

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Describe how pedlars sold books around the villages in Europe.

Ans. (i) Booksellers employed pedlars, who roamed around villages, carrying little books for sale.

(ii) In England, penny chapbooks were carried by petty pedlars known as 'chapmen' and sold for a penny, so that even the poor could buy them.

(iii) In France were the 'Biliotheque Blene', which were low-priced small books printed on poor quality paper and bound in cheap blue cover, that were also sold by pedlars.

Q. 2. Trace the history of print revolution in India.

Ans. The printing press first came to Goa with the Portuguese missionaries in the mid-16th century.

Books were printed in Konkani and Kanara languages.

Catholic priests printed the first Tamil book, in 1579 at Cochin.

By 1710, Dutch protestant missionaries had printed 32 Tamil texts, many of them were translations of older works.

By 1780, James Augustus Hickey began to edit the Bengal Gazette, a weekly magazine.

By the close of 18th century, a number of newspapers were published by Indians too. The first to appear was the weekly 'Bengal Gazette' brought out by Gangadhar Bhattacharya, who was close to Rammohan Roy.

Q. 3. How did the British pass certain regulations to control freedom of press in India?

Ans. (i) By 1820s, the Calcutta Supreme Court passed certain regulations to control the freedom of press.

(ii) The Company began encouraging newspapers that would celebrate British rule.

(iii) Many editors gave urgent petitions to Governor General Bentick, who agreed to revise Press Laws.

(iv) After the revolt of 1857, the attitude to freedom of press changed.

(v) Engaged Englishmen demanded control on the vernacular press as they were becoming nationalists.

(vi) In 1878, the Vernacular Press Act was passed. It provided the government with extensive rights to censor reports and editorial in the vernacular press.

(vii) From now on, the government kept regular check on the vernacular newspapers published in different provinces.

(viii) When a report was judged as seditious, the newspapers were warned, and if the warning went ignored, the press would be seized by the government and printing machinery confiscated.

Q. 4. How did the print revolution lead to the development of a reading mania in Europe?

Ans. As literacy and schools spread in European countries, there was a virtual reading mania that developed.

(i) New forms of popular literature appeared to target new readers.

(ii) There were ritual calendars along with ballads and folk tales.

(iii) In England, penny chapbooks were carried by petty pedlars, known as chapmen and sold for a penny, so that even the poor could buy them.

(iv) In France, these low-priced books were called 'Biliotheque Blene', as they were bound in cheap blue covers.

(v) There were romances, histories, books of various sizes, serving different purposes and interests.

(vi) Periodical press developed to combine information on current affairs with entertainment.

(vii) The ideas of scientists and scholars had now become more accessible to the common people.

(viii) Scientists like Isaac Newton began to publish their discoveries. Writings of thinkers like Thomas Paire, Voltaire and Rousseau also affected the thinking of the people.

Q. 5. How did a new reading culture bloom in China?

Ans. (i) By 17th century, print was no longer used just by scholar officials. Merchants used print in their everyday life, as they collected trade information.

(ii) Reading increasingly became a leisure activity.

(iii) The new readership preferred fictional narratives, poetry, autobiographies, anthologies of literary masterpieces and romantic plays.

(iv) Rich women began to read and many women began publishing their poetry and plays. Wives of scholar-officials published their works and courtesans wrote about their lives.

Q. 6. Was the new technology able to displace the existing art of producing books by hand?

OR

Why did printed books initially resemble written manuscripts in appearance and layout?

Ans. (i) In fact, printing books at first closely resembled the written manuscripts in appearance and layout.

(ii) The metal letters imitated the ornamental handwritten styles.

(iii) Borders were illuminated by hand with foilage and other patterns and illustrations were painted.

(iv) In the books printed for the rich, space for decoration was kept blank on the printed page. Each purchaser could choose the design and decide on the painting school that would do the illustrations.

Q. 7. Was print able to shape the minds of people of France directly?

Ans. (i) There can be no doubt that print helped to spread the ideas but we must remember that people did not read just one kind of literature.

(ii) If they read the ideas of Voltaire and Rousseau, they were also exposed to monarchical and Church propaganda.

(iii) They were not influenced directly by everything they read or saw.

(iv) They accepted some ideas and rejected others. They interpreted things their own way.

Print did not directly shape their minds but it did open up the possibility of thinking differently.

Q. 8. How were workers influenced by the print revolution?

Ans. Lending libraries had been in existence from the 17th century onwards.

In the 19th century, lending libraries in England became instruments for educating white collar workers, artisans and lower middle class people.

Sometimes, self-educated working class people wrote for themselves.

When their working hours were reduced, they could get time for self-improvement and self-expression. They wrote political tracts and autobiographies in large numbers.

Q. 9. Trace the development of Printing Technology in Europe.

Ans. By the late 19th century, the press came to be made out of metal.

By the mid-19th century, Richard M. Hoe of New York had perfected the power-driven cylindrical press. This was capable of printing 8,000 sheets per hour. This press was particularly useful for printing newspapers.

In the late 19th century, the offset press was developed which could print up to six colours at a time.

By 20th century, electrically operated presses accelerated printing operations.

Other developments were—Methods of feeding paper improved, the quality of plates became better, automatic paper reels and photoelectric controls of the colour register were introduced.

Q. 10. Which new strategies were opted by the printers and publishers to sell their products?

Ans. (i) Printers and publishers continuously developed new strategies to sell their products.

(ii) In the 19th century periodicals, serialised novels, gave birth to a particular way of writing novels.

(iii) In 1920s, popular works were sold in cheap series called the Shilling Series in England.

(iv) The dust cover or the book jacket is also a twentieth century innovation.

(v) With the onset of Great Depression in the 1930s, publishers feared a decline in book purchases. To sustain buying, they brought out cheap paperback editions.

Q. 11. Give a brief account of manuscripts of India.

OR

How were ideas and information written before the age of print in India?

Ans. (i) India had a very rich and old tradition of handwritten manuscripts—in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian as well as in various vernacular languages.

(ii) Manuscripts were copied on palm leaves or on hand-made paper.

(iii) Pages were sometimes beautifully illustrated. They would be either pressed between wooden covers or sewn together to ensure preservation.

(iv) Manuscripts continued to be produced till well after the introduction of print, down to the late 19th century.

(v) Manuscripts were highly expensive and fragile. They had to be handled carefully.