

COLONIAL CITIES :

Urbanisation, Planning and Architecture

I. SOME IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **Qasbah.** A small town in the countryside, often the seat of a local notable.
2. **Ganj.** Refers to a small fixed market. Both *qasbah* and *ganj* dealt in cloth, fruit, vegetables and milk products. They provided for noble families and the army.
3. **Tamashas.** Folk theatre.
4. **Swangs.** Satires.
5. **Pet.** A Tamil word meaning settlement.
6. **Puran.** A Tamil word used for village.
7. **Chintadripet.** An area meant for weavers in 'Black Town' of Madras.
8. **Washermanpet.** A colony of dyers and bleachers of cloth in 'Black Town' of Madras.
9. **Royapuram.** A settlement for Christian boatmen who worked for the Company in Madras.
10. **Garer-Math.** Vast open space around the new Fort William came to be locally known as Maidan or Garer-Math.
11. **Dubashes.** Indians who could speak two languages : the local language and English.
12. **Vellalars.** A rural caste in Madras, who monopolised new opportunities provided by British rule.
13. **Telegu Komatis.** A powerful communal group in Madras that controlled grain trade in the city.
14. **Bustis.** Makeshift huts built by the poor. In the late 19th century 'bustis' and insanitary slums became synonymous in British records.
15. **Chawl.** Multi-storeyed, single room apartments with long open corridors built around a courtyard. Building-unique to Bombay.
16. **Indo-Saracenic.** Indo was shortened for Hindu and Saracen was a term Europeans used to designate Muslim. It was a hybrid architectural style inspired by medieval buildings in India. It integrated Indian and European styles in public architecture. *Example* : Gateway of India.

III. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

(a) **Very Short Answer Type Questions (2 Marks—30 Words)**

✓ Q. 1. Give two distinguishing features of urban and rural centres in the years preceding British rule.

Ans. (i) Towns represented specific forms of economic activities and cultures. They were peopled by artisans, traders, administrators and rulers. While in rural areas people subsisted by cultivating land, foraging in the forest or rearing animals.

(ii) Towns dominated over the rural population, thriving on surplus and taxes derived from agriculture.

(iii) Towns and cities were often fortified by walls, symbolising separation from the countryside.

✓ Q. 2. "Separation between town and country was fluid". Explain giving reasons.

Ans. Reasons :

(i) Peasants on pilgrimages passed through towns, and flocked to towns during times of distress *e.g.*, farmers.

(ii) There was flow of goods and human's from towns to villages *e.g.*, traders and pedlers took goods from towns to sell in villages, extending markets and creating new patterns of consumption.

(iii) When towns were attacked.

✓ Q. 3. Name three cities which underwent rapid urbanisation under the British colonial rule.

Ans. (i) Madras (ii) Calcutta and (iii) Bombay

✓ Q. 4. Prior to developing as economic centres of trade, what were Madras, Calcutta and Bombay ?

Ans. Madras, Calcutta and Bombay, were originally fishing and weaving villages.

✓ Q. 5. When did English settle in Madras and Calcutta ?

Ans. Agents of the East India Company settled in Madras in 1639, and in Calcutta in 1690.

✓ Q. 6. How did the East India Company come to acquire Bombay ?

Ans. Bombay was acquired by the East India Company in 1661 from the English king. The King had got it as part of his wife's dowry from the King of Portugal.

Q. 7. Give two common features of the three major cities (Madras, Calcutta, Bombay) which underwent rapid urbanisation under British rule.

- Ans.** (i) They were originally fishing and weaving villages.
 (ii) They had coastal areas.
 (iii) They grew into important trading centres, because of economic activities of the East India Company.

Q. 8. Mention names of at least two major towns/cities which were occupied in India and consequently served as major trade and administrative centres under the various European powers. (i) Portugese (ii) The English (iii) The French.

- Ans.** (i) Portugese : Goa/Daman and Diu
 (ii) English : Surat/Broach/Masulipatnam/Calcutta/Madras/Bombay,
 (iii) French : Pondicherry/Karikal/Mahe/Chandranagar.

Q. 9. Give names of four towns, famous during the 16th and 17th centuries.

- Ans.** (i) Agra (iv) Mirsapur
 (ii) Delhi (v) Madurai
 (iii) Lahore (vi) Tanjore

Q. 10. Give names of some of the early trading centres of European powers in India.

Ans. Early trading centres of European powers :

- Portugese : Panaji in 1510.
 Dutch : Masulipatnam in 1605.
 British : Madras in 1639.
 French : Pondicherry in 1673.

