

CBSE TEST PAPER-04
Class 12 English Core (Indigo)

General Instructions:-

- All questions are compulsory.
 - Question No.1 to 7 carries 3 marks each.
 - Question No. 8 to 10 carries 6 marks each.
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1. Why was the government baffled and what could Gandhiji prove to them by the episode at Motihari?
2. How could Gandhiji persuade the lawyers to follow him to jail?
3. “Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India.” Justify the statement.
4. What was the outcome of the four protracted interviews that Gandhiji had with the Lieutenant-Governor?
5. Who all volunteered to work for the betterment of the Champaran village?
6. Why did the lawyers think that their act of going back home would be a shameful desertion?
7. What were the conditions of sharecroppers of Champaran?
8. Which factors helped the fear-stricken peasants of Champaran to achieve freedom?
9. Give an account of the efforts put in by Gandhiji to secure justice for the poor indigo sharecroppers of Champaran?
10. With reference to the chapter Indigo, prove that ‘Dialogue and not violence can resolve situations of conflict and injustice.’

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Class 12 English Core (Indigo) Answers

1. The government was baffled when they realized that Gandhiji had gathered a huge number of peasants and lawyers to support him in the fight against injustice. Gandhiji wanted to prove that people have become aware of their rights and are self-reliant to raise their voice against injustice.
2. Gandhiji asked the lawyers what they would do if he was sentenced to prison. They said that they would then go home. On being questioned about the sharecropper's plight, the lawyers held consultations and concluded that if they turn their backs, it would be a shameful desertion and decided to follow him to jail.
3. A case against Gandhiji was initiated for disregarding government orders. The spontaneous demonstration of thousands of peasants baffled the government. The judge was requested to postpone the trial. But Gandhiji refused to furnish bail. Several days later he received a letter which had the information that the case had been dropped. Thus, the civil disobedience had triumphed.
4. After the four protracted interviews of Gandhiji, an official commission of inquiry to look into the sharecropper's situation was appointed. The commission consisted of landlords, government officials and Gandhiji as the sole representative.
5. Mahadev Desai and Narhari Parikh, two young men who had just joined Gandhi as disciples, and their wives, volunteered for the work. Several more came from Bombay, Poona and other distant parts of the land. Devadas, Gandhi's youngest son, arrived from the ashram and so did Mrs. Gandhi.
6. When they saw that Gandhiji was not even thinking of leaving the fight against injustice in between and dedicatedly wanted to help the poor peasants to become self-reliant and raise their voice against injustice. The lawyers felt that if they turn their back now, it would be a shameful desertion.
7. The peasants of Champaran were tenants of British landlords. They were growing Indigo on 15 percent of their holding and surrendering the harvest as rent to the British landlord, as per a long-term sharecropping agreement. But when Indigo price fell due to synthetic indigo developed in Germany, the landlords obtained agreement from the peasants and asked to pay them compensation, to which some of the peasants resisted and fought their case in court.
8. The peasants were sharecroppers with the British planters. According to an old

agreement, the peasants had to produce indigo on 15 percent of the land and give it as rent to the landlords. Meantime, Germany had developed synthetic indigo. So, the British did not require the indigo crop. To release the farmers from old agreement, they demanded compensation from them. As most of the farmers were illiterate, they agreed to it. Some of them refused to do so. Lawyers were then engaged to take the matter to the court. At that time, Gandhiji appeared in Champaran. He fought a long battle for the poor peasants and managed to get justice for them. The peasants now became fearless and became aware about their rights. Along with the political and economic struggle, Gandhi ji worked on the social level also. He made arrangements for the education, health & hygiene of the peasants. They were self-reliant and thus, free from rule of British people.

9. Gandhiji went to Champaran on receiving the reports of exploitation of the poor peasants at the hands of British planters. He began his work by collecting the facts. The British landlords as well as commissioner of Trihut were non-cooperative. Lawyers from Muzzafarpur briefed him about the case of the peasants. Together they collected depositions by about ten thousand peasants. Notes were made on other evidences. The whole area throbbed by the activities of investigators.

The lieutenant governor summoned Gandhiji. After four protracted interviews of Gandhiji, an official commission of inquiry was set up which included landlords and government officials and Gandhiji as the sole representative. The inquiry commission collected huge evidence against the big planters & agreed to make refund to the peasants. Later it was agreed that a refund of 25 percent would be given to the peasants. This was the moral victory for the peasants. They became aware of their rights and thus became self-reliant.

10. Gandhiji met Raj Kumar Shukla in Lucknow. Shukla wanted Gandhiji to come to Champaran to help the sharecropper peasants who were forced to grow indigo on 15 percent of their land and part with it as rent. Since the development of synthetic indigo, cultivation of indigo had become a waste. The landlords wanted the peasants to sign the agreements. Understanding the whole situation, Gandhiji wanted to meet the high officials and raise his concern. He tried to meet the commissioner of Trihut but was bullied and asked to leave the grounds. However, he defied the orders and thus compelled the officials to drop the case against him and they also agreed to give 25 percent of refund to the peasants. Finally, the indigo sharecropping was abandoned and land returned to the peasants. This became the first success of non cooperative movement for Gandhij.