UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION
PRELIMS SPECIAL
PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS
MODERN INDIAN HISTORY
UNDERSTANDING THE TREND
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23 YEARS PAPERS INSIGHTS & STRATEGY

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# Topic Wise Analysis of Last 23 Years Modern History Questions

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The Revolt Of 1857
Q. The ruler of which one of the following States was removed from power by the British on the pretext of misgovernance? (2007)

(a) Awadh
(b) Jhansi
(c) Nagpur
(d) Satara

Answer: a
Awadh state was annexed by Lord Dalhousie on the pretext of mis-governance.

Awadh (1856) is widely believed to have been annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse. However, it was annexed by Lord Dalhousie under the pretext of mis-governance.

The doctrine of lapse was an annexation policy devised by Lord Dalhousie, applied by the East India Company in India until 1858. According to the doctrine, any Indian princely state under the suzerainty of the East India Company, would have its princely status abolished (and therefore annexed into British India) if the ruler was either "manifestly incompetent or died without a male heir".
Q. Who was the Governor-General of India during the Sepoy Mutiny?  (2006)
(a) Lord Canning
(b) Lord Dalhousie
(c) Lord Hardinge
(d) Lord Lytton
Answer: a
The Indian Rebellion of 1857, was a major uprising in India during 1857–58 against the rule of the British East India Company, which functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. The event is known by many names, including the Sepoy Mutiny, the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion, the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Insurrection, and India's First War of Independence.

The rebellion began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of Sepoys in the town of Meerut. It then spread, chiefly in the upper Gangetic plain and central India.

Lord Canning served as Governor General of India from 1856 to 1862. During his tenure, the Government of India Act, 1858 was passed which created the office of Viceroy to be held by the same person who was Governor General of India. Thus, Lord Canning also served as first Viceroy of India.
The important events during his tenure include –

- Passing of **Indian Councils Act, 1861** which introduced portfolio system in India.
- Withdrawal of “**Doctrine of Lapse**” which was the main reason of mutiny of 1857.
- Introduction of **Code of Criminal Procedure**,
- Enactment of **Indian High Courts Act**,
- **Indian Penal Code (1858)**,
- **Bengal Rent Act (1859)**, etc.
Q. Which one of the following places did Kunwar Singh, a prominent leader of the Revolt of 1857 belong to? (2005)

(a) Bihar
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Rajasthan
(d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: a
Kunwar Singh (also known as Babu Veer Kunwar Singh) was a notable leader during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He belonged to a Zamindar family of Jagdishpur, Bihar, India.

Other Leaders of the Revolt were:

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<td>Rani Lakshmi Bai</td>
<td>Jhansi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangal Pandey</td>
<td>Barrackpore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Bakht khan</td>
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<td>Begum Hazrat Mahal</td>
<td>Lucknow</td>
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<td>Nana Sahib, Tantia tope</td>
<td>Kanpur</td>
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<td>Maulvi Liaqat Ali</td>
<td>Allahabad</td>
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Q. With reference to the ‘revolt of the year 1857’, who of the following was betrayed by ‘friend’ captured and put to death by the British? (2006)

(a) Nana Sahib
(b) Kunwar Singh
(c) Khan Bahadur Khan
(d) Tantia Tope

Answer: d
Tantia Tope, was one of the most notable Indian freedom fighters and a general in the Revolt of 1857. Although he had no formal military training, he was probably the best and most effective of all the Indian generals during the revolt.

Tantia Tope was in the service of the former peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy, Baji Rao, and of his adopted son Nana Sahib, who also actively participated in revolt.
Q. The educated middle class in India: (1998)

(a) opposed the revolt of 1857
(b) supported the revolt of 1857
(c) remained neutral to the revolt of 1857
(d) fought against native rulers

Answer: c
Most of the Princely rulers and big Zamindars did not support the 1857 Revolt and actively sided with the British. Their dominions remained free of any anti-colonial uprisings.

The educated middle and upper classes were mostly critical of the rebels since they were repelled by the rebels appeals to superstitions and their opposition to progressive social measures.
Q. Which one of the following territories was not affected by the Revolt of 1857? (2005)

(a) Jhansi  
(b) Chittor  
(c) Jagdishpur  
(d) Lucknow

Answer: b
1. **Indian Rebellion of 1857** began as a mutiny of Sepoys of British East India Company's army on May 10, 1857, in the town of Meerut.

Then, it erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions largely in the **upper Gangetic plain and central India**, with the major hostilities confined to the region of present-day:
- Uttar Pradesh,
- Uttarakhand,
- Northern Madhya Pradesh,
- Delhi
- Gurgaon.
Q. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria’s Proclamation (1858)? [2014]

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown
3. To regulate East India Company’s trade with India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: a
1. The Act laid down that henceforth India shall be governed by and in the name of the Queen.

2. It abolished the Board of Control and the Court of Directors. The post of a Secretary of State was created. He was to be assisted by a Council of India which was to consist of fifteen members.

3. The Doctrine of Lapse was cancelled and the British stopped the policy of annexation.

4. The office of the Governor General was changed to that of Viceroy of India.
Q. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley? (2018)

(a) To maintain a large standing army at other’s expense.
(b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger.
(c) To secure a fixed income for the company.
(d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian states.

Answer: c
Subsidiary Alliance was a treaty between the company and the Indian native rulers, introduced by Lord Wellesley. In return for a payment or subsidy, the company would place garrison troops in that ruler’s territory to fight against their rivals.

An Indian ruler entering into a subsidiary alliance with the British would accept British forces within his territory and to pay for their maintenance.

To counter the intrigues of Napoleon and any further development of French power in India, Wellesley came up with the policy of subsidiary alliance.