Q. 11. Give two significant changes that marked empires in the 18th century Asia.

- Ans.** (i) Significant changes that marked empires in 18th century Asia was, land based empires were replaced by the powerful sea based European empires.
 (ii) Forces of international trade, merchantalism and capitalism came to define the nature of society.

Q. 12. When was the Survey of India established ?

Ans. The Survey of India was established in 1878.

Q. 13. Give what maps reveal and conceal.

Ans. Maps were prepared by survey methods using accurate scientific instruments to serve British imperial needs.

- (i) Maps reveal topography and help understand landscape (hills, rivers, vegetation, location of ghats density etc.)
 (ii) Maps conceal large settlements of the poor in towns reflecting bias of the British rulers.

Q. 14. When was the 1st All India census attempted ? From when did censuses become a regular feature ?

Ans. The first All India census was attempted in 1872. Censuses became a regular feature from 1881.

Q. 15. Census is conducted after how many years ? Give one major advantage of census reports under the British.

Q. 24. From whom did the East India Company, purchase right of settlement in Madraspattanam (Chenapattanam)?

Ans. The Company in 1639 purchased the right of settlement from the local Telegu lords, the Nayaks of Kalahasti, who were eager to support trading activity in the region.

Q. 25. Give one reason for the British fortifying the trading post of Madras.

Ans. Rivalry (1746-1763) with the French East India Company led the British to fortify Madras (Fort St. George).

Q. 26. Which villages came to constitute the city of Calcutta ?

Ans. Calcutta grew from three villages : (i) Sutanati (ii) Kolkatta and (iii) Govindapur.

Q. 27. Give names of two prominent Indians who supported British theory of correlation between living conditions and spread of disease.

Ans. (i) Dwarkanath Tagore and (ii) Rustomjee Cowesjee

Q. 28. What did British town planning reflect ?

Ans. British town planning reflected :

(i) Authority of imperial power. (ii) Rational ordering.

(iii) Meticulous execution and (iv) Western aesthetic ideals.

Q. 29. What does the phrase *Urbs Prima in India* mean ?

Ans. It is a Latin phrase meaning the most important city of India. This phrase was used for the city of Bombay.

Q. 30. Give two factors which helped growth on an Indian capitalist class.

Ans. (i) Participation of Indian merchants and middlemen, as junior partners in opium trade.

(ii) Upsurge in demand for Indian cotton following American Civil War in 1861.

Q. 31. Give two reasons which contributed to Bombay becoming a commercial capital of colonial India.

Ans. Reasons :

(i) By end of the 19th century half the imports and exports passed through Bombay. (ii) Integration of Bombay's economy with Malwa Rajasthan and Sind, prime opium growing areas. (iii) In 1869, Suez Canal was opened. This strengthened Bombay's link with the world economy.

Q. 32. Bombay's capitalist belonged to which communities ?

Ans. Bombay's capitalist came from diverse communities such as Parsi, Marwari, Konkani Muslim, Gujarati, Bania, Bohra, Jew and Armenian.

Q. 33. Give example of a building typical to Bombay with two of its characteristic features.

Ans. Building structure unique to Bombay is the 'chawl'.

Features :

(i) Chawls are multistoreyed single room apartments' with long open corridors built around a courtyard.

(ii) The building housed many families and its courtyard in the centre served as point of social interaction. Sharing of common spaces helped in the growth of neighbourhood identity and solidarity.

Q. 34. Briefly discuss the reaction of Indians to European architectural styles.

Ans. Reaction of Indians to European architectural was a mixed one.

(i) Many adopted them, as symbols of modernity and civilisation.

- (ii) Many rejected European ideals and tried to retain indigenous styles.
- (iii) Still others accepted certain elements from the west that they saw as modern and combined these with elements drawn from local traditions.

Q. 35. What was the importance of towns like Madurai and Kanchipuram ?

- Ans.** (i) In both these towns the principle focus was temple. Temples were the hub of all social and economic activities. Education was provided here by priests and various cultural activities were carried on.
- (ii) These towns were also important commercial centres. Religious festivals often coincided with fairs linking pilgrimage with trade.

Q. 36. How did the British keep track of life in the growing cities and towns ?

- Ans.** (i) The British kept track of the life in the growing cities and towns by regular surveys, statistical data and publication of official reports.
- (ii) Maps were also prepared not only to plan the development of the towns but also to develop commerce and consolidate power.

Q. 37. Why were town maps useful ?

- Ans.** (i) Town maps were useful as they provided information regarding location of hills, rivers and vegetation (topography) which was necessary for planning structures for purpose of defence.
- (ii) Location of ghats, alignment of roads, density and quality of house were also shown on the maps to estimate commercial possibilities and to plan taxation strategies.

