

# CONONIALISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

## STUDY NOTES

- The British established their rule first in Bengal. Here, the officials of the East India Company strived to reorder the rural society and establish a new regime of land rights and new revenue system.
- In 1797, there was auction at Burdwan. This event is popularly known as grand public event.
- In this auction, a large number of mahals or estates of Raja of Burdwan were sold.
- In 1793, Permanent Settlement was introduced. According to this settlement, the East India Company had fixed the revenue that each zamindar had to pay.
- Those estates who failed to pay were to be auctioned to recover the revenue.
- In many of the auctions, the Collector found that the purchasers were servants and agents of the raja who had bought the lands on behalf of their master.
- With the introduction of Permanent Settlement, the British official thought that they had resolved the problem they had been facing since the conquest of Bengal.
- However, in 1770s the rural economy of Bengal faced crisis with recurrent famines and declining agricultural output.
- As a result, the British official encouraged the people of Bengal to invest in agriculture as this would help in the development of agriculture, trade and revenue resources. This could be done by securing property rights and permanently fixing the revenue.
- According to the East India Company, if the revenue was fixed then the individual will invest in agriculture for earning profit and in turn, the Company will also be assured of regular flow of revenue.
- However, the problem lay in identifying persons who could both improve agriculture as well as agreed to a contract to pay the fixed revenue to the state.
- After a long discussion among the Company officials, it was decided that the Permanent Settlement was to be made with the rajas and taluqdars of Bengal.
- These rajas and taluqdars were classified as zamindars and they were responsible to pay the revenue that was fixed in perpetuity.
- Now, the zamindars were no longer landowner in the village but they became revenue collector of the state. Sometimes, zamindars had 400 villages under them.
- The zamindars collected rent from different villages and paid the revenue to the East India Company. The difference of rent and revenue paid to the Company was retained by them as their income. However, if they failed to pay revenue to the Company then their estate could be auctioned.
- But there were many reasons which were responsible for the non-payment of revenue by the zamindars. The most important reasons were firstly, the revenue demands were very high and secondly, it was imposed in 1790s when prices of agricultural produce were very low. As a result, the *ryots* found it difficult to pay the dues to the zamindars. Thirdly, the revenue was unchangeable regardless of the harvest.
- According to the 'Sunset Law', if the zamindars failed to pay revenue by sunset of the specified date then their zamindari was auctioned.

- For the East India Company, zamindars were important. But the Company wanted to control and regulate them, subdue their authority as well as restrict their autonomy.
- Hence, the Company disbanded the troops of zamindars, abolished the customs duties and also their 'cutcheries' or courts. In this way, it (Company) brought the zamindars under the supervision of a collector appointed by the Company.
- As a consequence, zamindars lost their power to organise local justice and local police. Gradually, the powers of the zamindars were seized.
- Jotedars were a group of prosperous farmers. They were a class of rich peasants who acquired vast areas of land. They controlled local trade, moneylending and exercise control over the poorer cultivators of the region.
- *Jotedars* vast area of land was cultivated through share croppers known as *adhiyars* or *bargadars*.
- Within the jurisdiction of the village the power of *jotedars* were more in comparison with zamindars.
- *Jotedars* fiercely resisted efforts by zamindars to increase the *jama* of the village, prevented zamindari officials from executing their duties.
- *Jotedars* mobilised *ryots* who were dependent on them and deliberately delayed revenue payments to the zamindar.
- When the estates of the zamindars were auctioned due to their failure to pay revenue on time, *jotedars* were often among the purchasers.
- Thus, *Jotedars* played a significant role in the weakening of the zamindari system.
- In order to prevent the weakening of their authority, zamindars adopted various measures such as fictitious sale or transfer of their property to female members of their family, manipulated the auctions, deliberately withheld the revenue demands of the Company and threatened the outsiders if they try to bought an estate.
- In 1813, a report was submitted to the British Parliament. This report was known as the Fifth Report in which the details of the administration and activities of the East India Company in India were mentioned in 1002 pages.
- In the late 18th century, the British Parliament passed a series of Acts to regulate and control Company rule in India. As a result, the Parliament appointed committees were set up to enquire the Company's rule in India.
- One such report produced by a Select committee was the Fifth Report which became the basis of intense parliamentary debates on the nature of the East India Company's rule in India.
- In the original Rajmahal hills, the *Paharias* lived. These *Paharias* lived on hunting, shifting cultivation, food gathering and were intimately connected to forest.
- In last 18th century, the British encouraged forest clearance. As a result, the zamindar and *jotedar* cleared the uncultivated land into rice fields. Thus, settled agriculture expanded and the area under forest and pasture contracted. This led to sharpen the conflict between *Paharias* and settled cultivators.
- Around 1780, Santhal came into Bengal. The zamindars hired them to recover land and expand their cultivation. Even the British officials invited the Santhals to settle down in the Jangal Mahals.
- The British failed to control the *Paharias* and transform them into settled cultivators.
- The British turned towards the Santhals who appeared to be ideal settlers, cleared the forest and ploughed land.
- The Santhals were granted land and convinced to settle in the foothills of Rajmahal.
- In 1832, a large area of land was demarcated as *Damin-i-Koh* which was declared as the land of the Santhals.
- The Santhals were to live within that area, practise plough agriculture and became settled peasants.
- The land granted to the Santhals demanded that at least one-tenth of the area was to be cleared and cultivated within the first ten years.
- However, when the Santhals were settling on the peripheries of the Rajmahal hills, the *Paharias* repelled against them. Finally, the *Paharias* were forced to withdraw deeper into the hills. They were confined to the dry interior and more barren and rocky upper hills.

