Subjective Questions:

Q.1) Discuss the influence of the colonial legacy on India's politics, economy, and society in the post-independence era.

Answer:

Colonial legacy refers to the long-lasting effects and influences left by a colonial power on the political, social, economic, cultural, and institutional aspects of a colonized country or region even after gaining independence. It encompasses the policies, practices, institutions, ideologies, and systems implemented by the colonial rulers during their period of control.

The impact of colonial legacy on India's development after gaining independence has been significant and multifaceted. The colonial rule, spanning over two centuries, left a profound imprint on various aspects of Indian society, economy, politics, and institutions.

The following points highlight the key areas of impact:

Political Impact:

1. The centralized bureaucratic structure inherited from the British Raj influenced the functioning of the Indian government. For instance, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) was a direct continuation of the colonial Indian Civil Service (ICS).

2. The need for administrative reforms was evident in the establishment of institutions like the Administrative Reforms Commission in 1966, which aimed to modernize and improve the efficiency of the bureaucracy.

Economic Impact:

1. The colonial exploitation of India's resources had a lasting impact on the country's economy. For example, the British Raj implemented policies that favored the export of raw materials from India, leading to deindustrialization and a dependence on imports.

2. Post-independence, India implemented land redistribution and agrarian reforms to address land inequality and promote agricultural development. The example of the Green Revolution in the 1960s, aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, highlights the efforts made to overcome the colonial legacy of an imbalanced agrarian economy.

Social Impact:

1. The colonial education system, which emphasized English education, had a significant impact on post-independence India. For instance, the Indian elite, educated in English-medium schools, had better access to opportunities, creating a socio-economic divide. Efforts to promote inclusive education, preserve indigenous languages, and promote cultural diversity were undertaken to address these disparities.

2. The preservation of cultural heritage and the promotion of indigenous practices can be seen in initiatives like the establishment of the National Museum and the promotion of traditional arts and crafts.

Institutional Impact:

1. The legal system inherited from the British Raj continues to shape the Indian legal framework. For example, the Indian Penal Code, introduced during colonial rule, still forms the basis of the Indian criminal justice system.
2. Post-independence, India undertook institutional reforms, such as the establishment of the Election Commission of India, to ensure free and fair elections and strengthen democratic processes.
3. **Political Fragmentation:** The colonial era in India witnessed the division of the country into separate regions and princely states, leading to political fragmentation. After independence, this legacy posed challenges in terms of governance, administration, and integration of the nation.
4. **Administrative and Legal Systems:** The colonial rulers introduced administrative and legal systems that often favored the colonial power and were not designed to meet the specific needs of the Indian population. Post-independence, efforts were made to reform and modernize these systems to align them with the aspirations of the Indian people.
5. **Economic Exploitation:** The colonial rule exploited India's resources for the benefit of the colonizers, leading to economic imbalances and underdevelopment. The economy was primarily structured to serve the interests of the colonial power, focusing on the export of raw materials rather than industrialization. Independent India had to undertake significant efforts to address these imbalances and promote economic self-reliance.
6. **Socio-cultural Impact:** Colonial rule had a profound impact on the socio-cultural fabric of India. It disrupted traditional social structures, eroded indigenous industries, and promoted cultural assimilation. Post-independence, there was a need to revive and preserve indigenous cultural practices, promote inclusive social policies, and address social inequalities inherited from the colonial era.
7. **Education System:** The colonial education system focused on producing a class of educated individuals who could serve the colonial administration. After independence, India had to reform the education system to cater to the needs of its diverse population, promote access to quality education, and foster a sense of national identity.
8. **Infrastructure Development:** The colonial rulers focused primarily on developing infrastructure that served their own interests, such as railways, ports, and administrative centers. Post-independence, India had to prioritize the development of infrastructure for the benefit of its own people, including transportation networks, irrigation systems, and power generation facilities.
9. **Regional Disparities:** The colonial legacy contributed to regional disparities in terms of economic development, infrastructure, and access to resources. After independence, efforts were made to bridge these gaps through policies promoting equitable growth, redistribution of resources, and regional development initiatives.

