

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Explain the caste system in our society.

Ans. The people of society were divided into four castes namely—

(i) Brahmans

(ii) Kshatriyas

(iii) Vaishyas and

(iv) Shudras

Brahmans and Kshatriyas were upper castes, Vaishyas came after that and Shudras were considered as the lowest caste of the society

Q. 2. Name any one reason of change in society.

Ans. The one important reason of change in society was the development of new forms of communications. Books, newspapers, magazines, leaflets and pamphlets were printed.

Q. 3. What was the aim of Brahmo Samaj?

Ans. Brahmo Samaj wanted the women to acquire a respectable status in the society. It condemned Sati, was against the Purdah System, opposed child marriage and polygamy.

Q. 4. How was the practice of Sati banned?

Ans. Raja Rammohan Roy began a campaign against the practice of sati. By this time, many Britishers had also begun to criticise Indian traditions and customs. They supported the campaign and in 1829, sati was banned.

Q. 5. Explain Widow Remarriage Act.

Ans. Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar persuaded the British officials to pass laws for enforcing remarriage of widows and banning polygamy. The Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1856.

Q. 6. Name some women reformers.

Ans. The women reformers were

Begums of Bhopal

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

Tarabai Shinde

Pandita Ramabai

Q. 7. Who was Tarabai Shinde?

Ans. Tarabai Shinde was educated at home at Poona. She published a book 'Stripurushtulna' in which she criticised the social differences between men and women.

Q. 8. Describe Gulamgiri.

Ans. Jyotirao Phule wrote a book named 'Gulamgiri' meaning slavery. He dedicated it to all those Americans of the American Civil War who fought for the abolition of slavery.

Q. 9. Mention the contributions of Veda Samaj.

Ans. The Veda Samaj was established in Madras in 1864, inspired by the Brahmo Samaj. It worked to abolish caste distinctions and promote widow remarriage and women's education. They condemned the superstitions and rituals of orthodox Hinduism.