

**COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA (BPSE-212/EPS-12)
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT (TMA)**

**Course Code: BPSE-212/EPS-12
Assignment Code: Asst/TMA/2016-17
Marks: 100**

Answer questions in each category. Write the answers in your own words.

SECTION-I

A) DCQ: Answer any two of the following in about 500 words each. 20x2 = 40 Marks

1. What is colonialism? Discuss its impact on Indian peasantry.
2. Write an essay on special provisions of the Indian constitution regarding the hill areas of north-east India.
3. Discuss the impact of elections on the weaker sections in India.
4. Describe the features of rich farmers' movements in India.

SECTION-II

B) MCQ: Answer any four of the following in about 250 words each. 12x4 = 48 Marks

5. Enumerate the factors which led to the emergence of new classes during the colonial rule in India.
6. Discuss the features of the Chipko movement.
7. Discuss the contribution of reservation to the emergence of new social groups.
8. Discuss the features of Dalit movement during 1950-1960.
9. Narrate the features of Inter-State Council.
10. Explain the main constraints of electoral politics in India.
11. Discuss the limitations of the trade union movement in India.
12. Explain the major differences between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy.

SECTION -III

C) SCQ: Write short notes on any two of the following in about 50 words each.

6x2 = 12 Marks

13. Leadership in the Constituent Assembly
14. Caste Associations
15. The Bahujan Samaj Party
16. The main features of caste



ASSIGNMENT SOLUTIONS GUIDE (2016-2017)

B.P.S.E-212

Government and Politics in India

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Answer questions in each category. Write the answers in your own words.

Section-I

(A) DCQ : Answer any two of the following.

Q. 1. What is colonialism? Discuss its impact on Indian peasantry.

Ans. 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.

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.

India and the Colonial Experience

It was in the 17th century that the Europeans for the first time began taking part in India on large scale. The most important early entrants were the Portuguese, the Dutch, French and the British. None of them came to India to settle down. They were all attracted by the stories of India's fabulous wealth and the excellence of her manufactured goods. The British first came to India as a trading company. Later it came to be known as East India Company was incorporated in London under a charter of Queen Elizabeth. By 1690 the British had gained a number of footholds and their business had prospered.

The combined forces of the Nawabs of Bengal, Oudh and the Mughal prince Shah Alam was defeated by the Britishers and they received the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Colonialism used political power to exploit

India economically. The notion of freedom, equality and a scientific world view and the enlightenment ideas of the 17th and 18th centuries travelled to India with the colonial powers. Colonialism changed the economic, political and cultural activities of the subcontinent in a fundamental way.

The World of the Peasantry

Prior to British rule land was not a private property. The Britishers held that all land should be somebody's private property. Different settlements were made in different parts of the world. The Zamindari settlement vested ownership rights on land in the Zamindar, the Mahalwari settlement, in groups of owners or the village community; the Ryotwari settlement in the individual *ryot* (cultivator). Throughout the country land became private property and an article of purchase and sale.

Peasants were burdened with high taxes. If they failed to pay their tax on time their land was taken away by the Zamindars. Zamindars were loyal to the British. If the Zamindars failed to pay the tax to the British he was pushed out from his post and another one comes to his place. The result was the people led the life of extreme poverty, inadequate and unbalanced diet, primitive housing, scanty clothing, bare feet, ill health, illiteracy and the complete lack of social security and cultural amenities with the result the number of death rates increased. The severe famine caused no decline in the taxation, reflecting the unscrupulous greed of the new rulers. The new land revenue also affected the people like scholars, *Fakirs*, artists, etc.

Against the colonial oppression, the peasants reacted in the form of protest. For example, Titu Mir's (1782) rebellion led the poor peasants near Barasat in 24 *parganas* against the Zamindars. He instructed his followers to follow pure and simple Islamic practices. Its popularity forced the colonial authorities to kill Titu Mir and suppress his movement. His head quarters were destroyed. He and his fifty followers were killed and hundreds of his followers were arrested. There were protests in Pabna (Bengal) in 1870s, agrarian leagues were organised by the peasants.

Large scale movement of the peasantry took place in Pabna—this was another strong indictment of colonial rule. The moneylenders in Bombay began approaching law courts for the settlements of debts. This resulted the loss of lands of the peasants. The law courts were in favour of moneylenders with the result peasants rose against the moneylenders in 1875 in the districts of Ahmed Nagar and Poona.

