

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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The Gandhian Era - II

1. With reference to the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movement (1920–1922), consider the following statements:
1. The Non-Cooperation Movement was formally approved by the Indian National Congress at its Allahabad session 1920.
2. The Nagpur session of Congress in December 1920 marked the adoption of swaraj as its goal through peaceful and extra-constitutional means.
3. Leaders like C.R. Das and Annie Besant remained steadfast supporters of the Congress non-cooperation programme throughout.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 2 only**

Explanation:

- The Allahabad conference in June 1920 approved the boycott programme and invited Gandhi to lead it, **but the Congress formally approved** the Non-Cooperation Movement at its **special session in Calcutta in September 1920**, not Allahabad.
- The **Nagpur session (December 1920)** saw a major ideological shift where Congress adopted **swaraj as its goal through peaceful and extra-constitutional means**, and endorsed the non-cooperation strategy.
- Leaders like **C.R. Das** had **reservations about the council boycott** and initially disagreed with parts of the programme. **Annie Besant outright opposed** the movement and eventually **left Congress** over it.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

2. With reference to the British-appointed committees in the 1920s, consider the following statements:
1. The Simon Commission was set up ahead of schedule by a Conservative government fearing a possible Labour Party victory in Britain.
2. The Muddiman Committee unanimously recommended the abolition of dyarchy and the establishment of a democratic constitution.
3. The Linlithgow Commission recommended crossbreeding Indian cattle with foreign bulls to improve quality.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 3 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 1 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- The **Simon Commission** was appointed in **1927**, two years ahead of schedule (the reforms were due in 1929), because the **Conservative government feared defeat** and did not want to leave decisions on India to a potential **Labour government**.
- The **Muddiman Committee** report **was not unanimous**. The **majority suggested minor changes**, but the **minority report**, submitted by **non-official Indians**, **strongly criticized dyarchy** and sought immediate reforms. Thus, it was **not a unanimous recommendation**.
- The **Linlithgow Commission** (Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1926) did recommend that the **quality of Indian cattle** should be improved by **importing foreign bulls** for **crossbreeding** with Indian cows.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

3. With reference to the recommendations of the Simon Commission (1930), consider the following statements:

1. The Commission recommended the abolition of dyarchy and the introduction of provincial autonomy.
2. It recommended extension of separate communal electorates and rejected the idea of universal franchise.
3. It proposed the separation of Sindh from Bombay and Burma from India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- The Simon Commission recommended the **abolition of dyarchy** in the provinces and proposed **provincial autonomy**.
- It recommended **continuation and extension of separate communal electorates** and **rejected the demand for universal adult franchise**.
- It proposed the **separation of Sindh from Bombay Presidency** and **Burma from India**, considering administrative and geographical factors.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

4. With reference to the Nehru Report (1928), consider the following statements:

1. It recommended joint electorates with reserved seats for Muslims only in provinces where they were in a minority.
2. It called for the establishment of responsible government both at the Centre and in the provinces.
3. It demanded complete independence from British rule as the unanimous goal of the Indian national movement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Nehru Report** rejected **separate electorates** but proposed **joint electorates with reserved Muslim seats only in provinces where they were in a minority** (not where they were in majority like Punjab or Bengal).
- The Report proposed a **responsible government** at both **Centre and provinces**, with elected legislatures and executives responsible to them.
- The Report **recommended dominion status**, not complete independence. Although a section of members (like **Jawaharlal Nehru**) pushed for complete independence, **dominion status** remained the **majority view**, and hence, not a unanimous demand.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

5. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): In the Calcutta Session of Congress in 1928, the Congress decided to launch a civil disobedience movement if the British government failed to accept a constitution based on dominion status within a year.

Reason (R): The younger leaders in the Congress, including Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose, strongly demanded complete independence as the goal instead of dominion status.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

Answer: **A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A**

Explanation:

- The Congress at its **Calcutta Session (1928)** decided that if the British did not accept **dominion status** within a **year**, the party would shift to demanding **complete independence** and **launch civil disobedience**.
- Leaders like **Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose**, and others were **dissatisfied with dominion status** and pushed for **purna swaraj** (complete independence) as the Congress goal.
- Since the **pressure from the younger group** led to **reducing the timeline to one year** and the **threat of launching a civil disobedience movement**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

6. With reference to Irwin's Declaration (1929), consider the following statements:

1. It officially stated that the attainment of Dominion Status was the natural outcome of India's constitutional progress.
2. The declaration introduced a specific timeline for achieving Dominion Status in India.
3. It was accompanied by a promise to convene a Round Table Conference after the submission of the Simon Commission report.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B. 1 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- The **Irwin Declaration (October 31, 1929)** affirmed that **Dominion Status** was the **natural goal** of British constitutional policy in India, as implied in the **1917 Montagu Declaration**.
- While **Dominion Status** was promised, **no timeline** or **schedule** was provided, making the promise **vague and unsatisfactory** to Indian leaders.
- **Irwin's declaration** included the **promise of a Round Table Conference**, to be held **after the Simon Commission** submitted its report.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

7. With reference to the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress in December 1929, consider the following statements:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru was chosen as Congress President largely due to the support of provincial committees and Gandhi's endorsement.
2. The Congress formally adopted complete independence (Purna Swaraj) as its goal during this session.
3. The Congress Working Committee was authorised to launch a civil disobedience movement, and January 26, 1930 was declared as Independence Day.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B. 2 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- **15 out of 18 Provincial Congress Committees opposed** Nehru's nomination. He was chosen **primarily due to Gandhi's backing** and to reflect the **youth upsurge** and symbolic importance of the moment (adoption of Purna Swaraj).
- At the **Lahore Session (Dec 1929)**, the Congress **formally declared complete independence** as its ultimate goal, replacing dominion status.
- The **CWC was authorised to launch civil disobedience**, including **non-payment of taxes**, and **January 26, 1930** was declared **Independence Day**, to be celebrated across the country.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

