

## Class 8

# Social Science

### History

### ch-1- How, When and Where

#### I) IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES:

- 1) **Historian:** One who writes about the events of the past, i.e. how things were and how they changed.
- 2) **Debate:** Discussion on an important topic of public interest.
- 3) **Periodisation:** Posing any event into periods.
- 4) **Ancient:** Very old.
- 5) **Medieval:** It refers to the period in which features of modern society did not exist.
- 6) **Colonization:** Colonization is a process in which one country subjugates another and thus brings political, economic, social and cultural changes.
- 7) **Subjugation:** Gaining control over a country.
- 8) **Calligrapher:** One who is specialised in the art of beautiful writing.
- 9) **Survey:** The act of examining and recording the measurements, features etc. of an area of land to prepare a map or plan for it.
- 10) **Archives:** A place where historical documents or records of a government, an organisation, etc, are stored.

#### II) IMPORTANT YEARS:

- 1) 1773 – Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India.
- 2) 1782 – First map produced by James Rennel.
- 3) 1817 – James Mill published a massive three-volume work, A History of British India.

1920 – The National Archives of India came up.

### Objective Type Questions

#### III) Match the following:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| (i) James Mill       | (a) The first Governor General of India                    |
| (ii) Warren Hastings | (b) Scholars who write histories                           |
| (iii) Calligraphists | (c) A Scottish economist and political leader              |
| (iv) Historians      | (d) The earlier period of the history                      |
| (v) Ancient          | (e) Expert in writing documents with beautiful handwriting |

**Answer:**

**(i) (c)**

**(ii) (a)**

**(iii) (e)**

**(iv) (b)**

**(v) (d)**

**IV) State whether True or False:**

- 1) Lawrence was a prominent Viceroy of India. **(True)**
- 2) Curzon was a Governor-General of India. **(True)**
- 3) James Mill published a newspaper in 1817. **(False)**
- 4) We need to divide history into different periods. **(True)**
- 5) The British came to India to know about its great culture. **(False)**
- 6) History deals with changes that occur over time. **(True)**
- 7) James Mill divided Indian history into three periods—Hindu, Muslim, Christian. **(True)**
- 8) Official documents help us to understand what the people of the country think. **(False)**
- 9) The British thought surveys were important for effective administration **(True)**

**V) Fill in the blanks:**

1. The last Viceroy of British India was **Lord Mountbatten**
2. James Randel prepared the **first map** in 1782.
3. James Mill divides **Indian history** into three periods.
4. The British preserved all-important **letters** and **documents**
5. In Mill's idea of history, the period before British rule was one of **darkness**.

**VI) Answer the following questions:**

**a)** What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?  
**ans)** 1) James Mill tried to divide Indian history into Hindu, Muslim, and Christian periods.

2) This periodization is based on religious lines that there was a phase for which the Hindus were the rulers and others were ruled.

3) Then came the phase of the Muslims or Christians (i.e., Britishers).

4) He had a colonial bent of mind and thought Asians to have .poorly civilized. He thought Europeans to be superior. So, in fact, through this periodisation he tried to divide the people with their own specific identity, which was not true.

5)During the Muslim rule, there were thousands of Hindu kings. The same was the case during the Christian period when India had thousands of local Hindu and Muslim princely states. So, this is not a proper periodisation of Indian History.

**b) Why did the British preserve official documents?**

**Answer:**

The British believed that by preserving official documents, it would be easier for them or any other persons to know about the decisions taken in the past. One can study the notes and reports that were prepared in the past. Their copies may be prepared and used in present time if needed so.

**c) How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police reports?**

**Answer:**

Usually, the newspaper reports are not biased. These reports explain the fact as it was. Most of the time, these do not try to manipulate the event. These represent the true story of the event with every detail. On the other hand, the official reports are usually biased. These are written as per the will of the senior officials. These reports may carry the biased view of the reporting police officer. Thus if the historians are based only on the police reports, they may become misguided.

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