

CHAPTER-4 | The Colonial Era in India

QUIZ PART-06

- What was a major change in Indian agriculture during colonial times?
 - Introduction of commercial crops
 - Complete abandonment of agriculture
 - Only food crops were cultivated
 - Peasant autonomy increased (A)

Explanation: The British encouraged cultivation of commercial crops like indigo, cotton, and opium to meet global trade demands.

- Which crop was forced on peasants in Bengal and Bihar?
 - Cotton
 - Indigo
 - Wheat
 - Tea (B)

Explanation: Indigo cultivation was enforced by colonial planters, often against the will of peasants, leading to unrest.

- Why did peasants resist colonial agricultural policies?
 - They were overpaid
 - High taxes and forced cash crops
 - Complete freedom to choose crops
 - Religious reasons only (B)

Explanation: Peasants faced heavy taxation and were forced to grow cash crops for European markets, reducing food security.

- Which European company encouraged commercial agriculture in India?
 - Dutch East India Company
 - British East India Company
 - French East India Company
 - Portuguese traders only (B)

Explanation: The British East India Company pushed cash crop cultivation to increase exports and revenue.

- The introduction of railways affected agriculture by:
 - Limiting crop transport
 - Expanding market reach
 - Stopping exports
 - Reducing production (B)

Explanation: Railways enabled farmers to sell crops over larger areas, facilitating colonial trade and integration into global markets.

- Which factor contributed to deforestation during colonial agriculture?
 - Urban planning only
 - Clearing land for cash crops and plantations
 - Monsoon failures
 - Religious practices (B)

Explanation: Forests were cleared for plantations, irrigation projects, and expansion of cash crop cultivation.

- What effect did commercial agriculture have on food security?
 - Increased food supply
 - Reduced availability of food grains
 - No effect
 - Improved irrigation for food crops (B)

Explanation: Focus on cash crops reduced land for food crops, sometimes leading to famines and malnutrition.

- Which crop was widely cultivated in the Deccan for export?
 - Wheat
 - Cotton
 - Rice
 - Indigo (B)

Explanation: Cotton became a major export crop from the Deccan, integrated into the global textile trade under British policies.

- Colonial policies affected traditional landholding patterns by:
 - Abolishing all taxes
 - Introducing permanent revenue settlements
 - Giving total autonomy to peasants
 - Redistributing land to women only (B)

Explanation: Permanent revenue settlements fixed payments, often at high rates, consolidating land under zamindars and affecting peasants' autonomy.

- Overall, the "Changing Landscapes" refers to:
 - Only political changes
 - Transformations in agriculture, forests, and land use
 - Religious conversions
 - Urban architecture exclusively (B)

Explanation: Colonial policies transformed land use, agriculture, deforestation, and rural economy, altering India's physical and social landscapes