Q. 2. Write an essay on special provisions of the Indian constitution regarding the hill areas of north-east India.

Ans. The Constitution of India provides the same rule for the whole country. Special provisions are given for certain regions of the country. The reason behind them is to ensure the protection of cultural identities, customs, economic and political interests of the original inhabitants of these areas. Areas or regions like the tribal hills of the North-Eastern states, *i.e.*, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the regions known as '*Scheduled Areas*'.

'*The Scheduled Areas*' are the areas which are located in other parts of the country than the North-East India. These areas are tribal inhabited areas. They are located in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. These are not only the areas which are governed by the special provision, but there are other areas or regions of the country which are governed by the special provisions.

In our country there are some Special Category States (SCS) are present. In the Constitution no special provisions are present for '*Special Category States*', but the Constitution had provided them grant-in-aid instead of the loan. Loan is repaid, but grant-in-aid is not repaid. Orissa and Bihar have demanded to be included in the '*Special Category States*'.

The VI Schedule for the North-East

Article 244 of the Constitution the VI schedule lays down special provisions for the protection of the interest and cultural identities of the hill tribes of the North. The most important provision about the VI Schedule is that—creation of the Autonomous District Council, Tribals of North-Eastern States have autonomons District Council.

As the time went on Autonomous District Councils have become the elected bodies and are associated with new generation who are educated. There arose the clash between new generation and traditional elite. Section of non-tribals are demanding the removal of the Autonomous District Councils. Argument arose that VI Schedule was only to protect the interest of the tribals, Autonomous District Councils should be eliminated when the formation of separate states exist. There is no clear demarcation of the jurisdiction, state legislature and the village Council which give the presence of inconvenience to the people.

During the British period the inner line was drawn up under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation this prohibits that no outsider could enter beyond the inner line without the Government permission. This became the issue of controversy. British controls on those areas hindered the integration of the people of the hills and plains.

North-East India

Autonomous District Councils have to face various criticisms.

The existence of Autonomous District Councils weakened the position of ruling chiefs of the tribal society. Some of the people feel Councils has constrained by limitations and overlapping of the jurisdiction which resulted the corruption in the society. The District Councils are controlled by new generation. This is apposed by the people of society.

Autonomous District Councils are representative bodies, they control the unreserved forests, inheritance of property, marriage and social customs, collect land revenue and impose certain taxes which are specified. The laws made by the Council must receive the assent by the Governor.

The non-tribals criticise that these bodies are unnecessary and they are harassing the interest of the tribals.

Section-II

(B) MCQ : Answer any four of the following questions.

Q. 5. Enumerate the factors which led to the emergence of new classes during the colonial rule in India.

Ans. New classes emerged after the incoming of British in India. In rural areas classes emerged were Zamindars, tenants, peasants—proprietors, money- lenders, agricultural labourers, etc. In the urban areas classes emerged were educated middle class. They formed the Indian organisation when they came to realise malpracticing in society. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry were formed by the capitalist class. Kisan Sabha was formed by the peasants proprietary, tenants and agricultural labourers. These classes struggled for the promotion of their own sectional interest, they also realised their maximum problem would be solved if they unite together to join the united nationalist freedom struggle against the colonial state.

Actors Leading to Emergence of New Classes

There were various factors responsible the emergence of new classes. New land relation, commercial exploitation by the capitalists world, introduction of a new administrative arrangement, modern education and industries establishment were largely responsible for the emergence of new classes. Creation of private property in land by the permanent and Ryotwari settlements this was responsible to the emergence of the Zamindars and peasant proprietors. Class of tenants and sub-tenants emerged with the creation of the right to lease land. The right to employ labourers to work on land created classes of absentee landlord and agricultural labour. There was also the emergence of moneylenders.

Under the colonial states industrial and agricultural became the market. There were import and exports of goods outside and inside India. This lead the emergence of new class, these people were called the merchants. The rise of textiles, mining and other industries owned by Indians led the native capitalist class. The colonial states introduced new social, economic system in which they needed professionals in field of law, technologies, medicines, economics, etc. So education system was introduced. People who studied medicine—went in Government hospitals and medical colleges. Professional class was absent in the pre-British India.

Old Classes in a New Milieu

Under the colonial rule India has undergone a transformation on the capitalist line. But some of the old classes continued to servive. For example, village artisans and urban handicraftsmen earlier they worked for village community, but with the new development they started selling their goods in the market. Princely states were also survived because they were loyal to the Britishers and accept the British paramountacy. All the princes major powers were transfer to the colonial states and they interfered in their states. The condition of the people in princely states were miserable. Absence of democracy prevailed among these states. The introduction of new economy gave them the opportunity to invest their economies in commercial, industrial and financial ventures. They had transformed into capitalist from the nobles of medieval times.