- The Santhals started living a settled life and cultivated wide range of commercial crops for the markets. They also dealt with the traders and moneylenders but soon they found that the state was levying heavy taxes on the lands cleared by them.
- Similarly, the moneylenders were charging them high rates of interest and confiscating their lands when they were unable to pay the debts. The zamindars too claimed their control over the *Damin* area.
- As a result, the Santhals decided to revolt against zamindars, moneylenders and the colonial state. The Santhal Revolt of 1855-56 led to the creation of the Santhal Pargana carving out 5,500 square miles from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum. Thus, the British carved out new territory for the Santhals and imposed some special laws within it.
- Francis Buchanan undertook detailed surveys of the areas under the jurisdiction of the East India Company. His journey was sponsored by the Company and he was clearly instructed what he had to record.
- Buchanan observed the rocks, stones and different layers of soil and minerals that were commercially valuable. He wrote about landscape and the ways in which these landscapes could be transformed and made productive.
- His assessments were shaped by commercial interest of the Company and modern western notions of what constituted progress.
- He criticised the lifestyles of forest dwellers and was of the view that forests had to be turned into cultivable lands.
- During the nineteenth century, there were revolts of peasants in various parts of India against money lenders and grain dealers.
- In Poona, a large village named Supa had a market centre where many shopkeepers and moneylenders resided. The ryots of the surrounding rural areas revolted against these shopkeepers and moneylenders on 12 May 1875 and burnt their *bhai khatas*, and even set fire to the houses of *sahukars*.
- From Poona the revolt spread to Ahmednagar and subsequently more than thirty villages were affected.
- This revolt of peasants was looked upon by the British officials as the spectre of 1857 and it took several months to bring the countryside under control.
- In the Bombay Deccan, the British introduced a new revenue system known as the *Ryotwari* settlement. In this system, revenue was directly settled with the *ryot*.
- In this system, average income from soil was estimated, revenue paying capacity of *ryot* was assessed and proportion of it was fixed as share of the state. After every 30 years there was provision for resurvey of land.
- But as the revenue demand was too high in many places' peasants deserted their villages and migrated to new regions. By the 1830s, the problem became worse.
- By the 1840s, the British officials have found evidence of peasant indebtedness everywhere and this was an alarming signal for the British.
- As a consequence, the British officials slightly moderated the revenue demand to encourage peasants to expand the cultivation. But for the expansion of cultivation the peasants needed money to buy seeds, land, etc. and for all this they had to turn once again to moneylenders for loans.
- Subsequently, peasants got deeper and deeper into debt and now they were utterly dependent on moneylender for survival. Gradually, the moneylenders refused to grant loans without legal bonds.
- This led to the revolt between the peasants and the moneylenders in Deccan.
- Worried by the memory of the Revolt of 1857 the Government of India pressurised the Government of Bombay to set up a commission of enquiry to investigate the causes of the revolt.
- The Deccan Riots Commission was set up which presented its report to the British Parliament in 1878. However, it should be remembered that it was the British official report and hence, an invaluable source of reconstruction of history but they need to juxtaposed with other evidences also.
- In 1861, the American Civil War broke out. As a result, cotton export to Britain by America decreased considerably.

