Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. How did trade lead to battles?

Ans. (i) In the early eighteenth century, the Nawabs of Bengal refused to grant the Company concessions and denied any right to mint coins and stopped it from extending its fortifications.

(ii) They claimed that the Company was depriving the Bengal government of huge amounts of revenue and undermined the authority of the Nawab.

(iii) On the other hand, the Company declared that the unjust demands of the local officials were ruining the trade of the Company.

(iv) Trade could flourish only if the duties were removed.

(v) The conflicts led to confrontations and finally resulted in the Battle of Plassey.

Q. 2. Describe the Anglo-Maratha wars and its consequences.

Ans. The Marathas were subdued in a series of wars:

(i) In the first war that ended in 1782 with the Treaty of Salbai, there was no clear victor.

(ii) The second war from 1803 to 1805, was fought on different fronts, resulted in the British gaining

Orissa and the territories north of the Yamuna River including Agra and Delhi.

(iii) The third Anglo-Maratha war of 1817–19 crushed the Maratha power. The Peshwa was removed and sent to Bithur near Kanpur with pension.

The company now had complete control over the territories south of the Vindhyas.

Q. 3. What was the system of Paramountcy?

Ans. (i) Under Lord Hastings a new policy of paramountcy was initiated.

(ii) Now the company claimed that its authority was paramount or supreme, hence its power was greater than that of Indian states.

(iii) In order to protect its interest it was justified in annexing or threatening to annex any Indian kingdom.

(iv) This view continued to guide later British policies as well.