The colonial legacy had a profound impact on India's development after independence. It brought both opportunities and challenges. India inherited a system of governance,

infrastructure, and institutions from the colonial era. However, it also faced economic exploitation, political fragmentation, and social dislocation. In response, independent India pursued inclusive development, socio-economic equality, and cultural preservation. Efforts were made to address regional disparities and promote sustainable growth. While the impacts of colonialism persist, India has charted its own path towards progress, blending its cultural heritage with modern aspirations. India's journey is marked by resilience and a commitment to justice, equality, and inclusive growth.

Objective Questions:

Q.1) Which one of the following was the Emperor of India when the British East India Company was formed in London?
a) Akbar
b) Jahangir
c) Shahjahan
d) Aurangzeb

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Akbar was the third Mughal emperor, who reigned from 1556 to 1605. Akbar was the Emperor of India when the British East India Company was formed in London on 31 December 1600 CE.

Important Tips
Facts about Akbar:
• Akbar succeeded his father, Humayun, under a regent, Bairam Khan, who helped the young emperor expand and consolidate Mughal domains in India.
• With a strong personality and a successful general, Akbar gradually enlarged the Mughal Empire to include much of the Indian subcontinent.
• His power and influence, however, extended over the entire subcontinent because of Mughal military, political, cultural, and economic dominance.
• To unify the vast Mughal state, Akbar established a centralized system of administration throughout his empire and adopted a policy of conciliating conquered rulers through marriage and diplomacy
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Q.2) At which one of the following places in India did the Portuguese build their first fortress?
a) Anjidiv
b) Cannanore
c) Cochin
d) Goa

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The first fort built by the Portuguese was Fort Emmanuel in Kochi, Kerala. The permission for building it was granted to them by their ally, the local maharaja of Kochi in 1503 AD. The structure was simple and used local materials.

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Q.3) Who were the first Europeans to come to India for trade?

a) Dutch

b) English

c) French

d) Portuguese

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach India via the Atlantic Ocean at Calicut in India. Portuguese were followed by the Dutch when they tried to enter the Indian market in the middle of the 16th century. The British and the French came much later.

Q.4) With reference to Pondicherry (Now Puducherry), consider the following statements:

1. The first European power to occupy Pondicherry were the Portuguese.

2. The second European power to occupy Pondicherry were the French.

3. The English never occupied Pondicherry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3

c) 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Portuguese were the first European power to set up a factory in the Pondicherry region during the 16th century. **Hence,**

statement 1 is correct. After the Portuguese, the second European power to capture Pondicherry was the Dutch. **Hence, statement 2 is Not correct.**

In the year 1761, the British captured Pondicherry from the French but later had to return it back to the French under the Treaty of Paris (1763). **Hence, statement 3 is Not correct.**

Important Tips

The story of Pondicherry:

• The French East India Company set up a trading center at Pondicherry in the year 1674, and this later became the most prominent French settlement in India. But the French continuously faced opposition from the Dutch and the English.

• In the year 1693, Pondicherry was again captured by the Dutch as the French Governor Francois Martin surrendered to the Dutch Governor. Later, in the year 1699, the French regained Pondicherry from the Dutch.

• Pondicherry was occupied several times by the British, but it was ultimately the French who ruled the territory.

• The de facto transfer of Pondicherry from the French government to the Indian union took place in 1954. But the treaty affecting the de jure transfer of Pondicherry got finally ratified in the year 1962.

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Q.5) Sirajuddaula was defeated by Lord Clive in the battle of-
a) Plassey
b) Buxar
c) Munger
d) Wandiwash

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Battle of Plassey** took place on **June 23, 1757.** It was a pivotal battle in Indian history where the British East India Company, led by **Robert Clive**, decisively defeated **Siraj-ud-Daulah,** the Nawab of Bengal. The victory at the Battle of Plassey marked the beginning of **British colonial dominance** in India.

Important Tips

The **Battle of Wandiwash** happened on January 22, 1760, when the French tried to take control of the **Vandavasi Fort in Tamil Nadu.** The British, commanded by British Lieutenant-General **Sir Eyre Coote**, stopped their attempt, leading to the Battle of Wandiwash and playing a part in the Third Carnatic War. The **Treaty of Paris** was signed between the East India Company and French.

