

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Why were official records important for British administration?

Ans. (i) The official records were important for the British administration as they believed that the act of writing was important.

(ii) Every instruction, plan, policy decision, agreement, investigation was clearly written up.

(iii) They produced an administrative culture of memos, notings and reports.

(iv) The British felt that all important documents and letters needed to be carefully preserved.

(v) For that, specialised institutions like archives and museums besides record rooms were established.

Q. 2. Why is British period in India referred to as 'Colonial'?

Ans. (i) During this period, British came to conquer the country and establish their rule, subjugating local nawabs and rajas.

(ii) They established control over the economy and society, collected revenue to meet all their expenses.

(iii) British brought goods they wanted at low prices, produced crops they needed for export.

(iv) They also brought about changes in values and tasks, customs and practices.

(v) When the subjugation of one powerful country over a weaker country leads to political, economic, social and cultural changes, we refer to this process as 'colonisation'.

Q. 3. Why did the practice of surveying become common under British Administration?

Ans. (i) The British believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be effectively administered.

(ii) Detailed surveys were carried to map the entire country.

(iii) In the villages revenue surveys were conducted.

(iv) The effort was to know the topography, the soil quality, the flora, the fauna, the local histories and the cropping pattern to administer the region.

(v) Even census operations were held every ten years.

(vi) There were many other surveys like botanical surveys, zoological surveys, archaeological surveys, anthropological surveys and forest surveys.