

CBSE TEST PAPER-02
Class 12 English Core (Indigo)

General Instructions:-

- All questions are compulsory.
 - Question No.1 to 7 carries 3 marks each.
 - Question No. 8 to 10 carries 6 marks each.
-

1. “The battle of Champaran is won!” What led Gandhiji to make this remark?
2. What did the landlords compel the peasants to do as per the terms of a long-term contract?
3. What did the British planters do when they came to know that synthetic indigo had been developed by Germany?
4. How did the episode change the plight of the peasants?
5. How was Gandhiji able to influence the lawyers?
6. What did the peasants pay the British landlords as rent?
7. How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?
8. Why did Gandhiji agree to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers?
9. How did Gandhiji solve the problem of the indigo farmers?
10. How did the Champaran episode prove to be a turning point in Gandhiji’s life? Explain with the reference to the text, ‘Indigo’.

CBSE TEST PAPER-02
Class 12 English Core (Indigo)
Answer

1. When peasants came to know that Gandhiji was in trouble with the authorities, they gathered and reached to help him. The officials felt powerless and had to seek his help. The trial was postponed and Gandhiji was left on liberty. All the lawyers promised to get arrested and accompany him to the jail.
2. The landlords forced the peasants to plant indigo on 15 percent of their land. All the indigo produce had to be surrendered as rent. The peasants felt sour about it.
3. The British realized that it was no longer profitable to produce natural indigo. The synthetic indigo was much cheaper. Thus, they compelled the peasants to give them compensation for not having to plant indigo on their land.
4. The peasants now had courage. They believed that they too had rights which they could defend. Gradually, the British planters left their estates. These estates now came back to the farmers. Indigo sharecropping disappeared permanently.
5. The lawyers desired Andrews to stay in Champaran and help them. However, Gandhiji opposed them. He said that taking the help of an Englishman would be their weakness. They should learn to win the battle with their own strength.
6. The British forced the farmers to plant indigo on 15 percent of their land. The peasants had to surrender the indigo produce as rent to the British landlords.
7. The ordinary people stood with Gandhiji at every juncture. At Motihari, they flocked in thousands as they learnt that the Mahatma had some trouble with the authorities. They were ready to do anything at his bidding. So, the ordinary man's contribution to the freedom movement was not less in any way.
8. The British planters wanted some excuse for prolonging the dispute with the peasants. However, Gandhiji proved too wise for them. The deadlock was ended by accepting what the planters wanted. Even so the British had to compromise with their pride. Gandhiji agreed to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers; in fact, the amount was less important than the fact that the landlord had to be forced to return part of the money and with it, part of their pride and prestige. So far, the planters had behaved as if the British were above the law, they had to realize that the British were not above the law. The peasants saw that they, too, had rights and defenders, and they learned courage.

Peasants were also saved from the trouble of spending time and money on court cases. Within a few years, the British planters abandoned their estates and left. The land came back to the peasants and this was the end of indigo sharecropping.

9. Gandhiji went to Champaran on receiving reports of exploitation of the poor sharecropper farmers at the hands of the British planters. He began by trying to gather the facts. The British landlords as well as the Commissioner of Tirhut were non-cooperative. Lawyers from Muzaffarpur briefed him about the condition of the peasants. They together collected the depositions by about ten thousand peasants. The whole area throbbed with the activities of the investigators and forceful protests of the landlords. The Lieutenant Governor summoned Gandhiji. After four protracted interviews, an official commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate the indigo sharecropper's condition. Gandhiji was the sole representative of the farmers. The official inquiry assembled huge quantity of evidence against the big planters. They agreed to refund the money to the peasants. After consultation, a 25 percent refund was settled. This was a moral victory of the peasants, which was backed by Gandhiji.
10. The success of the Champaran episode prodded Gandhiji for British eviction from India. He identified that the root cause of the problem was the fear of the illiterate farmers. He became aware about the miserable condition of the peasants and realised how Britishers exploited them with their unfair policies. The spontaneous demonstration of the peasants was the beginning of their liberation from fear. Though it began as an ordinary attempt to free the poor from injustice and exploitation, it was important because it drove away the mortal fear from their hearts. Civil Disobedience Movement had won for the first time in colonial India. Gandhiji made the point clear that British could not order him in his own country. Thus, it was the turning point of his life and served as a source of motivation and strength for future his movements.