

GS FOUNDATION PROGRAM 2024*to be filled by the student:***BATCH: D6**

NAME: _____

ForumIAS Roll No: 19100 _____

Date: __/__/_____

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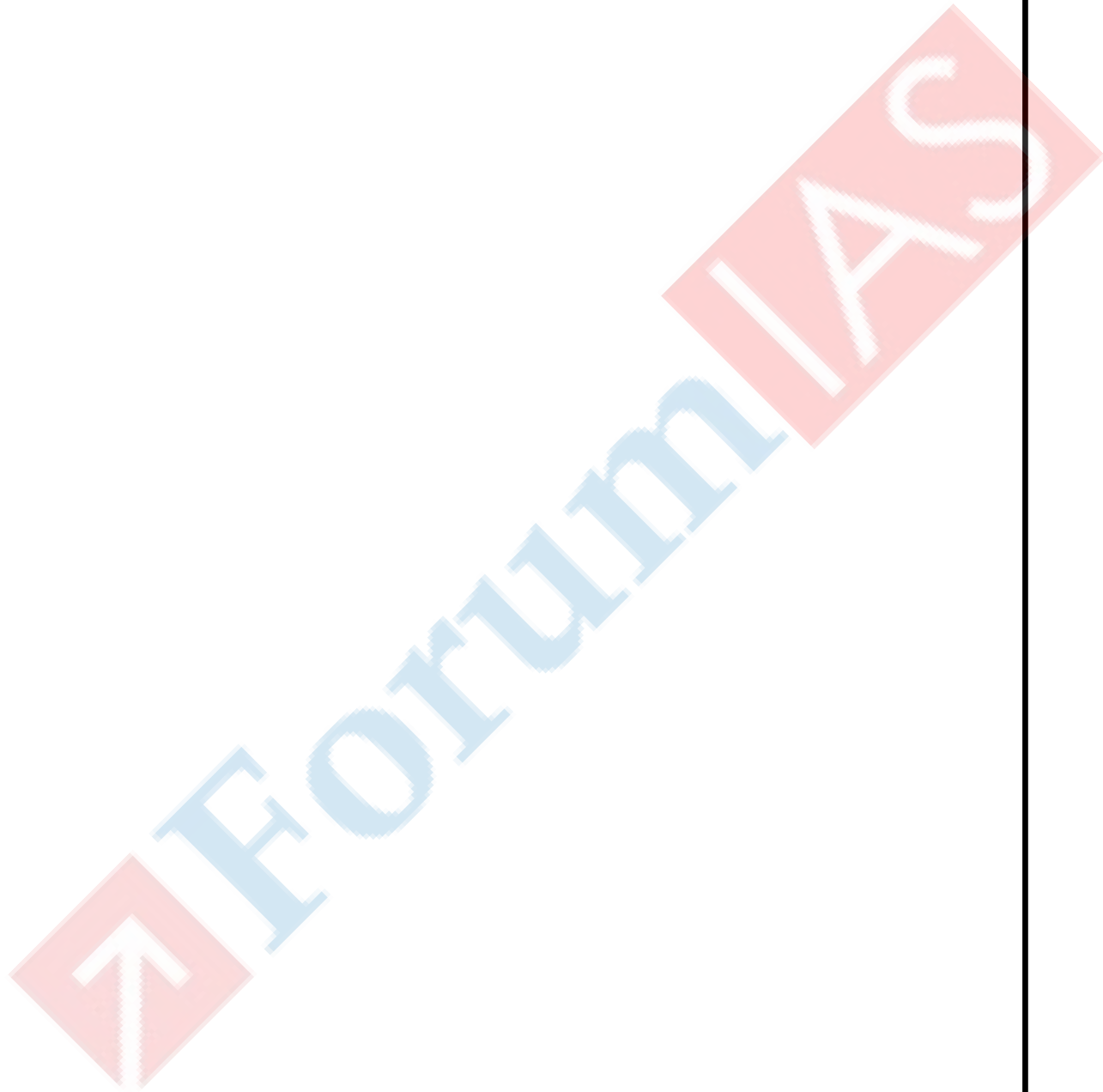