Q.6) In which Governor's tenure, Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha was granted to East India Company by Emperor Shah Alam?
a) Lord Clive
b) Lord Cornwallis
c) Lord Wellesley
d) Lord William Bentinck

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The sixteenth Mughal Emperor, **Shah Alam II,** played a pivotal role in the transfer of Diwani rights, specifically for **Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa**, to the East India Company on **12th August 1765** under the tenure of **Robert Clive**. The battle of Buxar concluded with the signing of the **Treaty of Allahabad in 1765**. This treaty granted the East India Company the authority to collect taxes, which is referred to as Diwani rights, for the territories of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.

Important Tips

• **Lord Cornwallis** was the **Governor of Bengal** from **1786 to 1793**. He was responsible for introducing a number of reforms, including the Permanent Settlement of Bengal.

• **Lord Wellesley** was the **Governor-General of India** from **1798 to 1805**. He was responsible for expanding the British Empire in India.

• **Lord William Bentinck** was the **Governor-General of India** from **1828 to 1835**. He was responsible for a number of reforms, including the abolition of sati and the introduction of English education in India.

Q.7) The kingdom of Ranjit Singh included–
a) Delhi
b) Kabul
c) Makran
d) Srinagar

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Maharaja Ranjit Singh, widely recognized as **Sher-e-Punjab**, emerged as the prominent figure at the helm of the Sikh Empire, a dominion that held sway over the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent during the **first half of the 19th century**. His realm encompassed a notable expanse, incorporating **Srinagar, Attock, Peshawar, Bannu, Rawalpindi, Jammu, Gujrat, Sialkot, Kangra, Amritsar, Lahore**, and **Multan**.

Q.8) Among the following factories in Bengal, the one established by the Portuguese was:
a) Bandel
b) Chinsurah
c) Hooghly
d) Shrirampur

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Vasco da Gama set up a trading factory at Cannanore. Gradually, Calicut, Cannanore and Cochin became the important trade centres of the Portuguese.They also set up factory at Hoogly in west Bengal. Gradually, under the pretext of protecting the factories and their trading activities, the Portuguese got permission to fortify these centres.

Q.9) Who among the following was the founder of Calcutta?
a) Charles Ayar
b) Job Charnok
c) Garold Angiyar
d) William Novris

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The founding of the modern city of Kolkata earlier known as Calcutta dates back to 1690. **The foundation has been ascribed to Job Charnock**, an agent of the British East India Company, who landed in the village of Sutanuti and established a British factory there. Present day Kolkata stands laid its foundation originally on these three villages: Sutanuti, Kalikata and Gobindapur.

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Q.10) The Anglo-Afghan relations in the 19th century was influenced by the fear of whose expansion towards India?

a) Afghanistan

b) France

c) Iran

d) Russia

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Anglo-Afghan relations in the 19th century was influenced by the fear of Russian expansion towards India. This was known as the "Great Game". The British were concerned that the Russians would try to conquer India, and they used Afghanistan as a buffer state to prevent this.

Important Tips

• **The First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-42)** was fought because the British were worried that the Russians were gaining influence in Afghanistan. The British invaded Afghanistan and installed a puppet ruler, Shah Shuja, but they were eventually forced to withdraw. This conflict marked a key episode in the 19th-century Great Game rivalry between Britain and Russia for Central Asian influence.

• **The Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-80)** was also fought because of the British fear of Russian expansion. The British invaded Afghanistan again and forced the Afghans to accept a British protectorate. The British secured their objectives with the Treaty of Gandamak and a decisive victory over Ayub Khan outside Kandahar. Abdur Rahman Khan, chosen by the British, confirmed the treaty, establishing a buffer between the British Raj and the Russian Empire.

• **The Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919)** was the last of the Anglo-Afghan wars. It was fought because the Afghans wanted to regain their independence from the British. The British were defeated in this war, and Afghanistan was finally able to assert its independence. It ended in an armistice. The Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919 recognized the Durand Line as the Afghanistan- India border, granting Afghans control over foreign affairs while ensuring border stability.

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