

5. India : Social and Religious Reforms

Q.1 (A) Choose the correct alternative and rewrite the statement

1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy wrote an English letter against the

- (a) caste system
- (b) child marriage
- (c) practice of sati**
- (d) segregation of women (Purdah system)

2. "Arya Samaj" was founded by.....

- (a) Swami Vivekanand
- (b) Mahatma Jotirao Phule
- (c) Swami Dayanand Saraswati**
- (d) Ramaswamy Naicker

(B) Find the incorrect pair from group "B", and write the corrected one.

Group 'A'	Group 'B'
(a) Brahmo Samaj (b) Satyashodhak Samaj (c) Paramhansa Sabha (d) Ramkrishna Mission	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Mahatma Jotirao Phule Maharshi Vitthal Ramji Shinde Swami Vivekanand

Ans. Paramahansa Sabha Dadoba Pandurang Tarkhadkar

Q.2. Write the names of historical places/persons / events.

(1) The title conferred on Raja Ram Mohan Roy by the Mughal Badshah -

Ans. Raja

(2) The one who founded Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College'-

Ans. Sir Sayyad Ahmad khan

(3) The one who participated in Vaikom Satyagraha' -

Ans. Ramaswamy nikar

(4) The one who made the law of free and compulsory primary education in Kolhapur Princely State -

Ans. Rajarshi shahu maharaj

Q.3 Write short notes.

1. Prarthana Samaj

Ans. (i) Had its origins in Paramhansa Sabha.

(ii) Founded by Dadoba Pandurang Tarkhadkar.

- (iii) Founding members like Dr. Atmaram Pandurang. Justice M. G. Ranade. Dr. R. G. Bhandarkar opposed idol worship and emphasised on monotheism.
- (iv) Opened schools for girls, orphanages and night schools for workers.
- (v) Focussed on gender equality, wiping out caste discriminations and appreciating the values of mundane life.

2. Satyashodhak Samaj

Ans. (i) Founded in 1873 by Mahatma Jotirao Phule in Pune.

- (ii) Cracked a whip on the social customs and practices which pushed the Indian masses into a miserable state.
- (iii) Showed a new path to artisans, workers and other downtrodden people.
- (iv) Characteristics of Satyashodhak Samaj included monotheism, rejection of the authority of Vedas and Puranas, acceptance of rationality, opposition to dominance of priests and idol worship etc.
- (v) Mahatma Phule and his wife Savitribai Phule started a school for girls.
- (vi) His work was continued by Gopal Baba Walangkar who criticised untouchability in his book 'Vital Vidhwamsan'.
- (vii) Shivram Janba drew attention to the problems of deprived women like Murali, Jagatini and Devadasi.

Q.4 Answer the following questions in detail.

1. What were the social reforms on which Raja Ram Mohan Roy put a great emphasis?

Ans. (i) Raja Ram Mohan Roy was born in Bengal.

- (ii) Translated Sanskrit Upanishads into Bengali
- (iii) He was a witness to his brother's wife immolating herself on her husband's funeral pyre and this incident made him raise his voice against this evil social custom which according to him is not mentioned in any of the religious scriptures as a prescribed social obligation.
- (iv) It was due to the efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy that a law was passed by the Governor General of Bengal Lord William Bentinck abolishing Sati in 1829.
- (v) He was also opposed to child marriage and purdah, opened an English medium school. launched the first periodical in Bengali and also another publication in Persian.
- (vi) He started 'Atmiya Sabha', a philosophical discussion circle, 'Brahmo Samaj' in 1828.
- (vii) He spoke in support of the anti-colonial movements in Spanish colonies in South America
- (viii) Ram Mohan Roy laid the foundation of modernity in India.
- (ix) Organisations like Manav Dharma Sabha, Paramahansa Sabha and Dnyanprasar Sabha were inspired by his work.

2. Write about the contributions of Ramkrishna Mission.

Ans. (i) Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramkrishna Mission in 1897.

- (ii) Focussed on serving needy people, worked for people affected by famine, health care for the sick people, education for women, etc.
- (iii) It also gave a message to the Indian youth to get up to awaken and keep moving until the goal is achieved.

3. Write about the contributions of Sir Sayyad Ahmad Khan.

Ans. (i) Was born in 1817 in Delhi.

- (ii) Fluent in Urdu, Persian, Arabic and English.

- (iii) Established 'Scientific Society for Muslims.
- (iv) After returning from England he founded the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College in 1875 which later developed into 'Aligarh Muslim University'.
- (v) Started a periodical entitled 'Mohammadan Social Reformer'.
- (vi) Worked for the propagation of modern education, science and technology.

4. Describe the contribution of Ramaswamy Naikar.

Ans. (i) Born in 'Erode' in Tamil Nadu in 1879.

(ii) He became a follower of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and worked for propagating use of 'Swadeshi'.

(iii) He participated in the Vayom Satyagraha in Travancore against untouchability.

(iv) Started the 'Swabhimam Andolan' in Tamil Nadu.

(v) Fought against the varna system and child marriage.

(vi) He was addressed as 'Periyar' or Great Soul because of his magnanimous work.

(vii) Was a great speaker and author.

(viii) Took a radical position on issues like women's rights and family planning,