

Political Science

(Politics in India Since Independence)

(Chapter - 1) (Challenges of Nation Building)

(Class - XII)

Question 1:

Which among the following statements about the partition is incorrect?

- (a) Partition of India was the outcome of the “two-nation theory”.
- (b) Punjab and Bengal were the two provinces divided on the basis of religion.
- (c) East Pakistan and West Pakistan were not contiguous.
- (d) The scheme of Partition included a plan for transfer of population across the border.

Answer 1:

- (d) The scheme of partition included a plan for transfer of population across the border.

Question 2:

Match the principles with the instances:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Mapping of boundaries on religious grounds | i. Pakistan and Bangladesh |
| (b) Mapping of boundaries on grounds of different languages | ii. India and Pakistan |
| (c) Demarcating boundaries within a country by geographical zones | iii. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh |
| (d) Demarcating boundaries within a country on administrative and political grounds | iv. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand |

Answer 2:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Mapping of boundaries on religious grounds | ii. India and Pakistan |
| (b) Mapping of boundaries on grounds of different languages | iv. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand |
| (c) Demarcating boundaries within a country by geographical zones | i. Pakistan and Bangladesh |
| (d) Demarcating boundaries within a country on administrative and political grounds | iii. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh |

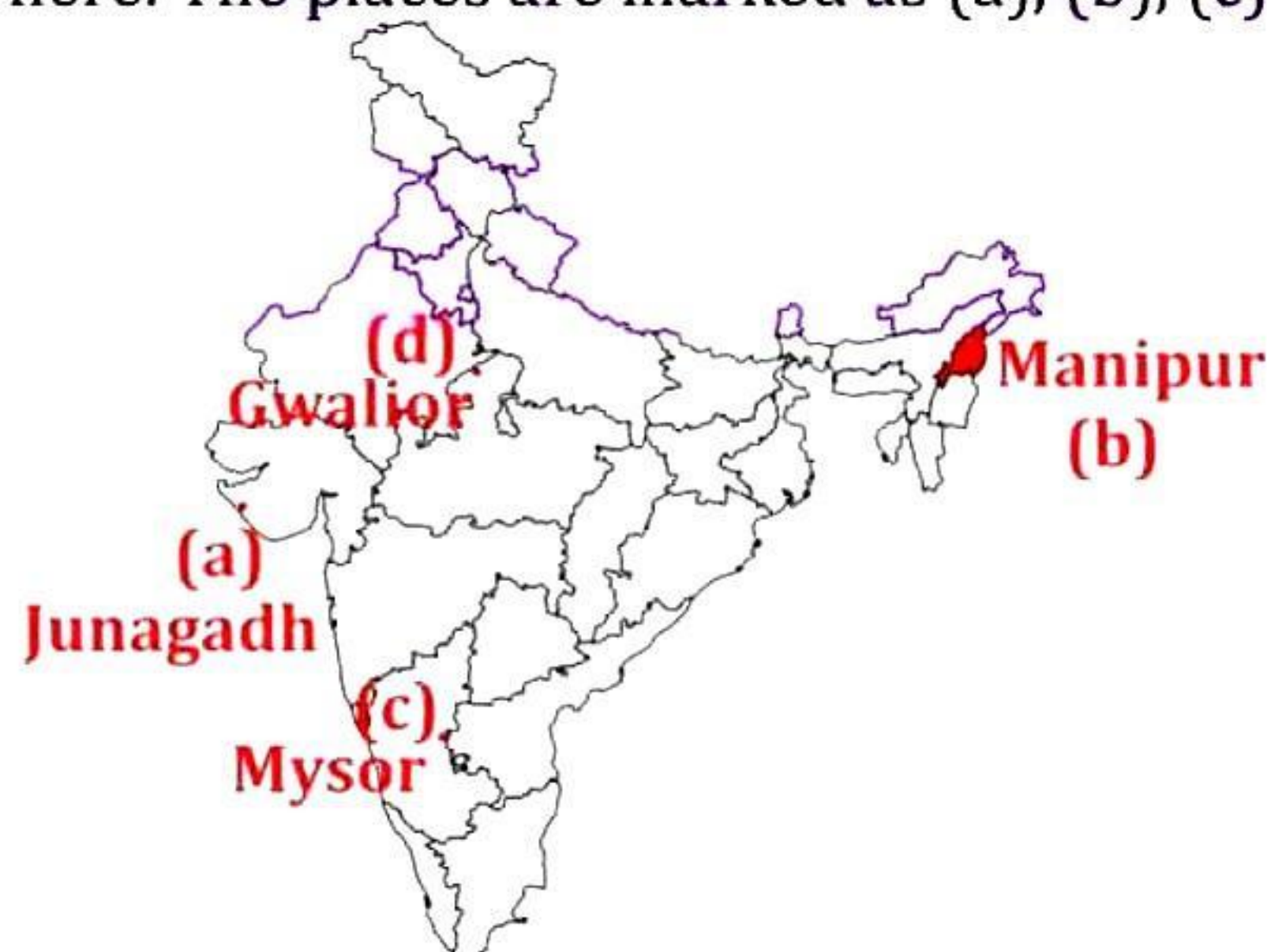
Question 3:

Take a current political map of India (showing outlines of states) and mark the location of the following Princely States:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| (a) Junagadh | (b) Manipur | (c) Mysore | (d) Gwalior. |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|

Answer 3:

Please see the Map attached here. The places are marked as (a), (b), (c) and (d).