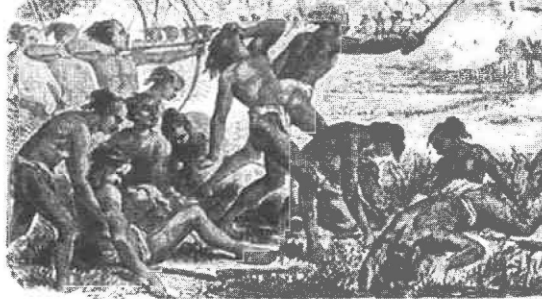
- Consequently, cotton cultivation was promoted in India by the colonial government.
- For instance, export merchants gave money to urban *sahukars* who in turn gave to rural moneylenders to secure the produce of cotton.
- Now, the peasant had easy access to money and as a result, the production of cotton increased rapidly.
- By 1862, over 90 percent of cotton was imported into Britain from India. However, this brought prosperity to only rich peasants and the small peasants were burdened with heavier debt.

## QUESTION BANK

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- In which year, the Permanent Settlement was introduced in Bengal?**  
 (a) 1788                      (b) 1765                      (c) 1793                      (d) 1905
- Consider the following statements related to Santhals and choose the incorrect option?**  
 (a) They lived on the peripheries of Rajmahal hills.      (b) They cleared forests and ploughed the land.  
 (c) They borrowed money from the dikus.                      (d) They practiced shifting cultivation.
- When was the Fifth Report submitted to the British Parliament?**  
 (a) 1770                      (b) 1856                      (c) 1813                      (d) 1795
- Read the following statements pertaining to the feature of the Permanent Settlement and choose the correct option.**  
 (i) Land revenue was fixed.  
 (ii) Ownership of lands was non-transferable.  
 (iii) Ryots were reduced to the statue of tenants.  
**Select the correct option.**  
 (a) Only (i) and (ii)      (b) Only (i) and (iii)      (c) Only (ii) and (iii)      (d) All of these
- Identify the person with the help of clues given.**
  - He was a physician who came to India and served in the Bengal Medical Service.
  - For a few years he was surgeon to the Governor-General of India, Lord Wellesley.
  - During his stay in Calcutta, he organised a zoo that became the Calcutta Alipore Zoo.**Options:**  
 (a) Francis Buchanan                      (b) Maharaja Mehtab Chand  
 (c) Charles Cornwallis                      (d) Thomas Gainsborough
- With their base in the Rajmahal hills, the \_\_\_\_\_ regularly raided the plains where settled agriculturists lived.**  
 (a) Jotedars                      (b) Paharias                      (c) Zamindars                      (d) Sharecropper
- Arrange the following events in the chronological order.**  
 I. Introduction of Permanent Settlement.  
 II. Fifth Report in the British Parliament.  
 III. Santhals arrived in the Rajmahal hills.  
**Options:**  
 (a) 1, 2, 3                      (b) 2, 1, 3                      (c) 3, 2, 1                      (d) 1, 3, 2
- The Paharias lived around the Rajmahal hills and their life was completely dependent on \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 (a) Trade                      (b) Permanent agriculture                      (c) Forest produce                      (d) All of these
- Who emerged as a danger for the Paharias?**  
 (a) Santhals                      (b) Bhils                      (c) Gujjars                      (d) Bekarwals

10. For which tribe a large area of land was demarcated as **Damin-i-Koh**.  
 (a) Santhals (b) Paharias (c) British (d) Zamindars
11. The **jotedars** are also known as  
 (a) Zamindars (b) Ryots (c) Gantidars (d) Paharias
12. Identify the image and select the most appropriate option.



