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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

By: Sunita Gupta,
M.A., Political Science (B.Ed.)

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CONTENTS

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

Question Bank – (Previous Year Solved Question Papers)

<i>Question Paper—June, 2019 (Solved)</i>	1-3
<i>Question Paper—December, 2018 (Solved)</i>	1-2
<i>Question Paper—June, 2018 (Solved)</i>	1-2
<i>Question Paper—December, 2017 (Solved)</i>	1-4
<i>Question Paper—June, 2017 (Solved)</i>	1-5
<i>Question Paper—December, 2016 (Solved)</i>	1-3
<i>Question Paper—June, 2016 (Solved)</i>	1-2
<i>Question Paper—December, 2015 (Solved)</i>	1-3
<i>Question Paper—June, 2015 (Solved)</i>	1
<i>Question Paper—June, 2014 (Solved)</i>	1-2
<i>Question Paper—June, 2013 (Solved)</i>	1-2
<i>Question Paper—June, 2012 (Solved)</i>	1-2
<i>Question Paper—June, 2011 (Solved)</i>	1
<i>Question Paper—June, 2010 (Solved)</i>	1-2

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
--------------	-----------------------------------	-------------

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.	The Consequences of Colonialism	1
2.	Responses of Indian Society	7
3.	National Movement	11
4.	Emergence of New Classes	17

PHILOSOPHY OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

5.	The Making of the Indian Constitution	22
6.	Basic Features	26
7.	Vision of Social Transformation	32
8.	Rights and Citizenship	36

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
<u>INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK</u>		
9.	What it Means to be a Parliamentary Democracy?	41
10.	Legislature	46
11.	Executive	53
12.	Judiciary	59
13.	Bureaucracy in India	64
<u>FEDERALISM IN INDIA</u>		
14.	Nature of Indian Federalism	69
15.	Special Provisions For North-East, J&K, etc.	74
16.	Issues in Conflict and Cooperation in Indian Federalism	77
17.	Autonomy Movements and State Reorganisation in India	84
18.	Local Self-Government Institutions: Rural and Urban	88
<u>PARTY SYSTEM AND ELECTIONS IN INDIA</u>		
19.	Nature of Party System in India	94
20.	National and Regional Political Parties	100
21.	Elections	106
22.	Caste, Class and Politics in India	110
23.	Coalition Politics	115

S.No.

Chapter

Page

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

24.	Women	120
25.	Dalits	125
26.	Tribals	129
27.	Environment	133
28.	Workers and Peasants	137

CONTEXT OF INDIAN STATE

29.	Globalisation and Liberalisation	141
30.	Secularism and the Communal Challenge	147
31.	Democracy in Search of Equality	151
32.	Crime, Repression and Terror in Indian Politics	154

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Sample Question
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QUESTION PAPER

(June - 2019)

(Solved)

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

(Weightage: 70%)

Note: (i) Section-I- Any **two** questions to be answered.
(ii) Section-II- Any **four** questions to be answered.
(iii) Section-III- Any **two** questions to be answered.

SECTION - I

Answer the following questions:

Q. 1. Analyse the role of Mahatma Gandhi in India's freedom struggle.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No.12, 'Coming of Gandhi and the Non-cooperation Movement'.

Q. 2. Explain the differences and the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No.37, 'Recognition of Community in India's Citizenship', Page No. 38, 'Directive Principles of State Policy', Chapter-6, Page No. 27, 'Fundamental Rights', 'Right to Freedom', 'Right to Equality' and 'Directive Principles of State Policy'.

Q. 3. What do you understand by Regionalism? Examine the reasons for the growth of the same.

Ans. Regionalism is a political ideology that focuses on the national or normative interests of a particular region, group of regions or other subnational entity. These may be delineated by political divisions, administrative divisions, cultural boundaries, linguistic regions, and religious geography, among others. India is a country of unity in diversity, where the power of unity is strong in spite of diversities in area, population and human-cultural factors. This power helped to develop Indian Federation. The rise of regionalism in India is due to diversity and variation in the India economic and social culture.

