

Model Answer

Examination- MA Ist Sem. Dec-2013

Paper:-1.4. History of British Indian from 1824-1884 AD

Paper Code:- AS-2039

**Section- A (Objective Type Questions)**

1. (I) 1843 AD  
(II) Dilip Singh  
(III) 1834 AD  
(IV) Enfield Rifles  
(V) 1857 AD  
(VI) William Bantik  
(VII) Ripon  
(VIII) Madan Mohan Malviya  
(IX) 1858 AD  
(X) 1846 AD

**Section- B (Descriptive Type Questions)**

2. The First Anglo-Burmese war began due to the following reasons: - The expansion of Burma had consequences along its frontiers. As those frontiers moved ever closer to British East India Company and later British India, there were problems both with refugees and military operations spilling over ill-defined borders. In response to the continued expansion and even direct attacks by Burma, the British and the Siamese joined forces against it in 1824. The Treaty of Yandobo was signed by Gen. Campbell from the British side and Governor of Legaing Maha Min Hla Kyaw Htin from the Burmese side on 24 February 1826. Results:-British Victory, Treaty of Yandobo, Beginning of British rule in Burma, Burma cedes Assam, Manipur, Arakan, Tenasserim loses influence in Cachar and Jaintia pays one million pounds sterling in indemnity.

3. The British objective was to impose advice and a military presence on Afghanistan in order to keep the Russians far from India. After six years of succession quarrels among Dost Mohammad's sons, Ser Ali became amir in 1869. Four years later, he was on good terms with the British in India, having being assured that he could count on their friendship and support; the viceroy (Lord Mayo) had given him two batteries of artillery and some thousands of sets of weapons for his soldiers. In September, 1873, Ser Ali asked Mayo's successor, Northbrook, what Britain would do if Russia, his new neighbor on the north, attacked Afghanistan; on instructions from London, Northbrook declined to give a straight answer. Ser Ali was disappointed, since he wanted assurances of help without interference in his internal affairs. But the resurgence of a "forward" policy in India and London meant that he was unlikely to get the guarantee he wanted without the interference he wished to avoid. The views of the British noninterventionists were submerged in the excitement generated by news of the latest Russian successes among the khanates and by the outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey in 1877. From October, 1876, to March, 1877, there were talks in Peshawar, but they foundered on the British desire to station soldiers on Afghanistan's northern frontier. When Disraeli's government sent troops to Malta as a warning to the Russians then at war with Turkey, the War Office in St. Petersburg sent a military mission to Kabul and three columns of troops toward the Afghan

frontier; the Russian Foreign Office later denied knowledge of the moves. Knowing that the Treaty of Berlin had already been signed, the Russian military mission arrived in Afghanistan and was received in Kabul. Before long the British had a similar mission on the way. Ser Ali committed himself to the Russians just enough to destroy his credit with the British; he refused to receive the British mission and was sent an ultimatum, to which he never replied. On 21 November 1878 General Roberts (son of the British commander of Shah Suja's contingent forty years before) set in motion three columns of troops, thus beginning the Second Anglo-Afghan War. Within a few months Ser Ali was dead, and his son Yaqub had succeeded him. The Russians, in whom he had placed his trust, had made no attempt to help him. In the Treaty of Gandamak of May, 1879, Yaqub Khan accepted British control of his foreign relations, agreed to receive a permanent British envoy in Kabul, allowed British forces to control the main passes into Afghanistan from the south, and accepted an annual subsidy of 60,000 rupees. Yaqub received his envoy, Sir Louis Cavagnari, but did nothing to stop the massacre of that envoy and his staff in September, 1879. Roberts reactivated his three columns, and within six weeks of the massacre Kabul was occupied and Yaqub deposed. For ten years Abd-al-Rahman, a grandson of Dost Moḥammad, had been living in exile in Samarqand, latterly as a pensioner of the Russians. Now they encouraged him to return to Afghanistan and fill the gap left by the abdication of Yaqub. He did so in January, 1880, and was immediately welcomed by the British. In April Gladstone took over from Disraeli as prime minister with a firm policy of withdrawal, and in July the British formally recognized Abd-al-Rahman as Afghanistan's ruler. Meanwhile Roberts and his troops were engaged with Afghan forces to the west. Ayyūb Khan, son of Ser Ali and a cousin of Abd-al-Rahman, commanded the Afghan troops, who inflicted a heavy defeat on one British column at Maywand in July. After his famous forced march from Kabul to Qandahar, Roberts defeated Ayyub Khan. Not until the spring of 1881 were the last British Indian troops withdrawn. Abd-al-Rahman conceded British supervision of his foreign relations and a military presence in the passes. In return, Britain promised him a subsidy and help in resisting any unprovoked aggression. Being a strong and respected ruler, implacable in his dealings with internal enemies, he was able to keep his Afghan critics in check. A weaker amir would not have been able to subdue resentment of the severe British restraint on the Afghan's most prized possession—his independence.