8. Match the following regions with the corresponding events during the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930):

List I (Region)

List II (Event)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| A. Tamil Nadu | 1. Salt March from Tiruchirapalli to Vedaranniyam led by C. Rajagopalachari |
| B. Peshawar | 2. Red Shirts and Khudai Khidmatgars led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan |
| C. Assam | 3. Salt raid at Sanikatta Salt Works |
| D. Dharasana | 4. Brutal lathi-charge during Salt Works raid led by Sarojini Naidu |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
B. Only two pairs
C. Only three pairs
D. All four pairs

Answer: **C. Only three pairs**

Explanation:

- **Tamil Nadu** – C. Rajagopalachari led a **Salt March** from **Tiruchirapalli to Vedaranniyam**.
- **Peshawar** - Led by **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, the **Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts)** spearheaded the protests.
- **Assam** - **Sanikatta Salt Works** was in **Karnataka, not Assam**. Assam had **student strikes** and tribal mobilization (e.g., Cunningham Circular protest).
- **D. Dharasana** – The **brutal lathi-charge** occurred during the **Salt Raid** led by **Sarojini Naidu** and others.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

9. With reference to the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931, consider the following statements:

1. The British government agreed to allow Indians the right to make salt in coastal villages for personal consumption.
2. The Viceroy accepted Gandhi's demand for a public inquiry into police excesses during the Civil Disobedience Movement.
3. Gandhi agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement and attend the next Round Table Conference.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **C. 1 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- The **British government** allowed the **right to make salt** in **coastal villages**, but only for **personal use**, not for commercial sale.
- Gandhi's **demand for a public inquiry into police excesses** was **rejected** by the Viceroy.
- Gandhi **agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement** and also **agreed to participate** in the **Second Round Table Conference**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

10. With reference to the Karachi Congress Session of 1931, consider the following statements:

1. The Congress adopted two major resolutions—one on Fundamental Rights and the other on the National Economic Programme.
2. The Congress disassociated itself from political violence but acknowledged the courage and sacrifice of Bhagat Singh and his comrades.
3. The resolution on the National Economic Programme demanded privatization of key industries to promote efficiency.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- The **Karachi Congress (1931)** passed two significant resolutions—**Fundamental Rights** and **National Economic Programme**, making it a landmark session.
- While **dissociating from political violence**, the Congress **admired the bravery and sacrifice** of **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru**, executed just days before the session.
- The **National Economic Programme** advocated **state ownership and control** of key industries, **not privatization**. It focused on **economic justice and welfare**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

Gandhian Era (till Nationalist Response in the Wake of World War II)

1. With reference to the **First Round Table Conference (1930–31)**, consider the following statements:
 1. The conference was attended by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as a representative of the Depressed Classes.
 2. The Indian National Congress actively participated in the conference.
 3. The conference led to the immediate implementation of a federal structure in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar attended the First Round Table Conference representing the Depressed Classes.
- The Indian National Congress **boycotted** the First Round Table Conference.
- Although federation and safeguards were discussed, **no immediate implementation** took place.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

2. With reference to the **Second Round Table Conference (1931)**, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian National Congress was represented by Mahatma Gandhi, who attended as its sole representative.
2. The issue of separate electorates for minorities led to a deadlock during the conference.
3. The conference resulted in the immediate granting of responsible government at the Centre.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Gandhi was nominated as the **sole representative** of the Indian National Congress at the Second Round Table Conference.
- The conference got **deadlocked over the issue of separate electorates** demanded by several minority groups.
- The conference **did not lead to the establishment of responsible government** at the Centre. No major constitutional progress was made.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

3. With reference to the **Third Round Table Conference (1932)**, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian National Congress and Mahatma Gandhi participated actively in the conference.
2. The recommendations of the conference were later incorporated into the Government of India Act, 1935.
3. The conference witnessed limited Indian participation and failed to achieve any major consensus.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 2 and 3 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A. 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The **Indian National Congress and Gandhi did not participate** in the Third Round Table Conference. It was largely **ignored** by major Indian leaders.

- The **recommendations** from the conference were published in a **White Paper (1933)** and ultimately **shaped the Government of India Act, 1935**.
- The conference saw **limited Indian participation** and **no significant breakthrough** or consensus.
Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

4. With reference to the **Communal Award of 1932**, consider the following statements:

1. It provided separate electorates for multiple communities including Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and the Depressed Classes.
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar supported the demand for separate electorates for the Depressed Classes during the Round Table Conferences.
3. The Communal Award was welcomed by the Indian National Congress as a step toward inclusive representation.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Communal Award of 1932** granted **separate electorates** to various communities including **Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Depressed Classes**, and even **Marathas** in some Bombay seats.
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** consistently advocated for **separate electorates** for the Depressed Classes both before and during the **Round Table Conferences**.
- The **Congress opposed the Communal Award**, seeing it as a **divide and rule strategy** by the British, particularly objecting to separate electorates for the **Depressed Classes**.
Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