There are various reasons for its emergence of Regionalism in Indian Politics such as:

Language: It is an important factor of integrating people and emotional attachments are developed, consequently, the demand of linguistic states started. Although, the intensity of the demand of linguistic states has been decreased now, yet the regional conflicts keep rising in the interest of language. Therefore, the problem of determining the national language of India has been an issue for a long time.

The Movement for Linguistic States: Before Independence- Orissa Province became the first Indian state (pre-independence) organized on a linguistic basis due to the effort of Madhusudan Das who is considered as the Father of Oriya nationalism. Post-independence, the first state created on a linguistic basis was Andhra in 1953, created out of the Telugu-speaking northern parts of Madras State.

Religion: It is also one of the major factors of the regionalism. For Example: The demand of three autonomous states in Jammu & Kashmir is based on religion. The bases for their demands are: Kashmir for Muslim dominated, Jammu for Hindu dominated and laddakh for Buddhism dominated region.

Regional Culture: In Indian context the historical or regional culture considered the prime components of regionalism. The historical and cultural components interpret regionalism by way of cultural heritage, folklore, myths, symbolism and historical traditions. The North-east states were created on the basis of cultural aspect. Besides the economic issues, the regional culture played significant role in the formation of Jharkhand as a state.

Economic Backwardness: It is also major factors for the regionalism in India because the uneven pattern of socioeconomic development has created regional disparities. The categorization and sub-categorization of the states on the basis of socioeconomic indicators have generated resentment against the central leadership. For Example: Under Gadgil Formula (amended), the states like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are given special status and received 90% Central Financial Assistance. On the other hand, backward state likes Bihar getting only 30% waiver. Under the planned development, the differences between agriculture, industry and other infrastructural development encourage the regionalism.

Rise of Political Parties: The elitist character of leadership and unwarranted intervention by the centre in the affairs of the state has rendered the state vulnerable to regional forces. Sometimes, regional parties ignore the national interests and promote the regional interest only. Sometimes the regionalism helps to safeguard the minority interests. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, the TYC, etc. belong to this category of the regional political parties.

Q. 4. How has the reservation policy in India helped the emergence of new social groups? Elaborate.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No.66, 'Reservation and Indian Bureaucracy' and Page No. 68, Q. No. 9.

SECTION-II

Answer the following questions:

Q. 5. Write a note on the right to freedom of life and liberty.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 37, 'Recognition of Community in India's Citizenship' and Page No. 38, 'Rights and Franchise' and Page No. 40, Q. No. 3 and 5.

Q. 5. Write a note on the right to freedom of life and liberty.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 37, 'Recognition of Community in India's Citizenship' and Page No. 38, 'Rights and Franchise' and Page No. 40, Q. No. 3 and 5.

Q. 6. Explain the provisions of the Indian constitution to establish justice and equality.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-31, Page No. 151-152, 'Introduction' and 'Democracy and Equality'.

Q. 7. What special provisions have been provided in the constitution for the state of Jammu and Kashmir? Explain their importance.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 74, 'Special Provisions' and Page No. 75, 'Why Special Provisions?'.

Q. 8. Describe the characteristics of Tribal Movements in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-26, Page No. 131, 'Characteristics and Consequences of Tribal Movements', Page No. 132, Q. No. 2 and Q. No. 6 .

Q. 9. Describe the causes of emergence and growth of communalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 11, 'Introduction' and Page No. 14, 'Growth of Communalism' and Page No. 16, Q. No. 8.

Q. 10. Write a brief note on Public Interest Litigation and its importance.

Ans. In 1982 the Supreme Court in her judgement on a democratic rights of construction workers of the Asian Games granted the peoples union of Democratic Rights the right of Public Interest Litigation, (PIL). The Supreme Court held that any 'public spirited' individual could move to the court. In 1988, Supreme Court delineated the matters to be entertained as PIL. While the granting the rights of PIL was done by judiciary, the courts have been flooded by PILs, the flood of such litigation indicates the deprivation of democratic rights.

In Champakam Dorairajan's case the Supreme Court held that order of the State Government fixing proportionate scales for different communities for admission to medical colleges was unconstitutional. The Presidential order de-recognising privy purses was also challenged in the Supreme Court which was declared as unconstitutional.

Also Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 63, Q. No. 6.