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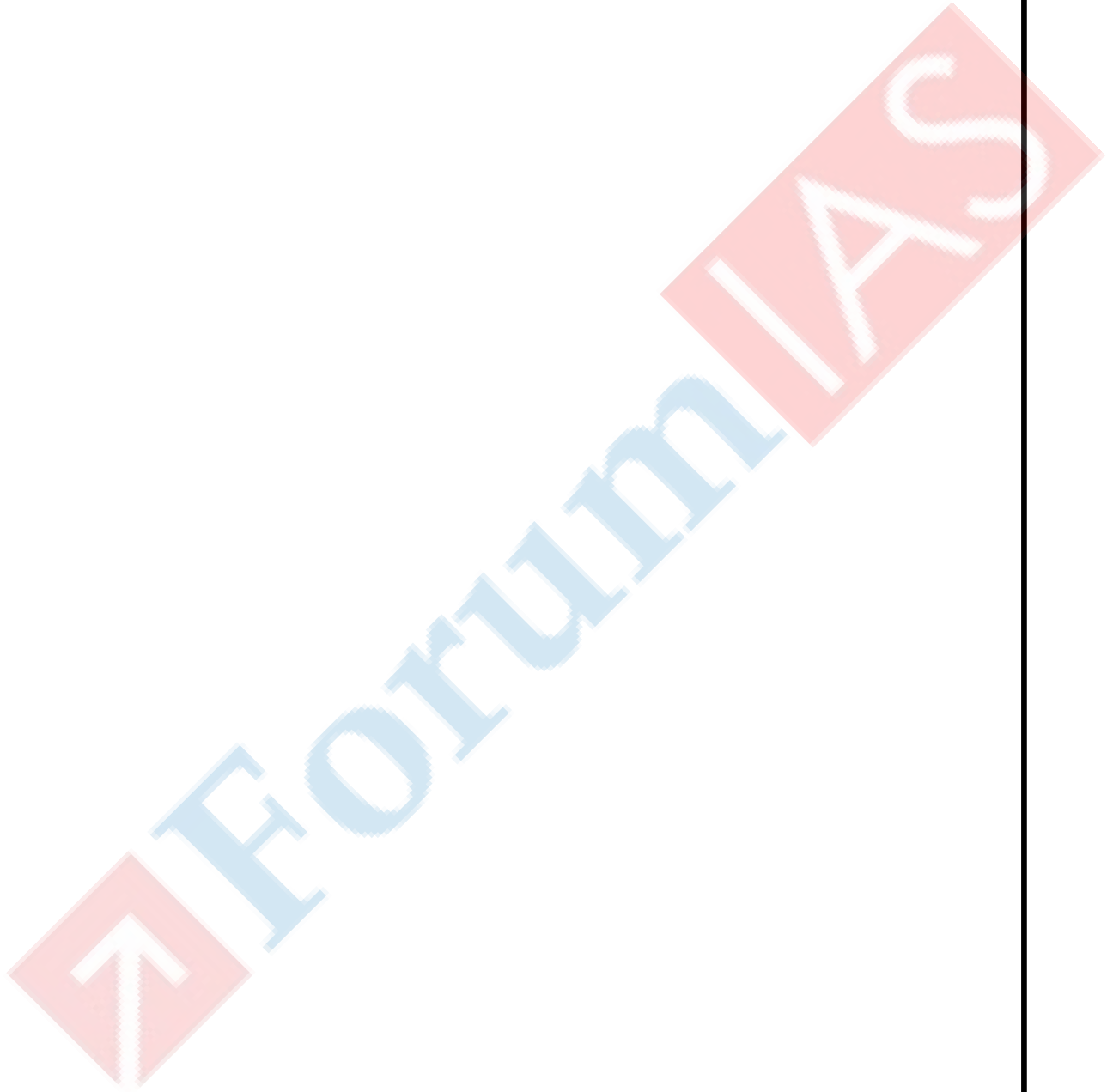
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Immediate Efforts/Improvement Required
Content					
Presentation					
Structure					
Consistency					
Revision/Recall					