Question 4:

Here are two opinions:

Bismay: *"The merger with the Indian State was an extension of democracy to the people of the Princely States."*

Inderpreet: *"I am not so sure, there was force being used. Democracy comes by creating consensus."*

What is your own opinion in the light of accession of Princely States and the responses of the people in these parts?

Answer 4:

Accession of Princely States and merger with Indian union was to expand democracy all over the country because princely states never enjoyed their political rights. Indian government central government used force to extend democracy to some extent as this was mandatory to have a uniform base in the country.

Question 5:

Read the following very different statements made in August 1947:

"Today you have worn on your heads a crown of thorns. The seat of power is a nasty thing. You have to remain ever wakeful on that seat. You have to be humble and forbearing... now there will be no end to your being tested." - M. K. Gandhi

"India will awake to a life of freedom.... we step out from, the old to the new.... we end, today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity ..." - Jawaharlal Nehru

Spell out the agenda of nation building that flows from these two statements. Which one appeals more to you and why?

Answer 5:

Both the statements focus on the agendas of secularism, democracy, sovereignty and freedom. It focuses on the path which will show the way to the real expansion and prosperity of our country. The first statement makes more appeal to me than the second one because it calls upon the countrymen to remain awake, alert and conscious as it is not the end of our struggle. The time to build the nation initiates now.

Question 6:

What are the reasons being used by Nehru for keeping India secular? Do you think these reasons were only ethical and sentimental? Or were there some prudential reasons as well?

Answer 6:

Reasons for keeping India secular were as follows:

1. All the Muslims did not leave India during partition, some Muslims stayed in India as a minority and Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to deal with them in a very refined and dignified manner.
2. He supported the security and democratic rights of Muslims as a citizen of India.

No, these reasons were not only ethical and sentimental, but there were some prudential reasons like:

- India's secular nature cherished its long term goals and principles like socialism, equality, liberty and fraternity.
- Secularism stops any single faith to become greater and lower to those who practised some other religion. Hence it considers all citizens equal irrespective of religious association.

Question 7:

Bring out two major differences between the challenge of nation building for eastern and western regions of the country at the time of Independence.

Answer 7:

The two major differences between eastern and Western regions can be summed up as follows:

- These regions were the Muslim majority provinces. Hence, it was decided that new country Pakistan will include two territories i.e. West and East Pakistan.
- Secondly, there was a problem of minorities on both sides of border (East and West). Lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in the areas of Pakistan and Muslims who were on the Indian side of Punjab and Bengal found themselves trapped and had no option but to leave their homes.

Question 8:

What was the task of the States Re-organisation Commission? What was its most salient recommendation?

Answer 8:

The State Re-organisation Commission was set up in 1953 by central government to look into the matter of redrawing of boundaries of state. The salient recommendations of this commission are

- The commission evolved that states' boundaries should reflect the boundaries of different languages to accommodate linguistic diversity.
- The State Re-organisation Act was passed in 1956 which resulted the creation of 14 states and 6 union territories.
- Its most salient recommendation was the formation of linguistic states i.e. to reorganise states on the basis of accommodation of their languages to prepare a uniform base for the nation.

Question 9:

It is said that the nation is to large extent an "imagined community" held together by common beliefs, history, political aspirations and imaginations. Identify the features that make India a nation.

Answer 9:

India proved herself through all stages of three challenges at the time of nation building like:

- India is a secular country where people speak different languages and follow different cultures and religions to be recognised as a nation of unity in diversity with common faith and beliefs.
- Political objectives ensure a democratic setup based on parliamentary form of government which creates political competition in a democratic framework.
- India's imagination of establishing a welfare state on the principle of equality and special protection to socially disadvantaged groups and religions as well as cultural communities.

Question 10:

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

"In the history of nation-building only the Soviet experiment bears comparison with the Indian. There too, a sense of unity had to be forged between many diverse ethnic groups, religious, linguistic communities and social classes. The scale-geographic as well as demographic was comparably massive."

The raw material the state had to work with was equally unpropitious: people divided by faith and driven by debt and disease.”—Ramachandra Guha

(a) List the commonalities that the author mentions between India and Soviet Union and give one example for each of these from India.

(b) The author does not talk about dissimilarities between the two experiments. Can you mention two dissimilarities?

(c) In retrospect which of these two experiments worked better and why?

Answer 10:

(a) Commonalities between India and Soviet Union:

- Both the nations shaped the nation on linguistic basis.
- To promote welfare motives, the economic and technological developments took place in India also.
- States were divided on the grounds of geographical boundary and strength of populations also in both the nations.

(b) Dissimilarities:

- Soviet Union was divided into 15 independent republics/countries to be disintegrated.
- India maintained its unity and integrity even among diversified nature of states and peoples without any more division.

(c) The Indian experiment worked better to promote linguistic and cultural plurality without affecting unity and integrity of the nation though India adopted some diplomatic measures to make country united.