

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-03
Cultural Change

General Instruction:

- Question 1-5 carries two marks each.
 - Question 6-8 carries four marks each.
 - Question 9-10 carries six marks each.
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1. Apart from ways of life and thinking the west influenced “Indian art and literature”. Give an example.
2. Explain about the new forms of westernisation in the contemporary period.
3. Define the term ‘modernisation’.
4. What does the term ‘modernity’ assumes?
5. What has secularization usually meant in the modern west?
6. In a highly unequal society like India taking over the customs of the higher castes is not easy. Explain this statement with the help of an example.
7. The influence of westernisation on different groups of people cannot be generalised in a diverse country like India. Give your justification.
8. Apart from ways of life and thinking, which are the other areas of Indian culture that the west has influenced?
9. What were the different kinds of westernisation that emerged in India?
10. What are the causes for cultural conflicts between different generations?

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Cultural Change

1. An example showing how the west influenced “Indian art and literature apart from ways of life and thinking:
The theme artist Ravi Varma were shaped by western and indigenous traditions. It discusses the portrait of a family in a matrilineal community of Kerala but one that significantly resembles the very typical patrilineal nuclear family of the modern west consisting of the father, mother and children.
2. The new forms of westernisation in the contemporary period that is being more Americanisation. For instance, the 11th of September, the day of the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York, automatically became “9/11”. As this was the shorthand which the US used, the rest of the world used it too, never mind that in most countries the number of a month in a year follows that of a day in a month.
3. The term modernisation, since the 19th and more so the 20th century began to be associated with positive and desirable values. In the early years, modernisation referred to improvement in technology and production processes. Increasingly, however, the term had a wider usage. It referred to the path of development that much of west Europe or North America has taken.
4. The term ‘Modernity’ assumes that local ties and parochial perspectives give way to universal commitments and cosmopolitan attitudes. The truths of utility, calculation and science should take precedence over those of the emotions, the sacred, and the non-rational.
5. In the modern west, Secularisation has usually meant a process of decline in the influence of religion. It has been an assumption of all theorists of modernisation that modern societies become increasingly secular. Indicators of secularisation have referred to levels of involvement with religious organisations (such as rates of church attendance), the social and material influence of religious organisations, and the degree to which people hold religious beliefs.
6. In a highly unequal society such as India there were and still are obstacles to any easy taking over of the customs of the higher castes by the lower.
 - i. Indeed, traditionally, the dominant caste punished those low castes, which were audacious enough to attempt it.

- ii. An example of this would be “Kumudtai’s story.
 - iii. Her journey into Sanskrit began with great interest and eagerness with Gokhale Guruji, her teacher at school.
 - iv. At the University, the Head of the Department was a well-known scholar and he took great pleasure in taunting Kumudtai.
 - v. Despite the adverse comments she successfully completed her Masters in Sanskrit.
7. The influence of westernisation had developed discriminatory and contradictory attitudes amongst Indians
- i. Srinivas suggested that while ‘lower castes’ sought to be Sanskritised, ‘upper castes’ sought to be Westernised.
 - ii. However, in a diverse country such as India the influence of westernisation has been different on different groups of people.
 - iii. For instance, studies of Thiyyas (by no means considered ‘upper caste’) in Kerala show conscious efforts to westernise. Elite Thiyyas appropriated British culture as a move towards a more cosmopolitan life that critiqued caste.
 - iv. Likewise, Western education often implied opening up to new opportunities for different groups of people in the North- East.
 - v. In a region where tribes speak completely different languages, it was a medium through which they could communicate amongst themselves and with the world. They became the voice of their people and made English the official state language.
8. Apart from ways of life and thinking the west has influenced:
- i. Indian art and literature.
 - ii. Artists like Ravi Varma, Abanindranath Tagore, Chandu Menon and Bankimchandra Chattopadhyaya were all grappling with the colonial encounter.
 - iii. In many ways the style, technique and the very theme of an artist like Ravi Varma were shaped by western and indigenous traditions.
 - iv. It discusses the portrait of a family in a matrilineal community of Kerala but one that significantly resembles the very typical patrilineal nuclear family of the modern west consisting of the father, mother and children.
9. There were different kinds of westernisation.
- One kind refers to the emergence of a westernised sub-cultural pattern through a minority section of Indians who first came in contact with Western culture. This included the sub culture of Indian intellectuals who not only adopted many cognitive patterns, or

ways of thinking, and styles of life, but supported its expansion. Many of the early 19th century reformers were of this kind. There were, therefore, small sections of people who adopted western life styles or were affected by western ways of thinking.

Secondly, there has been also the general spread of Western cultural traits, such as the use of new technology, dress, food, and changes in the habits and styles of people in general. Across the country a very wide section of middle class homes have a television set, a fridge, some kind of sofa set, a dining table and chair in the living room.

Finally, westernisation does involve the imitation of external forms of culture. But it does not necessarily mean that people adopt modern values of democracy and equality. For instance, we may find Indians who are very western in their clothes and appearances but who do not have democratic and egalitarian values that are part of modern attitudes.

Many people are western educated but hold very prejudiced views about particular ethnic or religious communities. A family can adopt external forms of western culture like the way the interiors of houses are done up but may have very conservative ideas about women's role in society.

10. The many diverse levels that cultural change, resulting from our colonial encounter with the west, took place have often resulted in conflicts between different generations. These are seen as cultural conflicts resulting from westernisation in the contemporary context. Often westernisation among the middle class makes generational difference more complex. The older and the younger generations no longer have anything in common with them. Neither with their ways of thinking, nor with the way they dress up, talk or behave. Many a times thus any sort of mutuality between becomes impossible.

The changes can be seen not only in getting adapted to a different culture altogether but also in change of dresses and choice of music. Many a times, it can lead to conflict with the older generation finding nothing in common with their children and grandchildren. Thus, westernisation doesn't only lead to reasons for generational conflict but can rather be often a more complex form of cultural conflict with mutuality between both generations becoming impossible.