Q. By a regulation in 1793, the District Collector was deprived of his judicial powers and made the collecting agent only. What was the reason for such a regulation? [2010]

(a) Lord Cornwallis felt that the District Collector's efficiency of revenue collection would enormously increase without the burden of additional work
(b) Lord Cornwallis felt that judicial power should compulsorily be in the hands of Europeans while Indians can be given the job of revenue collection in the districts
(c) Lord Cornwallis was alarmed at the extent of power concentrated in the District Collector and felt that such absolute power was undesirable in one person
(d) The judicial work demanded a deep knowledge of India and a good training in law and Lord Cornwallis felt that District Collector should be only a revenue collector

Answer: c
The Cornwallis Code is a body of legislation enacted in 1793 by the East India Company to **improve the governance** of its territories in India.

The new reforms were based on **principle of separation of power**. Cornwallis separated the **revenue administration** from **administration of justice**. So he divested all the judicial powers of the collector and left him with the duty of revenue.

A new class of officer called the **District judge** was created to preside over the district civil court.

The best known provision of Cornwallis code was the **Permanent settlement act** which established a revenue collection scheme which lasted until the 20th century.
Q. Which one of the following provisions was not made in the Charter Act of 1833? [2003]

(a) The trading activities of the East India Company were to be abolished.

(b) The designation of the supreme authority was to be changed as the Governor-General of India in Council

(c) All law-making powers to be conferred on Governor-General in Council

(d) An Indian was to be appointed as a Law Member in the Governor-General's Council

Answer: d
1. The Governor-General of Bengal was re-designated as the Governor-General of India. This made Lord William Bentinck the first Governor-General of India.

2. The Governor-General had legislative powers over entire British India. The Governors of Bombay and Madras lost their legislative powers.

3. The Governor-General’s council was to have four members.

4. The act mandated that any law made in India was to be put before the British Parliament and was to be called ‘Act’.
As per the act, an **Indian Law Commission** was established. The first Law Commission had **Lord Macaulay** as its chairman.

This act ended the activities of East India company as a commercial body, which became a purely administrative body.

- The act provided for the mitigation of **slavery** existing in India at that time.
- The British Parliament abolished slavery in Britain and all its possessions in 1833.
Q. Consider the following statements: [2006]

1. The Charter Act, 1853 abolished East India Company monopoly of Indian trade.
2. Under the Government of India Act, 1858 the British Parliament abolished the rule of East India Company and undertook the responsibility of ruling India directly.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b
1. Charter act of 1853 separated for the first time, the **legislative and executive functions** of the governor-general’s council.
   - It introduced **six new members** in legislative council.

2. It **introduced an open competition system** of selection and recruitment of civil servants. The covenanted civil service was thus thrown open to Indians also.

3. It introduced for the first time, **local representation in legislative council**. Of the six new legislative members of the governor-general’s council, **4 members** were appointed by the local governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Agra.

4. The Act of 1858 **abolished the east India company**, and transferred the powers of govt., territories and revenues to the British crown.
Who among the following Governor Generals created the Covenanted Civil Service of India which later came to be known as the Indian Civil Service? [2010]

(a) Warren Hastings  
(b) Wellesley  
(c) Cornwallis  
(d) William Bentinck  

Answer: c
1. Lord Cornwallis (1786-93) splitted the bureaucracy into two parts: political branch responsible for civil governance and commercial branch for commercial activities.

2. In 1800, Lord Wellesley setup the Fort William College in Madras in 1800 to induct new entrants into CCS.

3. After 1886, it was called as Imperial Civil Service and its members were appointed under Government Of India Act, 1858.

4. Macaulay Committee gave India its first modern civil service in 1854 which recommended that the patronage based system of the East India Company should be replaced by permanent civil service based on merit based system through competitive entry examinations.
Q. Which one of the following Acts of British India strengthened the Viceroy's authority over his Executive Council by substituting "Portfolio" or departmental system for corporate functioning? [2002]

(a) Indian Council Act, 1861
(b) Government of India Act, 1858
(c) Indian Council Act, 1892
(d) Indian Council Act, 1909

Answer: a
Indian Councils Act, 1861

1. It made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. It provided that viceroy should nominate some Indians as **non-official members** of his expanded council. Thus, Lord Canning nominated 3 Indians -
   - Raja of Benaras,
   - Maharaja of Patiala
   - Sir Dinkar Rao.

