

Administrative Policies of the British

Prior to the Revolt of 1857, British Administrative Policies aimed at strengthening the control of the East India Company over India and establishing British Paramountcy in all administrative spheres.

Some of their major policy initiatives, during the 18th century and early 19th century, include

Dual Government of Bengal

- Dual Government means double system of administration, which was introduced by Robert Clive (British Governor) in Bengal.
- Under this system, the Administration of Bengal was divided into Nizamat and Diwani. Diwani being the right to collect revenue was given to English East India company and Nizamat (administrative responsibility) was entrusted to Nawab of Bengal.
- The system was very advantageous for the company as it had power without responsibility.

Subsidiary Alliance

- This policy was initiated by Lord Wellesley (Governor-General of Bengal). Under the policy of Subsidiary Alliance, princely rulers were not allowed to have an independent armed forces of their own.
- Instead they were forced to accept British forces within their territory and had to pay for its maintenance.
- Indian ruler who signed Subsidiary Alliance with the British were not allowed to employ an European in their service without the prior approval of British.
- They could not negotiate with any other Indian rulers without consulting the Governor-General. 'The Nizam of Hyderabad' became the first victim of this policy followed by Mysore (AD 1799).

Doctrine of Lapse

- It was introduced by Lord Dalhousie (British Governor-General). Its aim was to annex those Indian states which had no natural male heir.
- As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom and that state would be overtaken by the British. 'State of Satara' (AD 1848) was the first one to be annexed by Dalhousie under this doctrine.

Economic Administration

- Other than these administrative policies, British had undertaken some important economic policies which not only provided them with revenue to rule the states, but also strengthen their political control over the states.
- These policies include: Permanent settlement, Ryotwari settlement and Mahalwari settlement.

Permanent Settlement

- It introduced in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, districts of Banaras and Northern districts of Madras by Lord Cornwallis in 1793.
- John Shore planned this settlement.
- It declared zamindars as the owners of the land. Hence, they could keep 1/11th of the revenue collected to themselves while the British got a fixed share of 10/11th of the revenue collected. The zamindars were free to fix the rate.

Ryotwari Settlement

- It was introduced in Bombay, Madras and Assam by Munro and Charles Reed.
- In this, the direct settlement was made between the British Government and the Ryots.
- The revenue was based on the basis of the quality of the soil and the nature of the crop. The revenue was fixed for a period not exceeding 30 years. It was based on the 'Scientific Rent Theory of Ricardo'.

Mahalwari Settlement

- It was introduced in 1833, during the period of William Bentinck (British Governor). It was introduced in Central Province, North-West Frontier Province, Agra, Punjab etc of British India.
- In this system, the land was divided into Mahals. Each Mahal comprises of one or more villages and their ownership rights were vested with the peasants.
- The Village Committee was held responsible for collection of the taxes and the revenue demand was revised periodically.

Judicial Administration

British Governor-General Warren Hastings reformed the Indian Judicial System and established two courts each for civil and criminal cases.

S.No.	Nature of Cases	Name of Courts	Court of Appeal (where appeal in made)
1.	Civil Cases	Diwani Adalat presided over by collector	Sardar Diwani Adalat
2.	Criminal Cases	Faujdari Adalat presided over by Qazi	Sardar Nizamat Adalat

Practice Exercise

1. Who introduced Dual Government System of administration in Bengal?
(a) Warren Hastings (b) Lord Auckland
(c) Lord Wellesley (d) Robert Clive
2. Who initiated the Policy of Subsidiary Alliance?
(a) Lord Cornwallis (b) Lord Wellesley
(c) Warren Hastings (d) Lord Auckland
3. The Nizam of Hyderabad adopted the Subsidiary Alliance in the year
(a) 1790 (b) 1793
(c) 1799 (d) 1797
4. Which state became the first victim of Subsidiary Alliance Policy?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mysore
(c) Bengal (d) Orissa

5. Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by which British Governor-General?
 (a) Lord Dalhousie (b) Lord Cornwallis
 (c) Lord Wellesley (d) Warren Hastings
6. The first state annexed under Doctrine of Lapse was
 (a) Jhansi (b) Bengal
 (c) Agra (d) Satara
7. Permanent Settlement was planned by
 (a) Lord Wellesley (b) John Shore
 (c) Lord Dalhousie (d) Lord Cornwallis
8. In which state Permanent Settlement was launched first?
 (a) Bengal (b) Bihar
 (c) Orissa (d) Banaras
9. Permanent Settlement was introduced by
 (a) Lord Dalhousie (b) Lord Wellesley
 (c) Lord Cornwallis (d) Warren Hastings
10. What is the share of British in Permanent Settlement?
 (a) 1/11th (b) 10/11th
 (c) 2/11th (d) 8/11th
11. Who recommended the Ryotwari Settlement?
 (a) Lord Munro (b) Lord Shore
 (c) Lord Cornwallis (d) Lord Wellesley
12. Scientific Rent Theory of Ricardo was related to
 (a) Permanent Settlement
 (b) Ryotwari Settlement
 (c) Doctrine of Lapse
 (d) Subsidiary Alliance
13. Match the following.

List I	List II
A. Doctrine of Lapse	(i) Lord Cornwallis
B. Subsidiary Alliance	(ii) Lord Wellesley
C. Permanent Settlement	(iii) Lord Dalhousie
D. Ryotwari Settlement	(iv) Lord Munro

Codes

A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
(a)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(b)	(ii)	(iv)
(c)	(iv)	(iii)	(ii)	(i)	(d)	(iii)	(ii)

14. Mahalwari Settlement was introduced in the year
 (a) 1833 (b) 1830 (c) 1840 (d) 1835
15. Mahalwari Settlement was introduced during the period of
 (a) William Bentinck (b) Lord Cornwallis
 (c) Lord Wellesley (d) Lord Mountbatten
16. Under which system land was divided into 'Mahals'?
 (a) Mahalwari Settlement
 (b) Ryotwari Settlement
 (c) Permanent Settlement
 (d) None of the above
17. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?
 I. The British policies resulted in the improvement of Indian agriculture.
 II. The peasants became poorer.
 III. Peasants debt burden got increased.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
 (a) Only I (b) II and III
 (c) Only II (d) I and III
18. Sardar Diwani Adalat was court of appeal for which cases?
 (a) Civil cases (b) Criminal cases
 (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of these
19. Who presided over Diwani Adalat?
 (a) Qazi (b) Collector
 (c) Magistrate (d) Judge
20. Criminal cases were heard in
 (a) Diwani adalat
 (b) Faujdari adalat
 (c) Sardar Diwani adalat
 (d) None of the above

Answers

1	(d)	2	(b)	3	(c)	4	(a)	5	(a)	6	(d)	7	(b)	8	(a)	9	(c)	10	(b)
11	(a)	12	(b)	13	(d)	14	(a)	15	(a)	16	(a)	17	(b)	18	(a)	19	(b)	20	(b)