

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Describe in brief how printing developed in Japan.

Ans. Buddhist monasteries from China introduced hand-printing technology into Japan around AD 768-770.

The oldest printed Japanese book was the Buddhist 'Diamond Sutra' with woodcut illustrations.

Pictures were printed on textiles, playing cards and paper money.

Printing of visual material led to interesting publishing practices.

Q. 2. What was the apprehension of religious authorities and monarchs about printing?

Ans. Not everyone welcomed the printed books and those who did also had fears about it.

It was feared that if there was no control over what was printed and read then rebellious irreligious thoughts might spread.

If that happened, the authority of valuable literature would be destroyed.

Q. 3. Who was Mercier? What were his views about books?

Ans. Mercier was a novelist in the 18th century.

He declared that "the printing press is the most powerful engine of progress and public opinion is the force that will sweep despotism away."

In many of Mercier's novels, the heroes are transformed by the acts of reading.

Mercier believed that power of print will bring down despotism.

Q. 4. How did the printing press help in collecting children as its new readership?

OR

What kind of printing material was printed for the children?

Ans. (i) Primary education had become compulsory from the late 19th century.

(ii) Publishing industry started production of school textbooks.

(iii) A children press was set up in France in 1857.

(iv) The Grimm brothers in Germany spent years compiling traditional folk tales.

(v) Anything that was considered unsuitable for children was not published.

(vi) Old fairy tales and folktales were written.

Q. 5. What was the Portuguese influence on printing?

Ans. (i) The printing press first came to Goa with the Portuguese missionaries in the mid-16th century.

(ii) Jesuit priests learnt Konkani and printed several tracts.

(iii) By 1674, about 50 books had been printed in the Konkani and Kanara languages.

(iv) Dutch protestant missionaries had printed 32 Tamil texts, many of them were translations of older works.

Q. 6. What was the role of new ‘visual image’ culture in printing, in India?

Ans. By the end of 19th century, a new visual culture had started.

With the increasing number of printing presses, visual images could be easily reproduced in multiple copies.

Painters like ‘Raja Ravi Varma’ produced images for mass circulation.

Cheap prints and calendars were bought even by the poor to decorate the walls of their houses.

Q. 7. Why is China called the major producer of printed material?

Ans. (i) The imperial state in China was, for a very long time, the major producer of printed material.

(ii) China possessed a huge bureaucratic system which recruited its personnel through the civil service examinations.

(iii) Textbooks for this examination were printed in vast numbers, under the sponsorship of the imperial state. From the 16th century, the number of candidates went up and that increased the volume of print.

Q. 8. How did print revolution gradually spread in other European countries?

Ans. During the hundred years, between 1450 and 1550, printing presses were set up in most countries of Europe.

Printers from Germany travelled to other countries, seeking work and helped start new presses.

As the number of printing presses grew, book production boomed.

Q. 9. Why was Menocchio executed?

Ans. Menocchio was a miller in Italy who began to read books that were available in his locality.

He reinterpreted the message of the Bible and formed his own views of God that enraged the Roman Catholic Church.

Menocchio was declared a heretic and ultimately executed.

The Roman Catholics then imposed severe controls over publishers and booksellers, and began to maintain an Index of Prohibited Books.

Q. 10. How did print culture affect women in the 19th century?

Ans. Women became important as readers as well as writers.

Penny magazines were especially meant for women, as were manuals teaching proper behaviour and housekeeping.

When novels began to be written in the 19th century, women were seen as important readers.

Some of the best known novelists had defined a new type of woman; as a person with will, strength of personality, determination and the power to think.

Q. 11. Who brought the print revolution to British India and how?

Ans. James Augustus Hickey began to edit the 'Bengal Gazette', a weekly magazine.

It was a private English magazine, not having British influence on it, which introduced English printing in India.

Hickey published a lot of advertisements, on import and sale of slaves. He also published gossips about the company's senior officials in India. Enraged by this, Governor General Warren Hastings persecuted Hickey.

Q. 12. What kind of literature was printed in Punjab in the early 20th century?

Ans. 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.

Q. 13. What role did Battala play in printing technology, in Bengal?

Ans. 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.

Q. 14. What do you know about 'wood-block' printing?

Ans. This was a system of hand printing.

Initially books in China were printed by rubbing paper against the inked surface of wood blocks.

As both sides of the thin, porous sheet could not be printed, the traditional Chinese 'accordian book' was folded and stitched at the side.

Q. 15. State how mechanical printing surfaced in China.

Ans. The new readership developed in China which needed a new technology to print.

Western printing techniques and mechanical presses were imported in the late 19th century as western powers established their outposts in China.

Shanghai became the hub of the new print culture and from hand printing there was now a gradual shift to mechanical printing.