Marks:

Subjective	Objective	Total

Q.1) What were the main causes of 1857 revolt and how did it impact the British colonial rule in India?
(10 Marks, 150 Words)





Objective Questions:

Q.1) Which of the following is/ are reasons for the failure of the Revolt of 1857?

1. Poor ammunition and weaponry
2. Lack of Coordination
3. Communal disharmony
4. Lack of unifying ideology

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Q.2) Which of the following is/ are the consequences of the Revolt of 1857?

1. Increase in the ratio of Indian to European soldiers in the Company's army.
2. Community, caste, tribal and regional loyalties were encouraged among the sepoys.
3. End of Company's rule in India.
4. Widespread confiscation and redistribution of land in the North Western provinces.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 2 and 4 only

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are the causes for the Revolt of 1857?

1. Rampant corruption in the Company's administration.
2. Development of modern industries in India.
3. Imposition of high tariff duties on Indian-made goods.
4. Influence of outside events.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.4) A 'laissez-faire' economy can be identified by which of the following characteristics?

- a) Lack of government intervention in the economy
- b) Distribution of goods as per the needs of the society
- c) Provision of minimum wages for all
- d) Community ownership of the means of production

Q.5) With reference to "Lorenz curve", which one of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- a) It is used to depict distribution of income within a population.
- b) Higher Gini coefficient indicates greater inequality.
- c) Gini coefficient of India has increased during the last decade.
- d) In 2020, the wealth share of the top 1% wealthy people in India declined due to pandemic.

GS Foundation Program 2024 | D6 | Benchmark Assignment #67

Subjective Questions:

Q.1) What were the main causes of 1857 revolt and how did it impact the British colonial rule in India?

APPROACH:

1. Introduction
2. Discuss the main causes of 1857 revolt.
3. Explain how did the revolt impact the British colonial rule in India.
4. Conclusion

Ans. The revolt of 1857 forms one of the most important chapters in the history of the struggle of the Indian people for liberation from the British rule. It was started on **10th May** when the Company's Indian soldiers at Meerut rebelled. Called the **Sepoy Mutiny** by the British, it is also recognized as the **First War of Independence** against the British rulers.

Major causes of the 1857 revolt:

1. **Discontent among Sepoys:** The conditions of service in the Company's army and cantonments increasingly came into **conflict with the religious beliefs and prejudices of the sepoys**. Some causes of resentment among the sepoys were:
 - a. To the religious Hindu of the time, **crossing the seas meant loss of caste**. As per the General Service Enlistment Act of 1856, all future recruits to the Bengal Army would have to give an undertaking to serve anywhere their services might be required by the government.
 - b. The sepoys' discontent was not limited to religion alone. They were equally unhappy with their **emoluments**.
 - c. The Indian sepoy was made to **feel a subordinate** at every step and was **discriminated against racially** and in matters of promotion and privileges.
2. **Political causes:**
 - a. The East India Company's greedy policy of expansion accompanied by broken pledges and promises resulted in contempt for the Company and loss of political prestige, besides causing suspicion in the minds of almost all the ruling princes in India, through such policies as of '**Effective Control**', '**Subsidiary Alliance**' and '**Doctrine of Lapse**'.
 - b. **Collapse of the erstwhile aristocracy** also adversely affected those sections of the Indian society which derived their sustenance from cultural and religious pursuits e.g. local artisans
3. **Economic causes:**
 - a. Under the burden of excessive taxes the peasantry became **progressively indebted and impoverished**.