5. With reference to the **Poona Pact of 1932**, consider the following statements:

1. The Pact replaced separate electorates for the Depressed Classes with increased reserved seats in legislatures.
2. It was signed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and accepted by the British government as an amendment to the Communal Award.
3. The Pact empowered the Depressed Classes to form independent leadership and reject the Hindu social order.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Poona Pact** abolished **separate electorates** for the Depressed Classes but **increased the number of reserved seats** in legislatures.
- The Pact was **signed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** on behalf of the Depressed Classes and was **accepted by the British government** as an **amendment to the Communal Award**.
- While the Pact granted political representation, it is **critically seen as having weakened independent Dalit leadership** and **reinforced the existing Hindu social order**.
Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

6. With reference to **Gandhi's Harijan Campaign**, consider the following statements:

1. Gandhi founded the Harijan Sevak Sangh and launched a nationwide campaign against untouchability, including two fasts in 1934.
2. Gandhi equated the abolition of untouchability with the complete annihilation of the caste system and promoted inter-caste marriages as a primary solution.
3. Gandhi viewed the campaign as a moral and social reform movement rather than a political struggle.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 3 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Gandhi launched an extensive anti-untouchability campaign, **founded the Harijan Sevak Sangh**, undertook a **Harijan tour (1933–34)**, and observed **two fasts in 1934** to highlight the issue.
- Gandhi **did not advocate immediate annihilation of the caste system**, nor did he promote **inter-caste marriage** as the central goal of the Harijan campaign. He **distinguished** between **caste and untouchability** and sought to **reform, not abolish, the varnashram system**.
- Gandhi saw the campaign as a **moral and spiritual crusade to purify Hindu society**, not a political movement.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

7. With reference to the **Government of India Act, 1935**, consider the following statements:

1. It proposed an All India Federation that included both British Indian provinces and princely states, but the federation never came into existence.
2. The Act abolished separate electorates and introduced universal adult suffrage.
3. It introduced provincial autonomy, replacing the earlier system of dyarchy in provinces.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Act proposed an All India Federation, but it **never materialised** due to lack of consent from princely states.
- **Separate electorates were retained and expanded; universal adult suffrage was not introduced** (only ~14% of the population got the vote).
- **Dyarchy at the provincial level was abolished** and replaced with **provincial autonomy**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

8. With reference to the Haripura Session of the Indian National Congress held in 1938, consider the following statements:

1. Subhas Chandra Bose presided over the session held at Haripura.
2. The session passed a resolution to support agitations in princely states.
3. The Haripura session was marked by a constitutional crisis triggered by the resignation of Ministers in Bihar and the United Provinces.
4. The Haripura session witnessed the adoption of the demand for complete independence as the official goal of Congress.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1, 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 3 and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Haripura Session (1938) was **presided over by Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- The session passed a **resolution for moral support to movements** in princely states.
- A **constitutional crisis** arose due to the Governor-General's interference in Bihar and United Provinces, **leading to ministerial resignations**.
- The **demand for complete independence** was first adopted in the **Lahore Session of 1929**, not Haripura.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

9. With reference to the August Offer of 1940, consider the following statements:

1. It proposed expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council to include a majority of Indians.
2. It promised dominion status as the long-term objective for India.
3. It accepted the Congress demand to form an interim national government during the war.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The August Offer proposed **expanding the Viceroy's Executive Council** to include **a majority of Indians**.
- It stated that **dominion status** would be the **objective for India**.
- The British government **rejected the Congress's proposal** to form an **interim government** during the war.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

10. With reference to the Cripps Mission of 1942, consider the following statements:

1. The Cripps Mission proposed that any province unwilling to join the Indian Union could form a separate Union with its own constitution.
2. The constituent assembly proposed by the Mission was to be composed entirely of elected members.
3. The defence of India and powers of the Governor-General were to be immediately transferred to Indian hands.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- The Cripps Mission allowed that **any province unwilling to join the Indian Union could form a separate constitution and Union**, thus introducing the **possibility of partition**.
- The proposed **constituent assembly was to be partly elected** by provincial assemblies and **partly nominated** by princely states—not fully elected.
- **Defence of India and powers of the Governor-General were to remain with the British** during the war; there was **no immediate transfer of power**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

Growth of revolutionary organizations in India and abroad

1. With reference to the Abhinav Bharat Mandir, consider the following statements:

1. It was initially founded in 1904 as "Mitra Mela" by Vinayak Savarkar and Ganesh Damodar Savarkar.
2. The organization drew inspiration from the revolutionary activities of Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Italy.
3. The name "Abhinav Bharat" was adopted after India's independence to reflect modern nationalism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Abhinav Bharat Mandir** was founded as Mitra Mela in 1904 and later renamed Abhinav Bharat.
- It was inspired by Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Italy.
- The name "Abhinav Bharat" was adopted in 1904 itself, not after independence.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

2. With reference to revolutionary activities in the early 20th century, consider the following statements:

1. Madanlal Dhingra assassinated Lieutenant Colonel William Curzon-Wylie in London in 1909.
2. Anant Laxman Kanhere assassinated District Magistrate Jackson during a public event in Nashik, which came to be known as the Nasik Conspiracy.
3. Vinayak Savarkar was acquitted in the Nasik Conspiracy case but later imprisoned for anti-British writings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Madanlal Dhingra assassinated Curzon-Wylie in London in 1909, inspired by Savarkar.
- The Nasik Conspiracy involved the assassination of Jackson by Anant Laxman Kanhere.
- Savarkar was not acquitted; he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for his involvement (including supplying pistols) in the Nasik Conspiracy.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

3. With reference to the Delhi-Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1912, consider the following statements:

1. The conspiracy aimed to assassinate Lord Hardinge during a ceremonial procession in Delhi.
2. Rashbehari Bose and Basant Kumar Biswas were associated with the conspiracy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The attack took place during Lord Hardinge's ceremonial procession in Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
- Rashbehari Bose was one of the key masterminds behind the conspiracy, and Basant Kumar Biswas, a young revolutionary, executed the bombing.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

4. With reference to the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) and the Kakori Conspiracy Case, consider the following statements:

1. The HRA was formed in response to the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement after the Chauri Chaura incident.
2. The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) was founded by Bhagat Singh in 1925.
3. The Kakori Conspiracy Case involved the looting of government funds from a train by HRA revolutionaries in 1925.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Non-Cooperation Movement was called off by Gandhi in 1922 after the Chauri Chaura incident, where police were killed by protesters.
- This disillusioned many young revolutionaries, leading to the formation of the HRA in 1924 to adopt armed struggle against British rule.
- HSRA was formed in 1928, not 1925. It was a renaming and ideological transformation of HRA, led by Bhagat Singh and others, introducing socialist ideas and collective leadership.
- On August 9, 1925, HRA members like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaq Ullah Khan, and Chandrashekhar Azad looted a train near Kakori (Lucknow) to fund revolutionary activities.
- This is known as the Kakori Conspiracy Case, and several leaders were later arrested and punished.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

5. With reference to the Anushilan Samiti, consider the following statements:

1. The Anushilan Samiti was founded in Kolkata in 1902 by Satish Chandra Basu with ideological support from Sister Nivedita.
2. Pramathanath Mitra was one of the main leaders and patrons of the organization.
3. The Samiti distanced itself from the Swadeshi Movement to focus on constitutional reforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Samiti was **founded in 1902** in **Kolkata** by **Satish Chandra Basu**.
- He received **encouragement from Sister Nivedita** (disciple of Swami Vivekananda) and **Swami Shradananda**.
- **Pramathanath Mitra**, a barrister, became the **chief patron** and helped shape its **ideological and organizational framework**.
- He was a crucial figure in expanding the Samiti's reach and legitimacy.
- **The Samiti gained momentum during the Swadeshi Movement (1905–1908)**.
- Many **youths joined the organization** during this period, and it was supported by **extremist leaders** like **Bipin Chandra Pal** and **Brahmabandhab Upadhyay**.
- The Samiti was **revolutionary and militant**, not focused on constitutional methods.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

6. Match the following revolutionary organizations with their associated facts:

List I (Organization / Entity) List II (Associated Fact)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| A. Indian Home Rule Society | 1. Published <i>Hindustan Ghadar</i> and <i>Ghadar ki Goonj</i> in Urdu and Gurmukhi |
| B. India House | 2. Became a hub of revolutionary activity in Europe; disbanded after Curzon Wylie's assassination |
| C. The Indian Sociologist | 3. Mouthpiece of the Indian Home Rule Society |
| D. Ghadar Party | 4. Founded in 1905 by Shyamaji Krishna Varma and later led by V.D. Savarkar |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- **Indian Home Rule Society:** This journal (*Hindustan Ghadar*, *Ghadar ki Goonj*) was linked to the **Ghadar Party**, not the Indian Home Rule Society.
- India House became a **revolutionary hub** in London and was **disbanded after the 1909 assassination** of Sir Curzon Wylie.
- **The Indian Sociologist** was the **mouthpiece of the Indian Home Rule Society**, edited by **Shyamaji Krishna Varma**.
- The Ghadar Party was formed in **1913**, led by **Lala Har Dayal**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

7. With reference to the Indian Home Rule Society (1905) and India House, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Home Rule Society was founded in London by Shyamji Krishna Varma as part of an informal nationalist movement.
2. The assassination of William Hutt Curzon Wyllie by Madan Lal Dhingra led to the decline of India House's influence and increased police crackdown.
3. During World War I, India House and its network played a significant role in mobilizing support for the British war effort in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Indian Home Rule Society (IHRS) was founded in 1905 in London by **Shyamji Krishna Varma**. It aimed to promote Indian self-rule and support Indian students in Britain who sympathized with the cause of nationalism.
- It was informal in nature but ideologically significant in the broader context of the Indian independence movement.
- Madan Lal Dhingra, a member of India House, assassinated Curzon Wyllie in 1909 in London.
- This event caused a **severe backlash from British authorities**, resulting in increased surveillance and repression. India House's influence began to decline after this, and several leaders like **Shyamji Krishna Varma** and **Bhikaji Cama** fled to other parts of Europe.
- India House and its associated network were involved in **anti-British revolutionary activities** during World War I. They supported **nationalist conspiracies**, including efforts to incite rebellion within India against British rule — *not* to support the British war effort. Their activities laid the groundwork for revolutionary plots like the **Hindu-German Conspiracy**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

8. With reference to revolutionary movements during the Indian freedom struggle, consider the following pairs:

Revolutionary Association / Event	Personality Associated
1. Indian Home Rule Society (1905)	Shyamji Krishna Varma
2. Ghadar Party (1913)	Kartar Singh
3. India House	Madan Lal Dhingra
4. Singapore Mutiny (1915)	Rashbehari Bose

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

- Indian Home Rule Society was founded by **Shyamji Krishna Varma** in London.
- **Kartar Singh Sarabha** was one of the key figures in the **Ghadar Party**.
- **Madan Lal Dhingra** was associated with **India House** in London and carried out the assassination of Curzon Wyllie.
- **Rashbehari Bose** was not involved in the **Singapore Mutiny**. The mutiny was led by figures like **Jamadar Chisti Khan, Jamadar Abdul Gani, and Subedar Daud Khan**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

9. Which of the following organizations was founded abroad with the aim of securing India's independence through armed revolt?