Q. 16. What type of books were printed in Japan?

Ans. Printing of visual material led to interesting publishing practices.

In the late 18th century, illustrated collections of paintings depicted an elegant urban culture, involving artists, courtesans and tea house gatherings.

There were books on women, musical instruments, calculations, flower arrangements, proper etiquette, cooking and famous places.

Q. 17. How were handwritten manuscripts organised with their expanded demand?

Ans. (i) Production of handwritten manuscripts was organised in new ways to meet the expanded demand of books.

(ii) Scribes or skilled handwriters were no longer solely employed by wealthy or influential patrons but increasingly by booksellers as well.

(iii) More than 50 scribes often worked for one bookseller.

Q. 18. What were the drawbacks of manuscripts?

Ans. (i) Manuscripts could not satisfy the everincreasing demand for books.

(ii) Copying was an expensive, laborious and time-consuming business.

(iii) Manuscripts were fragile, awkward to handle and could not be carried around easily as they were big and heavy.

Q. 19. How did print technology enhance the production of books?

Ans. Printing presses were set up in most countries of Europe after its invention by Gutenberg.

Printers from Germany travelled to other countries, seeking work and helping start new presses. As the number of printing presses grew, book production boomed.

The second half of the 15th century saw 20 million copies of printed books flooding the markets in Europe.

Q. 20. What are the advantages of printing presses?

Ans. Printing reduced the cost of books.

The time and labour required to produce each book came down.

Multiple copies could be produced with great ease.

Q. 21. How did publishers persuade common people to welcome the printed books?

Ans. The publishers had to keep in mind the wider reach of the printed work; even those who did not read could certainly enjoy listening to books being read out.

So printers began publishing popular ballads and folk tales. Such books would be profusely illustrated with pictures to create interest.

These were then sung and recited at gatherings in villages and in taverns in towns.

Q. 22. What was the significance of printing for people to spread their ideas?

Ans. Print created the possibility of wide circulation of ideas and introduced a new world of debate and discussion.

Even those who disagreed with established authorities could now print and circulate their ideas.

Through the printed message, they could persuade people to think differently and move them to action.

Q. 23. What was periodical press?

Ans. The periodical press developed from the early 18th century, combining information about current affairs with entertainment.

Newspapers and journals carried information about wars and trade.

It also gave news about the development in other places of the world.

Q. 24. How did the ideas of scientists and philosophers become more accessible to people?

Ans. Ancient and medieval scientific texts were compiled and published and, maps and scientific diagrams were widely printed.

When scientists like Isaac Newton began to publish their discoveries, they could influence a much wider circle of scientifically minded readers.

The writings of thinkers such as Thomas Paine, Voltaire and Jean Jacques Rousseau were also widely printed and read.

Thus their ideas about science, reason and rationality found their way into the popular literature.

Q. 25. Give three types of arguments on the effects of print technology on French Revolution.

Ans. (i) The ideas of enlightenment thinkers: Collectively, their writings provided a critical commentary on tradition, superstition and despotism. People argued for the rule of reason rather than custom and demanded that everything be judged through the application of reason and

rationality. The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were read widely and those who read these books saw the world through new eyes.

(ii) Print created a new culture of dialogue and debate: People had become aware of the power of reason and recognised the need to question existing ideas and beliefs. So new ideas of social revolution came into being.

(iii) There was an outpouring of literature that mocked the royalty and criticised their morality: Many cartoons and caricatures suggested that monarchy enjoys its own comforts, while common people suffered. The literature was circulated underground and led to the growth of hostile sentiments against the monarchy.

Q. 26. Were manuscripts used widely in everyday's life in India?

Ans. Manuscripts were not widely used in everyday's life. Even though pre-colonial Bengal had developed an extensive network of village primary schools, students very often did not read texts.

They only learnt to write as teachers dictated portions of texts from memory and students wrote them down.

Many thus became literate without even actually reading any kind of texts.

Q. 27. What was the role of cartoons and caricatures in Indian printing?

Ans. (i) By 1870, caricatures and cartoons were being published in journals, newspapers, commenting on social and political issues.

(ii) Some caricatures ridiculed the educated Indians' fascination with western clothes and tastes, while others expressed the fear of social change.

(iii) There were imperial caricatures highlighting nationalists as well as nationalist cartoons criticising imperial rule.

Q. 28. How did interest for writing develop in mill workers?

Ans. (i) Workers in factories were too overworked and lacked in education to write much about their experiences. But Kashi baba a Kanpur mill worker, wrote and published 'Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal', to show the links between caste and class exploitation.

(ii) The poems of another Kanpur mill worker, who wrote under the name of 'Sudarshan Chakra' and published a collection of poems called 'Sacchi Kavitaen'.

(iii) By 1930s, Bangalore cotton mill workers set up libraries to educate themselves, following the example of Bombay workers.