

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Describe in brief how did 'The city of Calcutta' both amaze and confuse the Gods.

OR

Which features impressed the Gods when they visited Calcutta, as given in Durgaharan Ray's novel, "The Gods visit Earth."

Ans. (i) In the novel, Brahma the creator took a train to Calcutta with some other Gods and was highly impressed.

(ii) They were wonderstruck by the big-modern city—the train, the large ships on the river Ganges, factories belching smoke, bridges and monuments and a number of shops selling a wide range of commodities.

(iii) The Gods were so impressed by the marvels of the teeming metropolis that they decided to build a Museum and a High Court in Heaven also.

(iv) The whole city was brimming with opportunities for trade and commerce, education and jobs.

(v) Gods were disturbed by the city's cheats and thieves, its grinding poverty and the poor quality of housing for many who lived in Jhuggis.

(vi) Brahma himself was tricked into buying a pair of cheap glasses and when he tried to buy a pair of shoes, he was greatly confused by the shopkeepers, who accused one another of being swindlers.

(vii) The Gods were also perturbed at the confusion of caste, religion and gender identities in the city.

(viii) All social distinctions that appeared to be natural and normal seemed to be breaking down.

Q. 2. State the main reason behind town planning in Bombay. How did it differ from total planning in London?

Ans. (i) From its earliest days, Bombay did not grow according to any plan and houses, especially in the Fort area, which were scattered with gardens.

(ii) The Bombay Fort area which formed the heart of the city was divided between native town, where most of the Indians lived, and a European or 'white section'.

(iii) With the rapid and unplanned expansion of the city, the housing and water supply became acute by the mid-1850s.

(iv) Like the European elite, the rich Parsis, Muslims and upper-caste traders and industrialists of Bombay lived in spacious bungalows.

(v) In contrast, 70 per cent of the working class lived in thickly-populated chawls.

Q. 3. Why is Bombay a 'city of dreams' for some, while a city of hardship for others? Explain.

Ans. Bombay was a city of dreams:

(i) Bombay is even today called as 'Maya Nagari' 'Mayapuri' as it fulfills the dreams of many aspiring people to Join film world in this city.

(ii) Since British established cotton textile Industries, it attracted lot of workers from nearby regions for job opportunities. **Bombay was a city of hardships:**

(iii) It's a reclaimed elongated city located on a sea coast. It lacked housing facilities. Many people lived in hardships in small one room accommodation called chawls.

(iv) It is a costly city which made the life of daily wage earner very miserable.

(v) People had to travel long distances to go to their work places.