- b. The **traditional landed aristocracy** also suffered. In Oudh, which was a storm centre of the Revolt, the **taluqdars lost all their power and privileges**.
 - c. British rule also meant **misery to the artisans and handicraftsmen**. The annexation of Indian states by the Company **cut off their major source of patronage**.
4. **Socio-Religious Causes:**
- a. The **reforming zeal of British officials under the influence of utilitarianism** had aroused considerable suspicion, resentment, and opposition among the orthodox Hindus and Muslims.
 - b. The **activities of Christian missionaries** who followed the British flag in India were looked upon with suspicion by Indians
5. **Administrative causes:**
- a. **Rampant corruption** in the Company's administration, especially among the police, petty officials and lower law courts, was also a major cause of discontent.

The revolt of 1857 affected the British colonial rule in India in the following ways:

1. It led to far-reaching changes in the system of administration and the policies of the British government. Such as, the British Parliament, on August 2, 1858, passed an **Act for the Better Government of India**. The Act declared Queen Victoria as the sovereign of British India. The direct responsibility for the administration of the country was assumed by the British Crown and Company rule was abolished.
2. As per the Queen's proclamation announced by **Lord Canning at a durbar at Allahabad**, the era of annexations and expansion had ended and the British promised to respect the dignity and rights of the native princes.
3. Affect on the army:
 - a. The Army, which was at the forefront of the outbreak, was thoroughly reorganized and British military policy came to be dominated by the idea of **"division and counterpoise"**. The concept of divide and rule was adopted with **separate units** being created on the basis of **caste/community/region**.
 - b. **Number of Indian soldiers was drastically reduced** even as the number of European soldiers was increased.
 - c. **The Army Amalgamation Scheme, 1861** moved the Company's European troops to the services of the Crown.
4. The earlier **reformist zeal of a self-confident Victorian liberalism** evaporated as many liberals in Britain began to believe that Indians were beyond reform.
5. The conservative reaction in England made the **British Empire in India more autocratic**; it began to deny the aspirations of the educated Indians for sharing power.
6. While British territorial conquest was at an end, a period of **systematic economic loot** by the British began. The Indian economy was fully exploited without fear.
7. **Racial hatred and suspicion** between the Indians and the English was probably the worst legacy of the revolt. The complete structure of the Indian government was

remodeled and based on the notion of a master race—justifying the philosophy of the ‘Whiteman’s burden’.

8. For the British the Revolt of 1857 proved useful in that it showed up the **glaring shortcomings in the Company’s administration** and its army.

The coalition of the Revolt of the sepoys and that of the civil population made the 1857 movement an **unprecedented popular upsurge**. It shook the foundations of the British Empire in India. It served as a **source of inspiration** for the national liberation movement which later achieved what the Revolt could not.

Objective Questions:

Q.1) Which of the following is/ are reasons for the failure of the Revolt of 1857?

1. Poor ammunition and weaponry
2. Lack of Coordination
3. Communal disharmony
4. Lack of unifying ideology

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: The peasants fought with axes and swords against the new latest rifles of British Army. The weapons raised by Indian sepoys too were limited and could not last long.

Statement 2 is correct: The sepoys and peasants did not have a **well-formed communication network**. **So many times, allies were late to help** comrades in other areas. This caused many **defeats and losses**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: This revolt was an example of **Hindu Muslim unity in India’s history of struggle against the British**. So, this was not a reason for weakening of the revolt.

Statement 4 is correct: The mutineers **lacked a clear understanding of colonial rule; nor did they have a forward-looking programme, a coherent ideology, a political perspective or a societal alternative**. The rebels represented diverse elements with differing grievances and concepts of current politics. The idea and concept of **nationalism was non-existent** at this time. People in various parts of India did not see a common identity and the British as an enslaving common threat to be eliminated.

Q.2) Which of the following is/ are the consequences of the Revolt of 1857?