- (a) Santhals fight with the sepoys of the British Raj. (b) Paharias fight with the Santhals.  
 (c) Zamindars fight with the sepoys of the British Raj. (d) Jotedars fight with the sepoys of the British Raj.
13. Name the **Governor-General** who introduced the policy of **Permanent Settlement**?  
 (a) Lord William Bentinck (b) Lord Dalhousie  
 (c) Lord Cornwallis (d) Lord Curzon
14. Read the below statements regarding the auction of **Burdwan** and choose the **incorrect** option.  
 (a) In 1779, there was an auction in Burdwan which was a big public event.  
 (b) Numerous purchasers came to the auction and the estates were sold to the highest bidder.  
 (c) Many of the servants and agents of the raja bought the land on the behalf of their master.  
 (d) Over 95% of the sale at the auction was fictitious.
15. Read the below extract and answer the question.  
 The ruins of palaces are a visible sign of the end of an era. Satyajit Ray's famous film 'Jalshaghar', on the decline of the aristocratic zamindari style of living, was shot in this palace.  
**What is the name of the palace?**  
 (a) Andul Raj Palace (b) Lokraj Palace (c) Rajkumar Palace (d) Rajmahal Palace
16. What is the literal meaning of the word '**taluqdar**'?  
 (a) One who is a relative (b) One who is a manipulator  
 (c) One who holds a connection (d) None of these
17. Consider the following statements in the context of **Sunset law**.  
 I. The zamindars had to pay revenue by sunset of the specified date.  
 II. If he fails to pay then the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.  
 III. This law was made for the benefit of the zamindars and ryots.  
**Choose the correct option:**  
 (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Both I and III (d) Both I and II
18. Choose the correct option.  
**Assertion (A):** The Company had recognised the zamindars as important, but it wanted to control and regulate them.  
**Reason (R):** At the time of rent collection, an officer of the zamindar, usually the amlah, came around to the village.  
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

19. In the 1770s, the British embarked on a brutal policy of extermination, hunting the \_\_\_\_\_ down and killing them.

- (a) Paharias
- (b) Santhals
- (c) Zamindars
- (d) Mundas

20. Consider the below statements.

- I. Permanent Settlement was introduced in 1793.
- II. Jotedars were quite powerful.
- III. All the zamindars paid dues very easily.

Select the correct option.

- (a) I and II
- (b) Only III
- (c) I and III
- (d) II and III

21. Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Among the defaulters were some of the oldest families of the country.

Reason (R): The revenue was not realised with punctuality, and lands to a considerable extent were periodically exposed to sale by auction.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

22. Read the passage and answer the question.

Referring to the condition of zamindars and the auction of lands, the Fifth Report stated: The revenue was not realised with punctuality, and lands to a considerable extent were periodically exposed to sale by auction. In the native year 1203, corresponding with 1796-97, the land advertised for sale comprehended a jumma or assessment of sicca rupees 28,70,061, the extent of land actually sold bore a jumma or assessment of 14,18,756, and the amount of purchase money sicca rupees 17,90,416. In 1204, corresponding with 1797-98, the land advertised was for sicca rupees 26,66,191, the quantity sold was for sicca rupees 22,74,076, and the purchase money sicca rupees 21,47,580. Among the defaulters were some of the oldest families of the country.

Long term generalisations from the above figures of two years may lead to misinterpretation of the actual situation. How?

- (a) As these were the years when zamindars faced problems.
- (b) There could be exaggeration of facts.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

23. Consider the below statements.

- I. The land advertised for sale comprehended an assessment of sicca rupees 28,70,061.
- II. The land that was actually sold bore an assessment of 14,18,756.
- III. In the year 1799, the land advertised was for sicca rupees 26,66,191.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and III
- (d) III only

24. "Buchanan was considered as an agent of British East Company." Which of the following statement(s) is / are correct?

- (a) He ventured into places where few travellers went and the people were hostile, apprehensive of officials and unwilling to talk to them.
- (b) He wrote all his observations of the places he visited, people he encountered and practices he saw.

