

CHAPTER-1 | Indian Economy on the Eve of Independence

QUIZ PART-03

1. What was the main feature of India's foreign trade under British rule?

- A. India exported finished goods and imported raw materials
- B. India exported raw materials and imported finished goods from Britain
- C. India exported machinery and imported textiles
- D. India's trade was diversified with many countries

(B)

Explanation : India exported raw materials like cotton, jute, indigo, and spices, while importing British finished goods such as textiles and machinery.

2. What was the term used for the trade surplus drained away to Britain for administrative and war expenses?

- A. Trade Deficit
- B. Surplus Tax
- C. Drain of Wealth
- D. Colonial Fund

(C)

Explanation : Although India had a trade surplus, it was used to fund British administration and wars, called the "Drain of Wealth".

3. What was India's literacy rate at the time of independence?

- A. Less than 5%
- B. Around 10%
- C. Around 16%
- D. More than 20%

(C)

Explanation : On the eve of independence, India's literacy rate was only about 16%.

4. What was India's life expectancy in 1947?

- A. 25 years
- B. 32 years
- C. 44 years
- D. 60 years

(C)

Explanation : In 1947, the average life expectancy was just around 44 years due to poor health and medical facilities.

5. What was India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) before independence?

- A. Around 50 per 1,000 live births
- B. Around 100 per 1,000 live births
- C. Over 200 per 1,000 live births
- D. Around 300 per 1,000 live births

(C)

Explanation : India's IMR was extremely high, with more than 200 infants dying per 1,000 live births.

6. What proportion of the workforce was engaged in agriculture during British rule?

- A. About 25–30%
- B. About 50%
- C. About 70–75%
- D. About 90%

(C)

Explanation : Around 70–75% of the working population was engaged in agriculture, showing dependence on the primary sector.

7. Which states saw a decline in dependence on agriculture with growth in manufacturing and services?

- A. Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab
- B. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal
- C. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur

(B)

Explanation : States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal showed a shift toward manufacturing and services.

8. When and where was the first railway line introduced in India?

- A. 1833, Calcutta to Howrah
- B. 1853, Bombay to Thane
- C. 1863, Delhi to Agra
- D. 1883, Madras to Chennai

(B)

Explanation : Railways were introduced in 1853, with the first line between Bombay and Thane.

9. What was the primary purpose of developing railways in India?

- A. To promote tourism
- B. To facilitate Indian economic growth
- C. To exploit resources and expand British trade
- D. To reduce poverty in rural areas

(C)

Explanation : Railways were built mainly to transport raw materials to ports for export and to move British troops and goods.

10. Which communication infrastructure was introduced during British rule?

- A. Telephone and internet
- B. Radio and television
- C. Telegraph and postal services
- D. Satellite communication

(D)

Explanation : Telegraph and postal services were introduced, mainly to serve British administrative and military needs.