1. Increase in the ratio of Indian to European soldiers in the Company’s army.
2. Community, caste, tribal and regional loyalties were encouraged among the sepoys.

3. End of Company's rule in India.
4. Widespread confiscation and redistribution of land in the North Western provinces.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 2 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **ratio of Indian to Europeans in company army fell**, i.e. the Europeans increased in number and the Indians decreased in number in Company's army to avoid future chances of revolt.

Statement 2 is correct: The organization of the Indian section of the army was now based on the **policy of "divide and rule"**. Regiments were created on the basis of caste, community and region to prevent the development of any nationalistic feeling among the soldiers. **Community, caste, tribal and regional loyalties were encouraged** so as to obstruct the forging of the solidarity that was evident among the sepoys from Awadh in 1857.

Statement 3 is correct: The rule of Indian territories was taken from the hands of the **East India Company and invested directly into the British government running in the name of Queen Victoria**. This was done via a proclamation in the **Act of Good Government, 1858**.

Statement 4 is correct: In the **North Western Provinces**, the British made **widespread confiscation and redistribution of land**. Some incomplete figures show that land assessed at ₹17 lakhs was confiscated and land assessed at ₹ 9 lakhs was given in reward. In making land rewards it was the larger landholders who were preferred.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are the causes for the Revolt of 1857?

1. Rampant corruption in the Company's administration.
2. Development of modern industries in India.
3. Imposition of high tariff duties on Indian-made goods.
4. Influence of outside events.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: **Rampant corruption in the Company's administration**, especially among the police, petty officials and lower law courts, was a major cause of discontent.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The annexation of Indian states by the Company cut off the major source of patronage to the artisans and handicrafts people. The native rulers and the nobles could not afford to be patrons of the crafts workers now. Added to this, British policy discouraged Indian handicrafts and promoted British goods. The highly skilled Indian craftsmen were forced to look for alternate sources of employment that hardly existed, as the **destruction of Indian handicrafts was not accompanied by the development of modern industries.**

Statement 3 is correct. The Indian trade and mercantile class were deliberately crippled by the British who **imposed high tariff duties on Indian-made goods.** At the same time, the import of British goods into India attracted low tariffs, thus encouraging their entry into India.

Statement 4 is correct: The **revolt of 1857 coincided with certain outside events** in which the British suffered serious losses—the First Afghan War (1838-42), Punjab Wars (1845-49), and the Crimean Wars (1854-56). These had obvious psychological repercussions. The **British were seen to be not so strong and it was felt that they could be defeated.**

Q.4) A 'laissez-faire' economy can be identified by which of the following characteristics?

- a) Lack of government intervention in the economy
- b) Distribution of goods as per the needs of the society
- c) Provision of minimum wages for all
- d) Community ownership of the means of production

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Laissez-faire is an economic philosophy of free-market capitalism that **opposes government intervention in the economy.** Laissez-faire economics says that the **government should not intervene in the economy except to protect individuals' inalienable rights.** Laissez-faire economists are against minimum wages, duties, trade restrictions, and corporate taxes.

Q.5) With reference to "Lorenz curve", which one of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- a) It is used to depict distribution of income within a population.
- b) Higher Gini coefficient indicates greater inequality.
- c) Gini coefficient of India has increased during the last decade.
- d) In 2020, the wealth share of the top 1% wealthy people in India declined due to pandemic.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement a is correct: A Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of the **distribution of income** or wealth within a population.

Statement b is correct: The Gini coefficient is a statistical measure of economic inequality in a population. Gini coefficient – **1 indicates full inequality** and 0 indicates full equality. Thus, higher Gini coefficient indicates greater inequality.

Statement c is incorrect: As per Credit Suisse Global Wealth report, India's wealthiest saw their share of the country's wealth rise in 2020, even though overall wealth in India declined. The wealth **share of the top 1% increased** from 39.5% in 2019 to 40.5% at the end of 2020.