Q. 38. How did the introduction of railways affect towns ?

Ans. Introduction of railways led to :

- (i) decline of town located along old routes and rivers. Example : Mirzapur declined when a railway link was made to Bombay.
- (ii) Railway colonies developed and railway towns like Jamalpur, Waltair and Bareilly were established.

Q. 39. Why were hill stations set up ? Name 2 such stations set up by the British.

Ans. (i) Hill stations were set up as strategic places to billet troops, guard frontiers and enable launch of campaigns against enemy rulers.

(ii) Names :

(a) Simla founded during the course of the Gorkha War.

(b) Darjeeling was taken from Sikkim rulers in 1835.

Q. 40. What role did the Lottery Committee play in the development of Calcutta ?
(AI CBSE 2000) (2 marks)

- Ans.** (i) The Lottery Committee through public lotteries helped raise funds for town improvement.
- (ii) It got a new map of Calcutta made so as to get a comprehensive picture of Calcutta.
- (iii) Its major activities included building roads in the Indian part of the city and clearing the river bank of encroachments.

Q. 41. Give any two features of colonial cities after 1850 in India.

(CBSE 2008) (2 marks)

- Ans.** (i) After 1850 pasture lands and agricultural fields around older towns were cleared and new urban spaces called "Civil Lines" were set up. Europeans began to live here.

- (ii) Stringent administrative measures regarding sanitation were implemented.
- (iii) Building activity was regulated.
- (iv) Underground piped water supply sewerage and drainage systems were put in place. (Any two)

Q. 42. Give any two reasons why the colonial government was keen on producing good maps. (CBSE 2008)

- Ans.** (i) Colonial government was keen on producing good maps because they enabled them to understand the landscape and know the topography. This knowledge enabled them to acquire better control over the region.
- (ii) Maps enabled them not only to plan development but also develop commerce and consolidate power.

Q. 43. Give two effects of the network of railways on cities. (CBSE 2008)

- Ans.** (i) Railways helped link the port, cities like Madras, Calcutta and Bombay to the countryside.
- (ii) Railway network enabled transport of raw materials and cheap labour from the interiors as factories were set up in these cities.

Q. 44. Mention any 2 characteristic features of the "middle classes" in the new colonial cities under the British ? (AI CBSE 2008)

- Ans.** (i) The "middle classes" sought access to new educational institutions such as schools, colleges and libraries.
- (ii) As educated people they expressed their opinion on society and government in newspapers, journals and public meetings.
- (iii) A new sphere of debate and discussion emerged where many existing social norms and customs came to be questioned. (Any two)

Q. 45. Who were the "dubashes" in colonial cities ? Give one function they performed ? (AI CBSE 2008)

- Ans.** (i) Indians who could speak two languages, the local language and English were "dubashes".
- (ii) They worked as agents and merchants and acted as intermediaries between Indian society and the British.

(b) Short Answer Type Questions (5 Marks—100 Words)

Q. 1. Buildings and architecture enable reconstruction of history. Give reasons in support of the statement.

Ans. Buildings and architecture enable reconstruction.

- (i) Architecture reflects the aesthetic ideals prevalent at a time, and variations within those ideals.
- (ii) Buildings express reason of those who build them. Rulers everywhere sought to express their power, authority and superiority through buildings. Thus by looking at the architecture of a particular time we can understand how power was concerned and expressed through structures and their attributes.

Q. 2. The census data was riddled with ambiguity. Justify the statement with suitable examples.

Ans. The census data enables us to study colonial cities in greater detail than is possible for precolonial cities.

✓✓ Q(2.) What do the terms 'White and Black' Town signify ?

Ans. The term 'White and Black' Town signifies racial discrimination on the basis of separate living spaces for Europeans and Indians. English trading settlements Fort St. George in Madras, Fort Williams in Calcutta, and the Fort in Bombay — these areas became nucleus of *White Town*. Colour and religion determined who was allowed to live within the Fort. Once the British captured political power these racial discriminations became sharper. The administrative and judicial systems also favoured the *Whites* and development followed the needs and convenience of the minority *Whites* in town. Around the periphery of the Fort, European merchants and agents built political houses, racially exclusive clubs, theatres and racecourses.

Fear of rebellion after the revolt of 1857 generated further need for segregated enclaves away from the 'natives'. New spaces called *Civil Lines* were set up. Modern civil amenities, broad streets, bungalows amidst large gardens, parade ground and church were developed as safe haven for Europeans.