- A) India House
- B) Forward Bloc
- C) Khilafat Committee
- D) Servants of India Society

Answer: A) India House

Explanation:

- **India House** was established in **London in 1905** by **Shyamji Krishna Varma**. It became a hub for Indian students and political activists advocating for Indian independence through **revolutionary and militant methods**.
- Prominent revolutionaries like **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Madan Lal Dhingra, and Lala Har Dayal** were associated with it. It aimed to foster a sense of nationalism and train youth for armed struggle against British colonial rule.
- **Forward Bloc** was formed by **Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939** after his differences with the Congress leadership. It was an India-based political movement, not founded abroad.
- **Khilafat Committee** was an Islamic political campaign launched in India (1919–1924) to protect the Ottoman Caliphate and was not focused on Indian armed revolution abroad.
- **Servants of India Society**, founded by **Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1905**, promoted **social reform, education, and constitutional methods**—not armed revolt.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

10. The Berlin Committee (Indian Independence Committee) was formed during World War I with the aim of:

- A) Promoting education among Indians in Germany
- B) Organizing peaceful protests in Britain
- C) Securing German support for Indian independence
- D) Collaborating with the INC for constitutional reforms

Answer: C) Securing German support for Indian independence

Explanation:

- The **Berlin Committee**, founded by Indian revolutionaries like **Virendranath Chattopadhyaya**.
- It aimed to seek **German and Ottoman help** to instigate a revolt in British India during World War I, especially through the **Hindu–German Conspiracy**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

Peasants and Tribal Movements and women movements in colonial India

1. With reference to the **Sanyasi Revolt**, consider the following statements:

1. One of the immediate causes of the revolt was the restriction imposed by the British on religious pilgrimages.
2. The revolt saw participation from both Hindu Sanyasis and Muslim Fakirs.
3. The revolt was primarily directed against local zamindars who collaborated with the British.
4. The novel *Anandmath* by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is inspired by the events of this revolt.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Answer: C. Only three

Explanation:

- The British imposed restrictions on pilgrimages to holy places, which was one of the triggers.
 - The revolt was jointly led by **Hindu Sanyasis** and **Muslim Fakirs**, indicating communal unity.
 - The primary target was the **British East India Company**, not local zamindars.
 - *Anandmath* is a semi-historical novel based on the Sanyasi Revolt.
- Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India**

2. With reference to the Santhal Rebellion of 1855–56, consider the following statements:

1. The rebellion was led by Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu.
2. One of the major causes of the rebellion was the imposition of forced labour and exploitation through high-interest loans by moneylenders.
3. The British responded by creating a separate administrative unit called Santhal Parganas and later passed the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1876.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu led the Santhal Rebellion and declared autonomy over the region between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal.
- The Santhals were exploited through forced labour and high-interest loans from moneylenders, contributing to the uprising.
- The British created **Santhal Parganas** in 1856 and passed the **Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act** in 1876 to protect tribal land rights.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

3. With reference to the **Indigo Revolt (1859–60)** in Bengal, consider the following statements:

1. The revolt was led by local leaders such as the Biswas brothers, Rafique Mondal, and Kader Molla.
2. The immediate cause of the revolt was the exploitation of peasants by European planters who forced them to grow indigo.
3. The British responded swiftly by banning indigo cultivation and arresting all rebel leaders.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- The revolt was indeed led by **Biswas brothers (Nadia), Rafique Mondal (Malda), and Kader Molla (Pabna)**.
- The **main cause** was the **coercive indigo cultivation** imposed by European planters on unwilling peasants.
- The **British did not ban** indigo cultivation nor arrest all leaders. Instead, they formed the **Indigo Commission in 1860**, which acknowledged peasant grievances and helped reduce abuses.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

5. Consider the following pairs:

Revolt	Person Associated
1. Deccan Riots	A. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Pabna Movement	B. Ishan Chandra Roy
3. Champaran Movement	C. Biswas Brothers

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- **Deccan Riots**- It was **not led by Mahatma Gandhi**. Gandhi was involved in Champaran, not in Deccan Riots.
- **Pabna Movement** -**Ishan Chandra Roy, Shambhu Nath Pal, and Khodi Mulla** were key leaders.
- **Champaran Movement**- **Mahatma Gandhi** led the movement, supported by **J.B. Kripalani, Rajendra Prasad**, and others.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

6. Consider the following statements with reference to the tribal revolt led by **Tilka Manjhi**:

1. Tilka Manjhi organized guerrilla warfare in the Santhal Pargana region and received support from both men and women of the Santhal community.
2. One of the key causes of the revolt was the exploitative practices of British officials and the hardship caused by the famine of 1770.
3. Tilka Manjhi surrendered to the British after signing a peace treaty and was later exiled from Santhal Pargana.

