INDIGO

by Louise Fischer

UNDERSTANDING BASED

Q1. List the places that Gandhi visited between his first meeting with Shukla and his arrival at Champaran.

Q2. What did the peasants pay the British landlords as rent? What did the British now want instead and why? What would be the impact of synthetic indigo on the prices of natural indigo?

Q3. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers?

Q5. Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life?

Q6. How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers? Give instances.

Q7. What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards Advocates of ‘home rule’?

Q8. How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?

Q19. “This was typical Gandhi pattern” observes Louis Fischer. What do you learn about Gandhian politics from the extract ‘Indigo’?

Q10.How did Gandhi teach his followers a lesson in self-reliance?

Q11. What solutions to the problem of the poor did Gandhi suggest? How far did the Champaran movement help in this direction?

OR

“The real relief for them is to be free from fear”, remarked Gandhi. What do you think, was “the beginning of their liberation from the fear of the British”?

VALUE BASED

Q12. Undoubtedly, only a socially just country has the right to exist. In the modern world justice is a concept. Muscle is the reality. Corruption has become the way of the world. The destitute are exploited ruthlessly. People feel that ‘to make a living, craftiness is better than learnedness’. Write an article on the topic mentioned above in not more than 120 words. You can take ideas from the given lines:

“Gandhi protested against the delay. He read a statement pleading guilty… when the court reconvened; the judge said he would not deliver the judgment for several days.”

Q13. Obstacles determine the quality of life. Hermits feel convinced that ‘sweet are the uses of adversity’. Problems are opportunities. Elucidate the saying in not more than 120 words, taking ideas from the given lines:

“Events justified Gandhi’s position. Within a few years the British planters abandoned their estates, which reverted to the peasant. Indigo sharecropping disappeared.”

HOTS

Q14. Q3. The events in this part of the text illustrate Gandhi’s method of working. Can you identify some instances of this method and link them to his ideas of Satyagraha and non-violence?

Q15. “Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor.”

Do you think that the poor of India are free from fear after Independence?