Q. 11. Comment on the cultural impact of globalisation.

Ans. Globalization has become one of the most popular buzzword of our time frequently used by people. Globalization is the increasing interaction of national economy with that of the First World, which ultimately aims at creating a state of frictionless capitalism. According to Orunmoluyi (2002) it is a process of creating a global market in which

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Consequences of Colonialism



INTRODUCTION

It was in the 17th century that the Europeans for the first time started taking interest in India. The most important early entrants were the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the British. None of them came to India to settle here. They were all attracted by the stories of India's fabulous wealth and by the excellence after manufactured goods which had a big market in Europe. The British came to India as a trading company like other Europeans. The company which later came to be known as the East India Company was incorporated in London on December 31, 1600 under a charter of Queen Elizabeth. By 1690 the British had gained a number of footholds and their business had been increased. The East India Company very shrewdly exploited the internal disunity among the princes of India for their own profitable motives. By playing one prince against the other and lending the support of armies sometimes to one or sometimes to the other. Britishers had created a new class of Zamindars, which were loyal to them and help them to exploit Indian peasants by heavy taxation. Neither the British rulers, nor the Zamindars cared for agricultural development with the result our 'Golden sparrow' has become one of the poorest country of the world.

The British built their colony in India with the help of cheap and free labour. There was also the absence of white "settle population" in India and in addition large number of landowners and social notables were won over the British side. They created a new group to cooperate the Britishers by granting them Zamindaris or other land rights by displacing the old ones. When British rule was securely established and more settled conditions prevailed their open and unshamed plunder gave way to imperialist system of colonial exploitation. For example unequal trade; drain of Indian resources in the form of excess merchandise exports; exploitation of Indian resources for purposes of conquest and war; manipulation of exchange rates to the advantage of Britain and the disadvantage of India.

DEFINING COLONIALISM

Colonialism is a policy which aims at creating, organizing and maintaining an empire. According to **J.A. Hobson**, "Colonialism, in its best sense, is a natural overflow of nationality; its test is the power of colonists to transplant the civilization. They represent to the new natural and social environment in which they find themselves." The main characteristics of the colonial rule are: exploitation, undemocratic Government and bureaucratic system.

2 / NEERAJ : GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

Colonies had always been there for example the Greeks had established colonies in the pre-Christ era; the Cholas went overseas and established colonies in Indo-China and Indonesia.

From the 16th century onwards a small part of the world such as Spain, Portugal, Holland, Britain and France established political domination over the rest of the world. This resulted the economic integration of the colonised world into the needs of the economies of conquering powers through a process of deeply inequitable trade. The level of development of many countries was very high before the rise of colonialism; for example countries such as India, China, Arabs, etc. The Mediterranean or the Indian Ocean trade was controlled by the Arabs. Industrial revolution began a few decades later with the invention of steam engine, spinning jelly etc. The decline of Indian had started because of British colonisation.

The British conquest of India was different in character from all the previous conquests of the country. In the past the change of rulers implied merely a change of the dynasty that exercised political authority over the people, but it did not affect social fabric, the productive organization, the property relations or the system of administration. Under the British rule all this was altered and a socio-economic revolution was started which culminated in the destruction of the old institution and in the emergence of new social classes and forces.

CONSEQUENCES OF COLONIALISM

The colonial rule was started, with the defeat of Siraj-ud-Daula in 1757 at the battle of Plassey. The Diwani of Bengal passed into the hands of the British after the battle of Buxar in 1765. The East India Company was given the monopoly of trade with the East including India under the charter of British Parliament. Political control was used by the Britishers to bring the economy under their direct command with the control of trade and revenue and transfer of the surplus to Britain resulted the Indian exploitation and a long Industrial revolution.

Nature and Phases of the Colonial Empire

The main objective of colonialism is the exploitation of the colony by taking their surplus and getting richer themselves making the country poorer and poorer as they could so. The methods of exploiting the colony were of different phases. According to Beepan Chandra the colonialism went through three stages. The first stage is the monopoly of trade and

revenue appropriation, this was described as the element of plunder and direct taking the possession of surplus and the absence of import of manufactures. The second stage he considers the exploitation of trade converting the colony into a subordinate trading partner. The third stage he describes as the period of foreign investments and competition for colonies. The surplus metropolitan capital was exported into the colonies for the direct exploitation of raw material by establishing industry and taking away the profits.