How many of the above statements correctly characterise the revolt led by **Tilka Manjhi**?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- Tilka Manjhi led a **guerrilla resistance** against the British, and **Santhal women** also actively participated.
- The revolt was rooted in **British exploitation** through **revenue, police, and landlord oppression**, worsened by the **1770 famine**.
- **Tilka Manjhi did not surrender** or sign any peace treaty. He was **captured and hanged** by the British in **1785**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

7. **Consider the following statements** regarding tribal uprisings in the Chhotanagpur region during the early 19th century:

1. The Kol Mutiny of 1831, led by Buddho Bhagat, was a response to land alienation and the oppressive policies of revenue officials and moneylenders.
2. The Ho and Munda Uprisings (1820–1837) were triggered by British occupation, new revenue policies, and the entry of non-tribals like Bengalis into tribal areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Both
- C. None
- D. Neither

Answer: B. Both

Explanation:

- The **Kol Mutiny** was indeed led by **Buddho Bhagat** and was caused by **land alienation, oppressive taxation, and disruption of traditional structures** due to British policies.
- The **Ho and Munda Uprisings** were responses to the **British occupation of Singhbhum, introduction of new revenue systems, and influx of Bengalis**, which disturbed the tribal socio-economic fabric.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

8. **With reference to Annie Besant's role in India's nationalist and women's movements, consider the following statements:**

1. Annie Besant was the first woman to preside over the Indian National Congress.
2. She advocated women's education and political participation through institutions like the Central Hindu College and the Home Rule Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- Annie Besant was the first woman to become President of the Indian National Congress in 1917, marking a significant moment for women's visibility in national politics.
- Besant played a key role in advocating for women's education and political involvement. She established the **Central Hindu College** (which later became part of BHU), and used her leadership in the **Home Rule Movement** to promote broader participation, including that of women.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

9. **With reference to Sarala Devi Chaudhurani's contributions to the Indian women's movement, consider the following statements:**

1. She founded the Bharat Stree Mahamandal to promote women's education and self-reliance.
2. She opposed the inclusion of physical training for women in nationalist movements, believing it diverted focus from education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- Sarala Devi Chaudhurani founded the **Bharat Stree Mahamandal in 1910**, one of the earliest women's organizations aimed at promoting **education and self-reliance** for Indian women.
- Instead of opposing physical training, she actively **promoted physical culture**, including **gymnasiums and self-defense training**, as part of women's empowerment.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

10. With reference to the mass mobilization of women in the Indian nationalist movement during the 1920s and 1930s, consider the following statements:

1. The Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement witnessed significant participation of women, both in public protests and underground resistance.
2. The All India Women's Conference, established in the 1940s, focused solely on educational reforms and stayed away from nationalist politics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- During the **Salt Satyagraha (1930)**, women like **Sarojini Naidu** and **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay** led protests, and in the **Quit India Movement (1942)**, women such as **Aruna Asaf Ali** played key roles in underground networks—demonstrating women's active and courageous participation.
- The **All India Women's Conference (AIWC)** was founded in **1927**, not in the 1940s, and it **combined social reform (like education)** with **active engagement in nationalist politics**, not avoiding it.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

Development of Education under British Rule

1. With reference to the promotion of education under the Company Rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Calcutta Madrasah and the Sanskrit College were established to promote religious and philosophical studies without any administrative intent.
2. Fort William College was established to train Company civil servants in Indian languages and customs.
3. Serampore missionaries actively promoted modern, Western education in India with an intent to facilitate religious conversion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Calcutta Madrasah (1781) and Sanskrit College (1791) were established to produce a regular supply of qualified Indians to assist in legal and administrative functions of the Company, not purely for promoting religious studies.
- Fort William College (1800) was set up by Lord Wellesley to train the Company's civil servants in Indian languages and customs.
- Serampore missionaries actively promoted Western education and believed it would undermine Indian religious beliefs, making way for Christianity.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

2. Arrange the following Education-related Commissions/Committees in chronological order of their formation:

1. Sadler Commission
2. Hartog Committee
3. Hunter Commission
4. Sargent Plan

Select the correct chronological order:

- A. 3 - 1 - 2 - 4
- B. 1 - 3 - 2 - 4
- C. 3 - 2 - 1 - 4
- D. 2 - 1 - 3 - 4

Answer: A. 3 - 1 - 2 - 4

Explanation:

1. **Hunter Commission (1882-83)** – Appointed to review the progress of education since Wood's Despatch of 1854; focused on primary and secondary education.
2. **Sadler Commission (1917-19)** – Appointed to examine problems of Calcutta University, later influenced wider higher education reforms.
3. **Hartog Committee (1929)** – Formed by Simon Commission to assess quality and standards, especially in primary education.
4. **Sargent Plan (1944)** – A comprehensive post-WWII plan aiming for universal literacy and systemic reforms in all sectors of education.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

3. With reference to Lord Macaulay's Minute on Education (1835), consider the following statements:

1. It advocated the use of English as the medium of instruction for teaching Western sciences and literature in India.
2. It led to the establishment of a large number of elementary schools to promote mass education.
3. It introduced the idea of educating a small elite class to act as a bridge between the British administration and Indian society.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Macaulay's Minute clearly emphasized teaching Western sciences and literature through the **English language**.
- The policy **neglected mass education** and did **not establish elementary schools**; instead, it focused on a few English-medium institutions.
- Macaulay proposed educating a **small class of Indians** who would serve as intermediaries—"Indian in blood and colour but English in tastes"—to act as interpreters between the British and the masses, a concept linked to the **downward filtration theory**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

4. With reference to Wood's Despatch of 1854, consider the following statements:

1. It recommended a graded educational structure from vernacular primary schools to universities in presidency towns.
2. It advocated for secular education in government institutions and encouraged private participation through grants-in-aid.
3. It reinforced the downward filtration theory by focusing solely on higher education for elite classes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Wood's Despatch laid down a **systematic hierarchy**—from **vernacular primary schools** to **district-level colleges** and **universities** in presidency towns.
- It emphasised **secular education** in government institutions and introduced **grants-in-aid** to promote **private initiative** in education.
- Unlike earlier policies, the Despatch **repudiated the downward filtration theory** and stressed **mass education**, at least in principle.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Hunter Education Commission (1882–83):

Statement I: The Hunter Commission recommended that primary education should be imparted through vernacular languages and its control transferred to local bodies.