2. It initiated the process of **decentralisation** by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras presidencies.

3. It also gave recognition to *portfolio system* introduced by Lord Canning in 1859.
Q. Consider the following statements: [2005]

1. Warren Hastings was the first Governor General who established a regular police force in India on the British pattern.
2. A Supreme Court was established at Calcutta by the Regulating Act, 1773.
3. The Indian Penal Code came into effect in the year 1860.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b
Regulating Act of 1773

1. **Regulating Act, 1773** was the first step taken by the British govt. to control and regulate the affairs of the East India company in India.
   - It recognized, for the first time, the political and administrative functions of the company.
   - It laid the foundations of the **central administration** in India.
   - It designated the governor of Bengal as **Governor-General of Bengal**.
   - It provided for establishment of **supreme court at Calcutta (1774)**.
   - It provided for **court of directors** (governing body of the company) to report on its revenue, civil and military affairs in India.

Indian Penal Code

2. The **Indian penal code** is the **criminal code** of India to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law.
   - The code was drafted in 1860 on the recommendation of **first Law commission of India** under **charter Act of 1833**.
Q. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [2004]

(a) Pitt's India Act : Warren Hastings
(b) Doctrine of Lapse : Dalhousie
(c) Vernacular Press Act : Curzon
(d) Ilbert Bill : Ripon

Answer : c
The **Vernacular Press Act** (1878) was enacted to curtail the freedom of the Indian press and prevent the expression of criticism toward British policies.

The act was proposed by **Lord Lytton**, then Viceroy of India.

**Ilbert Bill**, in the history of India, a controversial measure proposed in 1883 that sought to allow senior Indian magistrates to preside over cases involving British subjects in India.

The bitter controversy surrounding the measure deepened antagonism between British and Indians and was a prelude to the formation of the Indian National Congress the following year.
The Pitt’s India Act (1784) distinguished between the commercial and political functions of the company.

- It allowed the court of directors to manage the **commercial affairs**.
- It created a new body called **Board of control** to manage the **political affairs**.
- It empowered Board of control to supervise and direct all operations of the **civil and military government or revenues** of British possessions in India.
Q. Match List-I (Acts of Colonial Government of India) with List-II (Provisions) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2002]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List I (Acts of colonial government of India)</th>
<th>List II (Provisions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Charter Act, 1813</td>
<td>1. Set up a Board of control in Britain to fully regulate East India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Regulating Act</td>
<td>2. Company’s trade monopoly in India was ended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Act of 1858</td>
<td>3. The power to govern was transferred from the East India Company to the British Crown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Pitt’s India Act</td>
<td>4. The Company's directors were asked to present to the British government all correspondence and documents pertaining to the administration of the company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Codes:

(a) A – 2; B – 4; C – 3; D – 1
(b) A – 1; B – 3; C – 4; D – 2
(c) A – 2; B – 3; C – 4; D – 1
(d) A – 1; B – 4; C – 3; D – 2

Answer: a
Q. The most short-lived of all of the Britain's constitutional experiments in India was the: [1999]

(a) Indian Council Act of 1861
(b) Indian Council Act of 1892
(c) Indian Council Act of 1909
(d) Government of India Act of 1919

Answer: c
Time span of given acts:
- Indian Councils Act of 1861 – 31 years
- Indian Councils Act of 1892 – 17 years
- Indian Councils Act of 1909 – 10 years
- Government of India Act 1919 – 16 years

Act of 1909 was also called Morley-Minto reforms (Lord Morley was the secretary of state of India and Lord Minto was viceroy of India).

It considerably increased the size of the legislative councils, both central and provincial. In central legislative council, members increased from 16 to 60. And in provincial legislative council, members were not uniform.
4. It provided for the first time for the association of Indians with the executive council of viceroy and governor. Satyendra prasad sinha became the first Indian to join the viceroy executive council.

5. It introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of separate electorate. Lord Minto came to be known as father of communal electorate.

6. The act empowered the members to discuss the budget. They were given rights to ask supplementary questions and move resolutions on matters related to local bodies.