

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. The Wootz steel making process was completely lost by the mid-19th century. Give reasons.

Ans. The reasons are as follows:

- (i) The iron smelters had to pay a very high tax to the forest department for acquiring fuel and iron ore from forests they used. This reduced their income.
- (ii) The iron and steel was being imported from Britain displaced the iron and steel produced by craftsmen in India.

Q. 2. Why were printed Indian cotton textiles popular in England?

Ans. Printed Indian cotton textiles were popular in England because of their exquisite floral designs, fine texture and relative cheapness.

Q. 3. For what is Dacca in Eastern Bengal famous for?

Ans. Dacca in Eastern Bengal was the foremost textile centre in 18th century. It was famous for its mulmul and jamdani weaving.

Q. 4. Who were the weavers? Name few weaving communities.

Ans. Weavers were specialised in weaving. They belonged to the communities. Their skills were passed on from one generation to the next.

Few weaving communities include:

- (i) The tanti weavers of Bengal
- (ii) The momin or Julaha weavers of north India.
- (iii) The sale and Kaikollar and devangs of south India.