Q. 6. Discuss the features of the Chipko movement.

Ans. Chipko Movement: Chipko Movement originated in the Dasohli Gram Swaraja Mandal in Gopeshwar of Chamoli district. It began on 24th April, 1973. There was the conflict between local villagers and Sarvodaya workers on one side and timber contractors and forest bureaucrats on the other side Sarvodaya workers demanded for ten ash

trees per annum for their farm tools workshop. The demand was rejected. But the forest department allotted three hundred ash trees to the Simon Company for making the sports goods. Sarvodaya workers along other villagers marched the nearby areas to Gopeshwar. As the result the company bargain with workers that they would provide ash trees if they let them cut the trees. This was rejected and Simon's quota was cancelled and re-allotted in phata forest other parts of the district.

In 1973, Chipko Movement was launched by local leader. Till end of December the trees would be guarded by the village. Sunder Lal Bahuguna of Uttarakhand Sarvodaya Mandal began 120 days march by foot to spread the ideology of Chipko Movement. He covered the entire region of Himalayas. C.P. Bhatt relaunched Chipko struggle in Reni forest area in 1974. The attempt was made to cut 2500 auctioned trees in Reni forest, but the attempt was failed as Gauri Devi a woman leader along with thirty women saved the trees from cutting. The result of Chipko protestors was the government declared that the ban was imposed on tree-cutting in Reni for ten years. Chipko succeeded in saving the local forest resources from the contractors who were commercially exploiting the forest for their benefits. Hence we could say that this movement was basically concerned with preservation and protection of forest.

Q. 7. Discuss the contribution of reservation to the emergence of new social groups.

Ans. Protective Discrimination: Policy of Reservation

The policy of reservation provided an opportunity to a large section of society to participate in the decision-making process and became the part of the government structure. After the independence various steps have been taken for the advancement of backward class such as scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. Reservation had been provided for backward class in government jobs, public sector undertakings, banks and financial institutions, educational institutions, etc.

Working of the reservation policy shows that benefits are not uniform among the different groups. The backward people's socio-economic life lays far behind in comparison with other groups of the population. Some of the evil practice of our society has not yet disappeared. The practice of untouchability, maintaining of ritual distance, illiteracy has not eliminated from rural areas. Segregation in residential pattern, high incidence of poverty, predominant occupational pattern are some of the reasons of continuous backwardness. Their education is behind from general population. Drop out rate in school have increased. Some of the people of backward class had complained that affirmative action programmes have not implemented properly. After fifty years of independence there had been the gap between the desired goal and actual achievement.

Fifty per cent of sweeper had come from backward class which shows that they are still continuing their occupation of degradation. Hindus appears to be highly representative. The middle class that emerged among the scheduled caste does not enjoy the same status and prestige as enjoyed by the members of other higher castes.

Q. 8. Discuss the features of Dalit movement during 1950 & 1960.

Ans. Dalits are those people who faced social discrimination and untouchability. They are placed in schedule caste category in our Constitution. They are related to the economically disadvantaged groups of the society.

Dalit movement raise issues of caste based discrimination and economic inequality. These are related to social justice such as self-respect, harassment of women, payment of wages, forced labour, disputes over land, implementation of the reservation policy, promotion in the job denial of democratic rights, disrespect to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar his statue etc. Dalits protest and agitate on these issues in various ways.

Phase I (1950s-1960s)

The Constitution of India after independence gave various advantages to Dalits or backward classes. Some of them were introduction of universal adult franchise, reservation in education, political institution and in jobs. Various programmes were introduced for the betterment of schedule caste and schedule tribes at the state level. Political parties especially Congress attempted to mobilise them as it vote bank. During this phase politicisation of Dalits took as a social base for the political parties. After independence a first generation of Dalit which appeared were educated and felt that Congress was using them as vote bank, Dalits were not getting leadership, leadership were in the hands of higher castes. On cultural view of point they thought that Hindu religion does not provide them a respectable place with the result Dalits felt in order to live respectfully they should discard Hindu religion and converted themselves into Buddhism. Large number of Dalits were converted into Buddhism. Hence, Republican Party of India (RPI) was formed which was based on the ideas of Dr. Ambedkar. This party took part in parliamentary elections held in U.P. during the 1960 s, but could not remain in force its leadership got co-opted into the Congress.