**4. Causes of the Failure of the Revolt:-** (1) Localized, restricted and poorly organized (2) The resources of the British Empire were far superior to those of the rebels. (3) The revolt of 1857 was mainly feudal in character carrying with it some nationalistic elements. (4) The Revolt was poorly organized. (5) The rebels had no common ideal before them except the anti-foreign sentiments. (6) The East India company was fortunate in having the services of men of Exceptional abilities in the Lawrence brothers. **Impact of the Revolt :-** (1) The control of Indian administration was transferred from the East India Company to the Crown by The government of India Act 1858. (2) Extension of territorial possessions and to respect the rights, dignity and honor of native princes as their own (3) Passed of Indian Civil Service Act (4) The Indian Army had been mainly responsible for the crisis of 1857. It was thoroughly reorganized built up on the policy of 'division and counterpoise'. (5) The Revolt of 1857 ended an era and sowed the seeds of new era.

**5.** Lord William Bentinck was essentially peaceful, and its main interest centered in domestic and administrative reforms, it must not be supposed that external affairs presented no features of importance, or that during his tenure of power the foreign policy of India became practically a dead letter. If there was no foreign war, and if tranquility was maintained on the frontiers, there were still negotiations that exercised a considerable influence on the policy of India and her neighbors in future years, and during the whole of his stay in the country the course of events west of the Indus was carefully watched, and what the best policy would be in certain eventualities formed a subject of constant discussion in official circles. It may seem strange, but it is none the less a fact, that Anglo-Indians were

then divided into schools of forward and stationary policies quite as much as now, and that the possibility of a Russian invasion of India was discussed as freely as it has been since. While some ardent spirits advocated the annexation of the Punjab and Sind, and wished to have commercial agents at Kabul, Herat, and even Bokhara, others deprecated any advance beyond the Sutlej, and would have left the custody of the Indus (which Akbar called the ditch of Delhi) to the Sikhs. The important Minute with which this chapter is closed shows that Lord William Bentinck was deeply interested in all these questions, and that he had a definite opinion as to how they should be treated. The most important branch of the foreign policy of the Government of India in Lord William Bentinck's time was unquestionably the relations to be maintained with Ranjit Singh, the powerful ruler of the Sikhs.

**6. The First Anglo-Sikh War, 1845-46:-** The English were closely watching the happenings in the Punjab and cast longing eyes on the fertile plains on the other side of the Sutlej. As early as May 1838 W.G.Osborne had written : “One course to pursue on Ranjit Singh’s death is the instant occupation of the Punjab by an overwhelming force and the establishment of our north-western frontier on the Indus. The East India Company has swallowed too many camels to strain at this gnat.” In 1840 Auckland remarks; “With many of our statesmen and with all our soldiers there is a strong impatience for the possession of the Punjab.” However, the British involvement in the Afghan muddle delayed action on the part of the Company. While the causes for the outbreak of the first Anglo-Sikh wars is attributed to crossing of the Sutlej River by the Sikh Army in September 1845, there were many complex issues that led to this, including anarchy in the Sikh kingdom following Ranjit Singh’s death and suspicion of the British's ambitions in annexing the Gwalior and Sind provinces in 1841. The first Anglo Sikh War included the following encounters: Battle of Mukdi , Battle of Ferozeshah , Battle of Aliwal , Battle of Sobrao.

**7. Descriptive Note n Expansion of British Dominion under Dalhousie:-** (i) After the Second Anglo-Sikh war (1848-49) Punjab was annexed to the Company’s dominion. (ii) In 1850 the Sikkim ruler was compelled to cede to the Company the Sikkim Terai and the lower course of the Tista rive. (iii) After the Second Anglo-Burman war (1852), Dalhousie acquired Lower Burma. (iv) In 1853 a new treaty was forced on the Nizam of Hyderabad compelling him to cede Berar to the Company. (V) By application of the Doctrine of Lapse, Dalhousie annexed the states of Satara (1848), Jaitpur, Sambhalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853) and Nagpur (1854).

**8. Lord Lytton was succeeded by Lord Ripon (1880-1884) as the Viceroy of India. All the measures and policies adopted by Lord Ripon towards Indian masses were satisfactory compared to the work of Lord Lytton. He became very much popular among the Indians but at the same time he became unpopular among the Anglo-Indians. Ripon was a kind man with broad outlook. He repealed the Vernacular Press Act that provided a popular approval to his administration. He introduced a policy of Local self- government which laid the foundations of representative institutions in India .Another major reform introduced by Lord Ripon was the controversial Iibert bill. That provided equal treatment to the Indians and Englishmen in the sphere of criminal jurisdiction. But the entire European community strongly protested against this bill and the bill had aroused the anger of Anglo-Indian officials. Most of the policies introduced by Lord Ripon came in favor of Indians. He left a permanent impression in the minds of Indians. Indian masses became fed up with the arrogant British rule. Lord Lytton’s measures were leading to a revolution, even though Lord Ripon tried to console the masses by introducing some progressive measures.**

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