

CHAPTER-4 | The Colonial Era in India

QUIZ PART-04

1. Which European power established initial control over Bengal?

- A. Portuguese B. Dutch
C. British D. French (C)

Explanation: The British East India Company gradually established dominance in Bengal through trade, alliances, and military interventions.

2. The term "From Paradise to Hell" refers to:

- A. Natural disasters
B. Economic exploitation and famine under colonial rule
C. Religious conversion
D. Political treaties (B)

Explanation: The phrase describes the drastic change in Bengal's prosperity due to British policies, leading to famines and economic hardship.

3. Which major famine occurred in Bengal due to colonial policies?

- A. Deccan Famine
B. Bengal Famine of 1770
C. Orissa Famine
D. Madras Famine (B)

Explanation: The 1770 Bengal famine killed millions, worsened by excessive revenue demands and poor administrative response by the British.

4. Who was primarily responsible for revenue collection in Bengal under the British East India Company?

- A. Nawabs only
B. Company officials
C. Local zamindars exclusively
D. Mughal governors (B)

Explanation: Company officials oversaw tax collection and ensured revenue extraction, often leading to widespread hardship among peasants.

5. The economic drain from Bengal was mainly due to:

- A. Local trade only
B. Export of wealth to Britain
C. Religious donations
D. Internal redistribution (B)

Explanation: Wealth generated in Bengal through agriculture and trade was largely transferred to Britain, causing local impoverishment.

6. The British monopolized which key commodity in Bengal?

- A. Tea
B. Indigo
C. Cotton exclusively
D. Spices only (B)

Explanation: Indigo cultivation was forced on peasants, often with low payment, causing resentment and economic exploitation.

7. Which Indian social class was most affected by famine and exploitation?

- A. Traders B. Peasants
C. Soldiers D. Merchants (B)

Explanation: Peasants bore the brunt of high taxes, forced cultivation, and famine, leading to widespread suffering.

8. The Company's revenue policies in Bengal included:

- A. Fixed low taxes
B. High and inflexible taxes
C. Complete tax exemptions
D. Voluntary donations (B)

Explanation: Revenue was collected rigidly, ignoring crop failures, which intensified the impact of famine and economic distress.

9. Which city was the main British trading hub in Bengal during this period?

- A. Bombay
B. Calcutta
C. Madras
D. Surat (B)

Explanation: Calcutta served as the administrative and commercial center for the British East India Company in Bengal.

10. The transition "from paradise to hell" illustrates:

- A. Improvement in trade and wealth
B. Decline in local prosperity due to colonial exploitation
C. Religious harmony
D. Political alliances with Nawabs (B)

Explanation: Bengal's prosperity under local rule declined sharply under British policies, leading to famine, poverty, and social unrest.