Statement II: The Commission believed that the involvement of local self-governing institutions would promote administrative efficiency and wider outreach in primary education.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

Explanation:

- The Hunter Commission emphasized vernacular education at the primary level and recommended transferring control to **district and municipal boards**.
- This decentralization was aimed at **enhancing administrative efficiency** and ensuring education reached more people through **local governance structures**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

6. With reference to the Indian Universities Act of 1904, consider the following statements:

1. The Act granted the government overriding powers over university regulations and reduced the autonomy of universities.
2. The Act aimed at promoting research and improving the quality of higher education, with financial support sanctioned for this purpose.
3. Nationalist leaders welcomed the Act for bringing reforms to the deteriorating private education system and promoting literacy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- **Indian Universities Act of 1904** significantly curtailed university autonomy, allowing government control over regulations and appointments.
- It encouraged study and research and allocated ₹5 lakh annually for five years for university improvement.
- Nationalists **opposed** the Act, viewing it as **imperialist** and **repressive**; Gokhale called it a **retrograde measure**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

7. With reference to the Government Resolution on Education Policy—1913, consider the following statements:

1. The government accepted the policy of removing illiteracy but refused to make primary education compulsory.
2. Provincial governments were urged to provide free elementary education to poor and backward sections of society.
3. The resolution proposed a uniform curriculum and emphasized examinations for girls to improve women's education.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- The government rejected **compulsory education** but accepted the **removal of illiteracy** as a policy goal.
- The resolution encouraged **provincial governments** to provide **free elementary education** to the **poor and backward**.
- The resolution **did not emphasize examinations** for girls; instead, it suggested a **practical curriculum** and **downplayed the importance of exams** for girls.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

8. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): The Sadler Commission recommended that students should enter university only after completing an intermediate stage, instead of matriculation.

Reason (R): The Commission believed that secondary education needed to be improved first, and a separate board should administer secondary and intermediate education.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- D. A is incorrect, but R is correct.

Answer: A. Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- The Sadler Commission proposed that university education should begin **after an intermediate stage** to better prepare students and reduce academic burden on universities.
- The Commission held that **secondary education was the foundation** for successful university education and recommended the creation of a **separate board** for its administration.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

9. With reference to the Wardha Scheme of Basic Education (1937), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme proposed free and compulsory education for children aged 7 to 14, with instruction in the mother tongue.
2. Productive manual work like spinning, weaving, and carpentry was made central to the learning process.
3. The scheme included provisions for religious and moral education to build the character of students.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- The Wardha Scheme proposed **free and compulsory education** for children aged **7 to 14**, using the **mother tongue** as the medium of instruction.
- The scheme emphasized **learning through productive activity**, making **crafts like spinning, weaving, and carpentry** central to education.
- The scheme **explicitly excluded religious and moral education**, focusing instead on practical, secular, and community-oriented learning.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

10. With reference to the development of vernacular education in colonial India, consider the following statements:

1. William Adam's reports in the 1830s highlighted deficiencies in the vernacular education system in Bengal and Bihar.
2. Wood's Despatch of 1854 rejected the use of vernacular languages in education and promoted only English-medium instruction.
3. The Hunter Commission of 1882 supported vernacular education as essential for mass instruction.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B. Only two

Explanation:

- William Adam's reports (1835–1838) did indeed point out serious **defects in vernacular education in Bengal and Bihar**.
- Wood's Despatch of 1854 **supported** vernacular education. It recommended **improving standards, government supervision, and teacher training** for vernacular schools.
- The **Hunter Commission (1882)** emphasized **vernacular education** as necessary for the **education of the masses**.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India

Historical Background

1. With reference to the Regulating Act of 1773, consider the following statements:

1. It made the Governors of Bombay and Madras subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal.
2. It established a Supreme Court at Calcutta.
3. It allowed the servants of the East India Company to engage in private trade with prior approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Regulating Act of 1773** made Bombay and Madras governors subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal.
- It established the Supreme Court at Calcutta in 1774.
- The **Regulating Act of 1773 prohibited** Company servants from engaging in private trade or accepting bribes.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. With reference to Pitt's India Act of 1784, consider the following statements:

1. It established a system of double government by creating the Board of Control for political affairs.
2. It vested complete control of both commercial and political functions in the Board of Control.
3. It was the first Act to refer to the Company's territories as the 'British possessions in India'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The **Pitt's India Act of 1784** created a new body called the **Board of Control**, which was tasked with managing the **political affairs** of the East India Company. At the same time, the **Court of Directors** continued to handle **commercial affairs**. This separation of powers led to a unique system known as "**double government**."
- The Board of Control was given authority only over **political, civil, and military matters**. **Commercial functions** remained under the purview of the **Court of Directors**. Thus, control was divided — not centralized in the Board of Control.
- This **Pitt's India Act of 1784** marked a significant constitutional shift by explicitly referring to the Company's territories in India as "**British possessions**," reinforcing the idea that sovereignty ultimately rested with the **British Crown**, and not just the trading company.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. With reference to the Charter Act of 1833, consider the following statements:

