

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. How did the hearing public & the reading public become intermingled? Examine.

OR

How did a new reading public emerge with the printing revolution?

Ans. Access to books created a new culture of reading. Earlier reading was restricted to the elites.

Before the age of print, books were not only expensive but they could not be produced in sufficient numbers.

Now books could reach out to the wider sections of people. If there was a 'hearing public' earlier, now a 'reading public' emerged.

Q. 2. "Printing is the ultimate gift of God & the greatest one". Who said this? How did print help to promote protestant Reformation?

Ans. (i) Martin Luther was a religious reformer. He wrote Ninety Five Theses, criticising many of the practices and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church.

(ii) A printed copy of this was posted on a church door in Wittenberg. It challenged the Church to debate his ideas.

(iii) Luther's writings were immediately reproduced in vast numbers and read widely, which led to the division of the Church and the beginning of the 'Protestant Reformation'.

(iv) Luther's translation of the New Testament sold 5,000 copies within a few weeks.

(v) Deeply grateful to print, Luther said, "Printing is the ultimate gift of God and the greatest one."

(vi) Scholars believed that print helped in spreading the new ideas that led to Reformation.

Q. 3. "Printing technology gave women a chance to share their feelings with the world outside." Support the statement with any five suitable examples.

Ans. (i) Lives and feelings of women began to be written in particularly vivid and intense ways.

(ii) Women's reading, therefore increased enormously in the middle class homes.

(iii) Liberal husbands and fathers began educating their womenfolk at home and sent them to schools when women's school, were set up in the cities and towns after mid-19th century.

(iv) Many journals began carrying writings by women, and explained why women should be educated.

Q. 4. “Print led to intense controversies between social and religious reformers and Hindu orthodoxy”. Support this statement with example.

OR

How were social and religious reforms carried out with the help of printing in India?

Ans. (i) From the early 19th century, there were intense debates around religious issues.

(ii) Some criticised existing practices and campaigned for reform, while others countered the arguments of reformers.

(iii) To reach a wider audience, the ideas were printed in the spoken language of the ordinary people.

E.g.: Raja Rammohan Roy published the ‘Sambad Kaumudi’ and the Hindu orthodoxy published the ‘Samachar Chandrika’ to oppose his opinions.

Q. 5. “Print did not only stimulate the publication of conflicting opinions among communities but it also connected communities and people in different parts of India” support the statement with examples.

Ans. (a) Folk literature was widely printed in Punjab.

- Ram Chaddha published the fast selling Istri Dharam Vichar to teach women how to be obedient wives.
- The Khalsa Tract Society published cheap booklets with a similar message. Many of these were written on qualities of a good woman.

(b) An entire area in central Calcutta—the Battala was devoted to the printing of popular books.

- Here one could buy cheap editions of religious tracts and scriptures.
- A lot of these books were illustrated with woodcuts and coloured lithographs.
- Pedlars took the Battala publications to their homes, enabling women to read them in their leisure time.

(c) Jyotiba Phule, the Maratha pioneer of ‘Low Caste’ protest movement, wrote about the injustices in his Gulamgiri.

- B.R. Ambedkar in Maharashtra and E.V. Ramaswami Naicker, wrote powerfully on caste and their writings were read by people all over India.

Q. 6. Print played a significant role in awakening sentiments of nationalism amongst the Indians. Explain the statement with examples.

Ans. Various nationalist newspapers reported on colonial misrule and encouraged nationalist activities.

Attempt to disrupt nationalist writings, provoked militant protest.

This led to renewed cycle of persecution and protest.

When Punjab revolutionaries were deported, Bal Gangadhar Tilak wrote with great sympathy about them in his Kesari.

This led to his imprisonment in 1908 and widespread protests all over India.