- (c) Buchanan was appointed by the colonial masters to chronicle the Rajmahal hill areas.
- (d) All of the above

**25. Who was Francis Buchanan?**

- (a) A sepoy
- (b) An archaeologist
- (c) Governor General
- (d) A physician and an employee of East India Company

**26. Which of the following is true about the lower Rajmahal hills?**

- (a) The view of the country is exceedingly fine.
- (b) Rocky hills in perfection.
- (c) Walls were made of small sticks placed upright close to each other.
- (d) Narrow valleys of rice winding in all directions.

**27. Consider the following statements in relation to the lower Rajmahal hills and choose the most appropriate option.**

- (a) Clearing of land was considered as a sign of progress.
- (b) Forests cleared for plantation of Asan and Palas.
- (c) Cleared land with scattered trees.
- (d) All of the above

**28. Choose the correct option.**

**Assertion (A): Buchanan priorities were different from those of the local inhabitants.**

**Reason (R): His assessment of what was necessary was shaped by the commercial concerns of the Company and modern Western notions of what constituted progress.**

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

**29. Consider the following statements.**

- I. When Buchanan wrote about a landscape, he most often described how the landscape could be transformed and made more productive.
- II. But he never wrote about what crops could be cultivated, which trees cut down, and which ones grown.
- III. He wanted a vastly extended and improved cultivation.

**Choose the correct option.**

- (a) I and II
- (b) I and III
- (c) II only
- (d) III only

**30. What does Buchanan's description tell us about the British idea of development?**

- (a) Development was for the welfare of the people.
- (b) Development was for raising the standard of living of the local population.
- (c) Development was for building modern infrastructure.
- (d) Development was for commercialisation of agriculture.

**31. Choose the correct option.**

**Assertion (A): The Santhals began to come and settle into Bengal around 1780s.**

**Reason (R): Zamindars hired them to reclaim land, expand cultivation while British officers invited them to settle in Jangal Mahals.**

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

- 32. How did Buchanan explain about the living condition of Santhals?**
- (a) They were in poor condition (b) They led a life of luxury  
(c) Their lifestyle was comfortable (d) None of these
- 33. Why were the Santhals considered ideal settlers by the British?**
- (a) Santhals were less in number and more conservative in nature.  
(b) Santhals practised agriculture and cultivated a range of commercial crops for the market.  
(c) Santhals were a homogenous group.  
(d) Santhals practiced monoculture.
- 34. The Santhals faced resistance from the Paharias. In the context of the statement choose the correct option.**
- (a) Due to Santhal's presence, they were confined to dry interior region  
(b) Paharias followed an expansionary outlook and looked to expand their territory  
(c) Both had cultural differences  
(d) They had a conflict over succession
- 35. Consider the following statements.**
- I. When Buchanan travelled through the region in the winter of 1810-11 the Paharias naturally viewed him with suspicion and distrust.  
II. In view of the Paharias, every white man appeared to represent a power that was destroying their way of life and means of survival, snatching away their control over their forests and lands.
- Choose the correct option.**
- (a) I only (b) II only (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II
- 36. Choose the correct option.**
- Assertion (A): In 1797 there was an auction in Burdwan.**
- Reason (R): Numerous purchasers came to the auction and the estates were sold to the highest bidder.**
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
(d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.
- 37. Choose the correct option.**
- Assertion (A): By the 1790s, the rural economy in Bengal was in crisis, with recurrent famines and declining agricultural output.**
- Reason (R): After a prolonged debate amongst Company officials, the Permanent Settlement was made with the rajas and taluqdars of Bengal.**
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
(d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.
- 38. In which place the Ryotwari system was basically implemented.**
- (a) Bombay Deccan (b) Calcutta and North India  
(c) Northern India only (d) Bihar and Assam
- 39. The Government of Bombay set up the commission to investigate the riots of the Deccan farmers in 1875. Name the commission.**
- (a) Hyderabad Riots Commission (b) Deccan Riots Commission  
(c) Bengal Riots Commission (d) Chota Nagpur Plateau Riots Commission



40. In Maharashtra, the British officials set about formulating the terms of the early settlement in the 1820s, they operated with some of his ideas.

Identify the person about whose ideas the above lines are talking about.