1. It ended the East India Company's commercial functions and made it a purely administrative body.
2. It granted the Governor-General of India exclusive legislative powers over all British territories in India.
3. It successfully implemented open competition for civil services, allowing Indians to participate equally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Charter Act of 1833 act abolished the Company's trading activities, marking its transformation from a commercial to an **administrative authority**. It now held Indian territories "**in trust for His Majesty.**"
- The Act gave the **Governor-General of India** sole authority to make laws for **entire British India**, centralizing legislative power. It also changed the terminology of laws from "Regulations" to "Acts."
- Although the Act **proposed** open competition and stated that **Indians should not be debarred**, this provision faced **strong resistance from the Court of Directors** and was **not implemented**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

4. With reference to the Charter Act of 1853, consider the following statements:

1. It introduced a separate legislative council for the Governor-General, thereby separating legislative and executive functions.
2. It granted local governments the power to elect members to the Governor-General's Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- The Act **separated the legislative and executive functions** for the first time by adding six new legislative councillors, thereby establishing a **distinct legislative body** known as the **Indian (Central) Legislative Council**.
- While the Act **introduced local representation**, the members were **appointed** by the provincial governments (Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and Agra), **not elected**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. With reference to the Government of India Act of 1858, consider the following statements:

1. It abolished the East India Company and transferred the administration of India to the British Crown.
2. It created the office of Secretary of State for India, who was a member of the British Cabinet.
3. It introduced constitutional reforms in the governance structure of India at the provincial level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Government of India Act of 1858** was passed after the Revolt of 1857 and **abolished the Company rule**, transferring all powers to **Her Majesty**, i.e., the British Crown.
- A new office of **Secretary of State for India** was established with full authority over Indian administration and direct responsibility to the **British Parliament**.
- The act primarily **reformed administrative machinery in England** and did **not bring any substantial changes** to the provincial governance system in India.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. With reference to the Indian Councils Act of 1861, consider the following statements:

1. It marked the beginning of associating Indians with the law-making process by nominating them to the Viceroy's legislative council.
2. It initiated the process of decentralisation by restoring legislative powers to the presidencies of Bombay and Madras.
3. It introduced a system of direct elections to the provincial legislative councils.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Indian Councils Act of 1861** allowed the Viceroy to **nominate Indians** as **non-official members** to his expanded legislative council. This was a **token gesture** toward Indian representation.
- This was a **reversal of the centralising trend** from earlier Acts. The Act allowed **provincial legislatures** to frame laws again, laying early groundwork for future provincial autonomy.
- The **system of elections** (even indirect) was **not introduced** by this Act. Direct or indirect elections came **much later** under the Indian Councils Act of **1892 and 1909**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. With reference to the Indian Councils Acts of 1892 and 1909, consider the following statements:

1. The Act of 1892 introduced the practice of direct elections for non-official members in legislative councils.
2. The Act of 1909 allowed non-official majority in the provincial legislative councils while retaining official majority in the central council.
3. The Act of 1909 introduced separate electorates for Muslims, thereby legalising communal representation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Act of 1892 **did not introduce direct elections**. It only allowed **nomination on the recommendation of certain bodies** (like municipalities, universities, chambers), making it an **indirect and limited representation**. The word "election" was deliberately **not used**.
- The Act provided for a **non-official majority** in the **provincial** legislative councils but retained the **official majority** in the **Central Legislative Council**.
- This was a major provision of the Act. For the first time, it **legalised communal representation** by creating **separate electorates** for Muslims, where **Muslim voters would elect Muslim members**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. With reference to the Government of India Act of 1919, consider the following statements:

1. It introduced the system of dyarchy in the provinces by dividing provincial subjects into transferred and reserved categories.
2. It introduced direct elections and bicameralism at the central level in India for the first time.
3. It granted universal adult franchise and removed property qualifications for voters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Government of India Act of 1919** divided provincial subjects into **transferred** (handled by ministers responsible to legislatures) and **reserved** (handled by the governor and executive council) — a system called **dyarchy**.
- For the **first time**, **direct elections** were introduced, and the Central Legislature became **bicameral**, comprising the **Council of State** and the **Legislative Assembly**.
- The franchise was **limited**, based on **property, tax, or education**. **Universal adult franchise** was **not introduced**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

9. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Government of India Act of 1935 proposed an All-India Federation with provinces and princely states as units.

Statement II: The federation remained unimplemented because its formation was conditional on voluntary accession by princely states.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

Explanation:

- The **Government of India Act of 1935** indeed **proposed the creation of an All-India Federation**. This federation was to consist of **British Indian provinces** (like Bombay, Bengal, Madras, etc.), and **Princely states** (which were autonomous under British suzerainty).
- The Act stated that **accession to the federation by princely states was voluntary**, meaning they had to **formally agree** to join.
Since **most princely states did not give their consent**, the **federation never came into existence**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. With reference to the Indian Independence Act of 1947, consider the following statements:

1. It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of India and Pakistan to repeal any law passed by the British Parliament, including the Indian Independence Act itself.
2. It provided that India and Pakistan would remain dominions under the British Crown until they framed their own constitutions.
3. It continued the office of the Secretary of State for India to oversee the transition process and maintain coordination with the British Crown.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Act **granted full legislative authority** to the **Constituent Assemblies** of both India and Pakistan, including the power to **repeal any act of the British Parliament**, even the **Indian Independence Act itself**.
- India and Pakistan were to function as **independent dominions** under the British Commonwealth until they **drafted their own constitutions**. However, they were **no longer under British control**.

- The Act **abolished the office of the Secretary of State for India**, and his responsibilities were **transferred to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