The mode of exploitation changes according to the time and need of the Britishers. Surpluses of revenue, unequal trade, monopoly over revenue collection remains in British hands. As the time went on mode of exploitation changes, it does not disappear, but continued in some or other form.

The battle of Plassey in 1757 for the first time brought a vast area under British control and within a few years Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the East-coast were subject to them.

The next big step forward was taken forty years later, at the beginning of the 19th century. This brought them to the gates of Delhi. The third major advancement took place after the last defeat of the Marathas in 1818 and the fourth in 1849, after the Sikhs wars completed the picture.

With the defeat of Nawab of Bengal by Robert Clive the political power is exercised by the East India Company on a charter granted by the British Parliament which also appointed the Governor-General. The period of 1858 to 1947 is the direct acquisition of power by the British Parliament to the independence of the country.

There were two periods in the first phase. The first was from 1757-65 to 1813 was a pure merchantile period that is the merchants were the dominant class controlling long distance trade. In 1813 the monopoly of the Company for trade with India was abolished. In 1858 the British Parliament has the direct power into their hands. The Governor General became the Viceroy. Free-trade exploitation has taken place during 1858 to 1914-18. During this period there was the opening of Indian economy thoroughly to the influence of world capitalist market and its full integration in the world capitalist economy. During the period of First World-War a new phase of exploitation has started which continued till 1947.

The British wanted to invest their economy, they have started exporting their capital to other countries.

In India mining and industries have started on a large scale and in different areas. British capital started flowing in India in industrial form. In Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Ahmedabad large-scale of industries were grown up by Britishers. The reason was the easily availability of raw material, cheap and free labour. Instead of importing raw material to England and exporting the goods from Britain they have developed the industry in India because of the easily availability of raw material. The super-profits which were made were expropriated to Britain. This mode of industrialisation is known as '*import substitution*'. This gives the change in the status of Indian bourgeois change merchants to those of industrialists. This was very clear that the colonial authorities made no favour to the Indian society.

IMPACT: THE FIRST PHASE—THE PEASANTRY AND ITS IMPOVERISHMENT

In every progressive country there has been a shift of population from agriculture to industry from village to town in India. This process was reversed as a result of British policy. Big landowners were created by the British after their own English pattern because it was easier than to deal with a few individuals rather than a vast peasantry. These landowners collected the money in shape of revenue from the peasants and gave to the Britishers. If they failed to give at the given time he was immediately pushed out and another took place. The landlord system was first introduced in Bengal and Bihar where big landowners were created under the system known as the Permanent Settlement. Later fresh settlements were made in different parts of India. In some provinces a kind of peasant proprietorship was established. Before the British rule land was not the private property which could be freely sold or purchased. The new rulers (Britishers) held that all land should be somebody's private property. The different settlements were made in different parts of the country which made the land private property and hence an article of purchase and sale, that is, a commodity. For example the settlement, were Zamindari settlement, the Mahalwari settlements the Ryotwari settlement etc.

Labour power became an article of sale and purchase in the market, it became a commodity during the British period. The transformation of land and labour power into commodities immensely widened the scope of the market.

It is important to remember that under the Mughals a part of the revenue collected and was

reinvested to help the economy and the growth of local product but very little came back under the British. The Britishers had made the revenue calculable on the total land entitled to cultivate rather than the land actually cultivated. Under the Mughals the revenue was calculated in cash or in kind; failure to pay in time or repay other kinds of debt did not lead to the loss of land. But the Britishers forced the auction of land in case of failure to pay the revenue or other debts.

Impact: The Second Phase—De-industrialisation and Its Effects

During the time of Akbar Mahkamai Kackhanai (department of Industry) was started. The manufactures were the artisans working from within their households or handicraftsmen working in the guilds, they were largely organized. The manufactures in India were spread all over the country and the relation between the agricultures and manufactures were mutually beneficial. During the period of first half of the 19th century no new industry grew in India and much of the manufactures were destroyed.

