

Class 8th
Social Science
Chapter – 1
History
How, When And Where

1. State whether true or false:

a) James Mill divided Indian History into three periods- Hindu, Muslim, and Christian.

▶ False

b) Official documents help us understand what the people of the country think.

▶ False

c) The British thought surveys were important for effective administration.

▶ True

2. Very Short Questions

1. Whom did Robert Clive ask to produce the maps of Hindustan?

Answer: Rennel was asked to produce the maps of Hindustan by Robert Clive.

2. Who was given the title of ‘Duke of Connaught’?

Answer: Third son of Queen Victoria – Prince Arthur was given the title.

3. Who was the 1st Governor-General of the British in India?

Answer: Warren Hastings was the 1st Governor-General of the British in India.

4. What was the name of the three-volume work published by James Mill?

Answer: The name of the three-volume work published by James Mill was ‘A History of British India’.

5. What does the Census operations consist of?

Answer: Census operation consists of the detailed records of the number of people in all provinces in India, information on castes, religions and occupations of the people at that time.

6. What is history?

Answer: History is about finding of things that were in the past and it also narrates how the things have changed.

7. What was felt by Mill about the caste and religion?

Answer: About the Indian caste and religious system Mill was felt there was religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstitious belief.

8. What are the forces of modernity?

Answer: Science, reason, democracy, liberty and equality.

9. What all were absent under British rule.

Answer: Equality, freedom and liberty were absent under British rule.

10. In which century did the printing got spread?

Answer: By the middle of 19th century.

Short Questions

1. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian History that James Mill offers?

Answer : James Mill divided his book into three period, namely: Hindu Muslims and British. According to his prejudiced version of Indian history, the British rule represents all the forces of progress and civilization, while the period before British rule represents darkness, ignorance, despotism, religious intolerance, caste taboos, superstitious practices, etc.

The view of Mill has several problems which is not acceptable due to reasons:

→ A variety of faiths, apart from Hinduism and Islam, existed in the periods categorized as Hindu and Muslim by Mill.

→ All rulers in ancient India did not share the same faith.

→ It is this country from where two other religions like- Buddhism and Jainism developed and spread to other parts of the world while Hindu religion also existed.

2. Why did the British preserve official documents?

Answer : The British preserved the important official documents because these served as records of what the officials thought, what they were interested in and what they wished for. According to the British, writing was more important than speaking as the documents in archives and museums can be utilized for reference at a much later period whenever required for studying or debating. These can also serve as an information or proof of any decision or action taken earlier on some matter.

3. How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police reports?

Answer : Information is essential for writing history of a time which can be gathered from various sources. Apart from official documents in the archives, historians gather information also from old newspapers, diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims, autobiographies of important personalities and booklets etc. Information found in newspapers is varied, based on incidents that have happened across the country whereas; the police reports are limited and localized. Because of this fact sometimes the information historians get from police reports is not as useful as it is from old newspapers. However for

any incidence the newspaper may not quote all the reasons behind this and biased as per the thinking of reporter while in police records we could find some evidences for an incident and unbiased reports.