reasons were responsible for the failure of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

1. Some scholars felt that this movement could not utilize the enthusiasm of the common people. It was suspended in between which dampened its pace.
2. Congress did not put forward any social and economic programs. As a result, a new party emerged which was named as Congress Socialist Party.
3. This movement did not benefit the farmers in any way.
4. Some scholars felt that the leadership of this movement was in the hands of the rich. Besides, it had limited objectives.

Significance: In spite of a few short-comings, the Civil Disobedience Movement yielded some good results:

1. Because of the boycott of foreign cloth, the import of such cloth declined.
2. Because of picketing at wine shops, the collection of government revenue was reduced.
3. The Indians were permitted to make salt near the sea-coast.
4. An awakening was seen among the farmers, laborers, tribal people, and women. All these people had become an inseparable part of the national movement.
5. Because of the atrocities committed by the British, the people were determined to attain freedom.
6. The British Empire got a severe jolt.

4. Briefly describe the progress (events) of the Indian National Movement from March 1940 till 1945.

Answer: 1. **Demand of Pakistan:** In March 1940, the Muslim League passed a resolution for the creation of a separate nation called 'Pakistan' and declared it as its objective. The political situation of the country was now complicated. Now, this struggle was no longer between Indians and the British. Instead, now it had become a three-way struggle, i.e., between the Congress, the Muslim League, and the British. Britain, at this time, had an all party government, and the Labour party was part of it. Members of the Labour Party had sympathetic views about Indian aspirations. But Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was a diehard imperialist and was of the view that he was not appointed by the king to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire.

2. **Cripps Mission:** In 1942, Churchill sent one of his ministers, Sir Stafford Cripps, to India to find a way regarding the resumption of talks with Congress. While negotiating with Cripps, Congress stressed the fact that if the British wanted its support in the war then first of all the Viceroy should appoint any Indian as the Defence Member in his Executive Council. But talks broke down on this issue.

3. **Quit India Movement:** After the failure of the Cripps Mission, Mahatma Gandhi decided to launch his third major movement against British rule. This movement was launched in August 1942 which was given the name of 'Quit India Movement'. Although Gandhiji was arrested at once, even then young activists organized strikes all over the country. Socialist members of Congress like Jayaprakash Narayan played a great role in it.

In many districts like Medinipur in the east and Satara in the West, Independent governments proclaimed. British adopted a very strict attitude towards this movement. Even then it took the government more than a year to suppress the rebellion.

Quit India Movement was a mass movement which was participated by hundreds of thousands of Indian. This movement attracted a large number of young people. They left their colleges and took the path of jail.

4. **Efforts of the Muslim League to expand its Influence:** When Congress leaders were in jail, Jinnah and other members of the Muslim League were busy expanding their influence. During these years, the League got a chance to make a mark in Punjab and Sindh where it had no or very little presence at all.

In June 1944, World War was on the verge of an end, Gandhiji was released from prison. In June 1944, Gandhiji talked many times with Jinnah to bridge the gap between the Congress and the Muslim League.

5. **Government of Labour Party in Britain:** In June 1945, elections were held in Britain and the Labour party came to power. This government was in favor of giving independence to

India. Meanwhile, in India, Lord Wavell held a number of meetings with representatives of Congress and the Muslim League.

5. Discuss the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle of India.

Or

discuss the political life and works of Mahatma Gandhi.

Answer: Mahatma Gandhi attained a supreme place in the history of modern India. Under his leadership, the national movement got such a way that led directly to the independence of India in 1947. He challenged the authority of British rule with the weapons of truth and non-violence. He forced the Englishmen to quit India. We can discuss the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle as given below:

- **Political Life:** The political life of Mahatma Gandhi started in South Africa. When he came back from England, he started practicing as a lawyer in India. But then he went to South Africa.
- **Life in South Africa:** When Gandhiji reached South Africa, the condition of Indians there was pitiable due to maltreatment by the white government. Gandhiji could not bear this insult and started his Satyagraha against the white government of South Africa. He helped the people in getting their rights.
- **Life in India:** Gandhiji returned to India from South Africa in 1916. The First World War had already started. The British Government was fighting this war against the Axis Powers. So it needed both men and money. Therefore Gandhiji appealed to the people to cooperate with the British. He wanted to win the hearts of the white men by helping them. He was convinced that the British would free India after the end of the war. But when the First World War ended, the British did not do anything concrete to free India. Contrary to the expectations of the people, it passed the Rowlatt Act. Gandhiji was shocked to see this drastic law and made up his mind to start the Non-Cooperation Movement against British rule.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement:** Gandhiji started this movement in 1920. The people fully supported this movement and whole-heartedly participated in it. However, Gandhiji called off this movement when violent incidents took place at Chauri Chaura in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Civil Disobedience Movement:** This movement was launched by Gandhiji in 1930. He took out his Dandi March and symbolically broke the Salt Laws by making a fistful of salt from the sea-water. The government was taken aback by this action of Gandhiji. At last, it allowed the Indians to make salt near the coast. An important Act was also passed in 1935.
- **Quit India Movement:** Gandhiji wanted to seek freedom for the country. So in 1942, he started the Quit India Movement. Lashes of followers joined the movement of Gandhiji. The British felt shocked at such a mass movement and made up their mind to free India. At last, India was set free on 15 August 1947. The credit for Indian independence obviously goes to Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Other Works:** Gandhiji did a lot of work to enhance the prestige of the Indian remove poverty of the Indians; he exhorted all the people to wear Khadi. For the upliftment of

the untouchable, Gandhiji called them 'Harijans'. Similarly, he preached fraternity to get the people rid of communal riots.

- **Death:** Gandhiji was shot dead on 30 January 1948 by Nathu Ram Godse, a youth. He recited thrice "Hey Ram" and died. His death was mourned all over the country. The Indians cannot forget Gandhiji and still remember him as the 'Father of the Nation'.