In 1800 India entered into a classical mould of colonial exploitation—import of raw material and export of finished goods. In the 19th century free trade was introduced, that is exports of goods from Britain would be exempted from custom duties. India was popular in cotton textiles all over the world and used to export in large quantities. Within a few decades cotton textiles completely disappeared from the list of India's exports. Britain had become the great producer of cotton textiles during the industrial revolution. Britishers forced the weavers to give up weaving and replaced it with the production of raw silk because of sale of raw silk in Europe was much more profitable. The Indian textile industry collapsed affecting vast number of weavers and artisans. Vigorous attempts were made to crush the Indian export business. The relation between the peasants and the landlords became worst day by day and the number of landless agricultural labourers increased drastically. There was absolute reduction in the wages of workers in agricultural operations and there was increment in the rent of peasants which they were forced to pay.

Development Impact

The most beneficial effect of British dominance over the country was the provision of law and order. The British rule that followed such a long period of turmoil security enforced a rule of law and heralded a

4 / NEERAJ : GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

long period of peace and stability. To run these institutions the British set up a new type of educational system. A new class of Indian well-versed in English had appeared. The three upper castes have monopoly first over the jobs and then over the professions like Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers, etc.

In 1854 the construction of railways have been started. All the major areas of India were constructed by 1914. About 34,000 miles was constructed. This made the travelling easier from one place to another place. People across India contributed largely to the development of trade and capital, it also made easier of loading of goods from one place to another. Travelling helped the integration of various local economic zones and helped in an interacting economy. With the help of railways Pan-Indian market was also developed. Apart from the railways, roads were built linking the main cities. Roads or rail-roads were constructed in the manner it can link to the port of cities; from which finished goods were exported into India and raw material can be taken out. Dadabhai Naoroji gave it the name of '*Drain Theory*'.

Neglecting the old traditional irrigation the modern irrigation network was constructed which resulted the increase of the power of landlords over the agrarian economy and increasing miserable condition to the peasantry. The modern irrigation helped the growth of exportable foodgrains and commercial crops. Industries of tobacco, jute, cotton, sugarcane have developed by displacing the production of jaggery and crude brown sugar.

Impact: The Third Phase—Imperialism and Industrialisation

The nature of capitalism was changing in the last decades of the 19th century. Industries and banks capitals were getting merged. The result was financial oligarchies. The advanced countries wanted to export their capital. This was one of the reasons which gave rise to the First World-War. According to famous economist Hobson and Lenin capitalism has entered the phase of Imperialism.

Before 1914, by the turn of the century India has developed in industries, for example, Jute textiles around Calcutta, cotton textiles around Bombay, rice mills, sugar mills, industry for steel making have developed. After the First World-War India started establishing industries on their own and Britain's position also declined by that time. Indian capitalist got the large concessions from Britain to start their

industries. The rise of national movement helped the Indian industrialist to bargain better with Britain. By the time of Second World-War India achieved much of self-sufficiency. One must remember that areas which developed in industries remained agriculturally backward and those which became agriculturally advanced remained industrially backward. Where Muslims were in majority no industry was developed and no large Muslim bourgeoisie developed. This was one of the reason Muslim separatism took place.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Q. 1. What was new to the 16th-18th century colonisation?

Ans. The new to the 16th-18th century colonisation was the forced incorporation by one small part of the world and the rest of the large part of the world—Spain, Portugal, Holland, Britain and France established political domination over the rest of the world. Colonialism have established the firm pattern of domination of a few countries over the entire part of the globe was exist. This led to the economic integration of the colonised world, the process of inequitable trade was applied to the conquering powers.

Q. 2. Can you identify the main features of colonialism?

Ans. Colonialism is a policy which aims at creating, organizing and maintaining an empire. The main features of colonialism are exploitation, undemocratic Government and bureaucratic system. Forced incorporation of the major part of the world by a small group of countries exploiting the economic and resources of colonies. The British conquest of India was different in character from all the previous conquests of the country in the past the change of rulers implied morally a change of the dynasty that exercised political authority over the people, but did not affect the social fabric, the productive organization or the system of administration. Under the British rule all this was altered and a socio-economic revolution was started which culminated in the destruction of the old institutions and in the emergence of new social classes and forces.

Q. 3. How was India different from Latin America as a colony?

Ans. The level of India, China and Arab countries was very high before the rising of colonising powers. Latin America was conquered much earlier than India. In India it was followed by the industrial revolution which drastically affected Indian economy. The