- (a) David Ricardo                      (b) Thomas Robert                      (c) John Stuart Mill                      (d) Walter Bagehot.

41. Choose the correct option.

**Assertion (A):** The jotedars controlled local trade, moneylending and exercised immense power over the poorer cultivators of the region.

**Reason (R):** The jotedars were most powerful in North Bengal, although rich peasants and village headmen were emerging as commanding figures in the countryside in other parts of Bengal.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
(d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

42. Choose the correct option.

**Assertion (A):** The Raja of Burdwan transferred some of his zamindari to his mother.

**Reason (R):** Since the Company had decreed that the property of women would not be taken over.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
(d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

43. What was the main objective of the Cotton Supply Association and the Manchester Cotton Company?

- (a) To encourage cotton production in every part of the world suited for its growth.  
(b) To expand the business of the East India Company.  
(c) To stop cotton production from America.  
(d) None of the above

44. In villages, generally *sahukars* are the people who are regarded as:

- (a) Both a moneylender and a trader  
(b) Rich peasants  
(c) Maintaining records for both land and territories  
(d) Shifting cultivators

45. Choose the correct option.

**Assertion (A):** The Raja of Burdwan transferred some of his zamindari to his mother.

**Reason (R):** Since the Company had decreed that the property of women would not be taken over.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
(c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.  
(d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

46. In which year the American Civil War broke out?

- (a) 1862                                      (b) 1860                                      (c) 1866                                      (d) 1861

47. Read the following statements regarding the Ryotwari Settlement and choose the incorrect option.

- (a) The revenue was directly settled with the cultivators.  
(b) After every 30 years the land was resurveyed and the revenue was increased.  
(c) The revenue demand was not permanent.  
(d) It was imposed in the 1790s when the prices of agricultural produce were depressed.

48. Choose the correct option.

**Assertion (A):** The Government of India, pressurised the Government of Bombay to set up a commission of enquiry to investigate into the causes of the riots.

**Reason (R):** The Government of India was worried by the memory of 1857.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

49. Consider the below statements in the context of the Limitation Law.

- I. This law was passed by the British in 1859.
- II. This law stated that the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and ryots would have validity for only four years.
- III. This law was meant to check the accumulation of interest over time.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) Both I and II
- (b) Both I and III
- (c) Only II
- (d) Only III

50. Choose the pair which is not correctly matched.

- (a) Cutcheries - court
- (b) Jumma - collector
- (c) Sahukar - moneylender
- (d) Ryot - peasant

51. Choose the correct option.

**Assertion (A):** In the 1770s the British embarked on a brutal policy of extermination, hunting the Paharias down and killing them.

**Reason (R):** At the end of 1800, Buchanan crossed Ganjuria Pahar, which was part of the Rajmahal ranges, passed through the rocky country beyond, and reached a village.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.
- (d) (R) is incorrect but (A) is correct.

52. Read the following statements in the context of shifting cultivation and choose the incorrect option.

- (a) Patches of forests are cut and burnt in rotation.
- (b) Seeds are sown in the ashes.
- (c) Plots cleared are cultivated for few years and then left fallow.
- (d) These patches are enriched by nitrogen from the ashes.

53. In 1865, export merchants and *sahukars* in Maharashtra were no longer keen on extending long-term credit. Why?

- (a) As the American Civil War ended, cotton production in America revived.
- (b) The Indian merchants and *sahukars* could see the demand for Indian cotton fall and cotton prices slide downwards.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

54. Read the below statement in the pretext of the relationship between the moneylenders and zamindars and choose the correct option.

- (a) A variety of customary norms regulated the relationship between the moneylender and the ryot.
- (b) One general norm was that the interest charged could not be more than the principal.

- (c) This was meant to limit the moneylender's exactions and defined what could be counted as "fair interest".  
 (d) All the above.

