



DON BOSCO SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

STD – VIII

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

HISTORY: L2- FROM TRADE TO TERRITORY (The Company Establishes Power)

LONG QUESTION & ANSWERS

1. What was the reason for the intense rivalry among the European trading companies?

Ans:

- a. The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was a period of intense rivalry among the English, French, Portuguese and the Dutch trading companies. This rivalry was centered around trade.
- b. Two things that India produced were in great demand in Europe. The First was fine qualities of cotton and silk. The other was spices such as pepper, clove, cardamom and cinnamon.
- c. All trading companies were after these goods, and this competition led to an increase in their prices.
- d. Trade became less profitable for all the companies. The only way to make reasonable profits was to eliminate the others. This led to fierce battles.
- e. Ultimately, the English East India Company emerged victorious and monopolized trade.

2. Why were the nawabs of Bengal unhappy with the East India Company?

Ans:

- a. The English East India Company started off as a trading company. Over time, the officials of the company became more ambitious.
- b. Besides legal trade, they carried on their private trade and to increase their profits, refused to pay legitimate taxes and duties on this trade. This led to a huge loss of revenue for the Bengal nawabs.
- c. Besides the economic loss, the nawabs were also unhappy with the fact that the Company was trying to establish enlarging and fortifying its settlements.

3. The grant of Diwani began to bleed India. Explain this statement.

Ans:

- a. The grant of Diwani was a momentous event in the economic history of eighteenth century India.
- b. Once the Company acquired the Diwani rights, it systematically began to bleed India economically.
- c. Until then, it had purchased goods from India and had paid for them with gold and silver imported from Britain.

- d. After they became the masters of Bengal, they began to use the revenues of Bengal to pay for their purchases in India.
- e. They also used these resources to maintain a large army fight ears, and meet other administrative and trade expenses.
- f. In short, Indian money began to be used to subjugate India.

4. What was the 'Doctrine of Lapse'? List the kingdoms that were annexed under it.

Ans:

- a. The 'Doctrine of Lapse' was a policy devised by Governor-General Lord Dalhousie to annex territories in India without going to war.
- b. It stated that if an Indian ruler passed away without a male heir, his kingdom would be taken over by the Company.
- c. In other words, adopted heirs and women were barred from inheriting a kingdom and becoming rulers.
- d. The kingdoms that were annexed using this policy included Satara (in 1848), Sambalpur (in 1850), Udaipur (in 1852), Nagpur (in 1853) and Jhansi (in 1854).

5. Write a note on the changes introduced by the British in administration.

Ans:

- a. The British brought about many changes in administration. They out the territories they acquired in India under administrative units called 'Presidencies'.
- b. There were three Presidencies – Bengal, Madras and Bombay. Each one was ruled by a Governor. The Governor – General was the supreme head of administration.
- c. In the district, the Collector was the highest ranking official. He has two functions – collection of revenue and maintaining law and order.
- d. Each district had two courts – a criminal court (Faujdari adalat) and a civil court (Diwani adalat). A supreme Court was also set up.