55. Identify the British official shown in the picture.



- (a) Lord Charles Cornwallis  
 (b) Lord Dalhousie  
 (c) Lord William Bentinck  
 (d) Lord William Cornwallis

### Input Text Based MCQ's

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (56 to 58):

*In a petition to the Deccan Riots Commission a ryot explained how the system of loans worked:*

*A sowkar lends his debtor Rs 100 on bond at Rs 3-2 annas per cent per mensem. The latter agrees to pay the amount within eight days from the passing of the bond. Three years after the stipulated time for repaying the amount, the sowkar takes from his debtor another bond for the principal and interest together at the same rate of interest, and allows him 125 days' time to liquidate the debt. After the lapse of 3 years and 15 days a third bond is passed by the debtor ... (this process is repeated) at the end of 12 years ... his interest on Rs 1000 amounts to Rs 2028 -10 annas -3 paise.*

56. Who pressurised the Government of Bombay to set up a commission of enquiry to investigate the causes of the Deccan riots?  
 (a) Government of India  
 (b) Government of England  
 (c) Both (a) and (b)  
 (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
57. In which year the commission presented the Deccan Riots Commission report to the British Parliament?  
 (a) 1877  
 (b) 1878  
 (c) 1888  
 (d) 1882
58. The commission recorded statements of  
 (a) ryots, sahuks and eyewitnesses  
 (b) Eyewitnesses  
 (c) zamindars  
 (d) Both (b) and (c)

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (59 to 61):

*On 16 May 1875, the District Magistrate of Poona wrote to the Police Commissioner:*

*On arrival at Supa on Saturday 15 May I learnt of the disturbance.*

*One house of a moneylender was burnt down; about a dozen were forcibly broken into and completely gutted of their content. Account papers, bonds, grains, country cloth were burnt in the street where heaps of ashes are still to be seen.*

*The chief constable apprehended 50 persons. Stolen property worth Rs 2000 was recovered. The estimated loss is over Rs 25,000. Moneylenders claim it is over 1 lakh.*

59. Through the nineteenth century, peasants in various parts of India rose in revolt against  
 (a) Moneylenders  
 (b) Zamindars and village headman  
 (c) Moneylenders and grain dealers  
 (d) The British government

60. From Poona the peasant revolt spread to  
 (a) Ahmednagar (b) Hyderabad (c) Lucknow (d) Rajasthan
61. Terrified of peasant attacks, the \_\_\_\_\_ fled the villages, very often leaving their property and belongings behind.  
 (a) sahumkars (b) Village headman (c) British officials (d) shopkeepers

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (62 to 64):

*Buchanan wrote:*

*They are very clever in clearing new lands, but live meanly. Their huts have no fence, and the walls are made of small sticks placed upright, close together and plastered within with clay. They are small and slovenly, and too flat-roofed, with very little arch.*

62. Who are referred as 'they' in the above source?  
 (a) Santhals (b) zamindars (c) Jotedars (d) Paharias
63. In the early nineteenth century, Buchanan travelled through the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Wetlands of Bengal (b) Rajmahal hills  
 (c) Jangal Mahals (d) Villages of Orissa
64. Why is Francis Buchanan often called Buchanan-Hamilton?  
 (a) because upon his grandmother's death, he inherited her property and assumed her family name Hamilton.  
 (b) because upon his mother's death, he inherited her property and assumed her family name Hamilton.  
 (c) Both (a) and (b)  
 (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

### ANSWERS

#### Multiple Choice Questions

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c)  | 2. (d)  | 3. (c)  | 4. (b)  | 5. (a)  | 6. (b)  | 7. (d)  | 8. (c)  | 9. (a)  | 10. (a) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | 14. (a) | 15. (a) | 16. (c) | 17. (d) | 18. (b) | 19. (a) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (c) | 23. (a) | 24. (d) | 25. (d) | 26. (c) | 27. (d) | 28. (a) | 29. (b) | 30. (d) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (a) | 33. (b) | 34. (a) | 35. (c) | 36. (b) | 37. (c) | 38. (a) | 39. (b) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (a) | 43. (a) | 44. (a) | 45. (a) | 46. (d) | 47. (d) | 48. (a) | 49. (b) | 50. (b) |
| 51. (d) | 52. (d) | 53. (c) | 54. (d) | 55. (a) |         |         |         |         |         |

#### Input Text Based MCQ's

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 56. (a) | 57. (b) | 58. (a) | 59. (c) | 60. (a) | 61. (a) | 62. (a) | 63. (b) | 64. (b) |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|