

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Why did Muslim League propose two-nation theory?

[CBSE Delhi (Comptt.) 2014]

OR

Why did Jinnah propose two-nation theory?

[CBSE Delhi 2011]

Ans. Jinnah proposed two-nation theory with view to create Hindustan for Hindus and Pakistan for Muslims.

Q.2. Which problems arose with partition?

Ans. Partition led to the attacks on minorities on both sides of the border.

Q.3. Why was Muslim league formed?

Ans. Muslim league was formed to protect the rights of Muslim in colonial India.

Q.4. What was feared after the princely states were declared independent?

Ans. After the princely states were declared independent, it was feared that India would be divided in small countries.

Q.5. What was the basis of State Reorganisation Commission's report?

[CBSE Delhi 2012]

Ans. State Reorganisation Commission agreed in its report that the boundaries of the states shall be drawn on the basis of language.

Q.6. "The leaders of the newly independent India did not see politics as a problem; they saw it as a way of solving the problems." How far do you agree with the statement?

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Yes, I agree with the statement because most of the leaders of national movement joined politics and tried to be in power to solve the problems of the people.

Q.7. Why were States reorganised in 1956 on the basis of language?

[CBSE Delhi 2011]

Ans. States were reorganised in 1956 on the basis of language to soothe the discontent among the people who wanted states to be completely based on language.

Q.8. Was the language only basis of reorganising States?

Ans. No, language was not the only basis of reorganising states. Regional culture, regional imbalance were the basis of reorganisation of States like- Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Telangana etc.

Q.9. What were the circumstances under which independent India was born?

Ans. On 15 Aug 1947, India got its independence but at the same time it also had to face partition. With the declaration of the partition, minorities were violently attacked in both the countries, India and Pakistan. Women were molested and raped. People had to leave their homes. 1947 was a tragic year of violence and displacement for the country.

Q.10. Why was it a huge challenge for India to unify the country in one thread?

OR

Why was it difficult to unify India in one thread?

Ans. India is a country of vast diversity. India got independence with the curse of partition, based on religion, which led to animosity between Hindus and Muslims. Apart from this, there were people professing various other religions, speaking different languages and following different cultures. A country with such vast diversity was not easy to unify.

Q.11. While the rest of the country was reorganised on linguistic lines in 1950s, why had Punjab to wait till 1966?

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Akali Dal was leading the 'Punjabi Suba' movement without getting full support of nonSikhs and other castes within Sikhs. The movement was not as strong as in other states. So Punjab had to wait.

Q.12. What were the difficulties faced in partition based on the religious majority?

Ans. There were many difficulties faced in partition based on the religious majority. There was no single belt of Muslim majority areas in British India. There were two areas of concentration, one in the west and one in the east. There was no way these two parts could be joined. So it was decided that the new country, Pakistan, will comprise two territories, West and East Pakistan separated by a long expanse of Indian Territory.

Q.13. What did partition give in inheritance?

Ans. India inherited unresolved questions from partition which it till date has been unable to find solution. Partition sowed the seeds of communalism in the public mind, which result in incident like demolition of Babri Masjid and Godhra riots. Nation also inherited many problems like rehabilitation, poverty, unemployment etc. The pain suffered due to the partition has not been forgotten by the people so far.

Q.14. What was the effect of partition on the people?

Ans. The people had to suffer the pain of partition. They were made undesirable aliens in their own homes. The minorities on both the sides of the border were made targets of the attack. They were left with no option except to leave their homes and take shelter in refugee camps. People were killed, women were abducted and raped. Partition left people heartbroken.

Q.15. What was the decision taken by the British Government in respect of Princely States?

Ans. British government decided that with the end of their rule over India, supremacy of the British crown over Princely States would also lapse. This meant that all these states would become legally independent. The British government took the view that all these states were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent, if they so wished. This decision was left not to the people but to the princely rulers of these states.

Q.16. How was State of Andhra Pradesh formed?

Ans. After independence, demand for separate states was made on linguistic basis. One such demand was made for creation of Andhra Pradesh from Madras province. Protests began in the Telugu speaking areas of the old Madras province, which included present day Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka. The Vishalandhra movement demanded that the Telugu speaking areas should be separated from the Madras province of which they were a part and be made into a separate Andhra province. Potti Sriramulu, a Congress leader and a veteran Gandhian, went on an indefinite fast that led to his death after 56 days. This caused great unrest and resulted in violent outbursts in Andhra region. Finally, the Prime Minister announced the formation of a separate Andhra state in December 1952.

Q.17. What was the third challenge faced by the nation immediately after the independence and what provisions were made to counter it?

Ans. The third challenge was to ensure the development and wellbeing of the entire society and not only of some sections. To achieve this goal, the Constitution clearly laid down the principle of equality and special protection to socially disadvantaged groups and religious and cultural communities. The Constitution also set out in the Directive Principles of State Policy, the welfare goals that democratic politics must achieve.

Q.18. How far was the accession of Kashmir by India justified?

Ans. Accession of Kashmir by India was completely justified. Due to tribal (Kabayali) invasion on Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh sought help from Indian Government. India agreed to extend the military support only after the Maharaja signed the 'instrument of Accession'. After Maharaja Hari Singh signed, Kashmir was made an integral part of India and accordingly military assistance was provided. On the basis of instrument of accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh, we assumed that Kashmir was a part of

India. Therefore, Kashmir became part of India through legal process which cannot be held invalid. (as claimed by Pakistan)

Q.19. Which was the unsolved problem of partition?

Ans. The most serious problem was of 'minorities' on both the sides of the border. There were Lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in the areas that are now in Pakistan and an equally large number of Muslims on the Indian side. Partition made them undesirable aliens in their own homes. As soon as it became clear that the country was going to be partitioned, the minorities on both the sides became easy targets of the attack and to save their lives, they had to leave their homes against their wishes. No one had quite anticipated the scale of this problem. Initially, the people and political leaders kept hoping that this violence was temporary but very soon the violence went out of control, which led to the killing of lakhs of people.

Q.20. Bring out two major differences between the challenge of nation building for eastern and western regions of the country at the time of Independence.

[NCERT]

Ans. There were two major differences between the challenge of nation building for eastern and western regions of the country at the time of Independence. Firstly, there were two areas of concentration, one in the west and other in the east. There was no way these two parts could be joined. So it was decided that the new country, Pakistan, will comprise two territories, West and East Pakistan separated by a long expanse of Indian Territory. Secondly, not all Muslim majority areas wanted to be in Pakistan. There were many areas in Punjab and Bengal, where muslims were very less in number. Apart from this, western part was dominated by Sikhs and Hindus whereas eastern was dominated by Bengalis. They had different cultures and it was very difficult to divide them and that was the greatest tragedy of the partition.

Q.21. How did Goa and Puducherry merge in India?

Ans. Even after the independence of India, Goa and Puducherry were under subjugation. Goa was controlled by Portuguese and Puducherry was under the control of France. In 1946, France India Nation Congress was formed in Puducherry with the aim of having Puducherry integrated into India after independence. French government took stern steps to suppress its voice but in 1954. India and France signed a pact, under which, all the French governed territories were integrated in Indian Union. To liberate Goa from Portugal dominance, Tristao De Braganza Cunha formed Goa Congress Committee 1928. To suppress this moment, the Portuguese government sent thousands of patriots to prison. Finally, on 18 December, 1963, India started Operation 'Vijay' and conquered Goa on the next day.

Q.22. How did Hyderabad join India?

Ans. The Nizam of Hyderabad wanted an independent status for Hyderabad. He entered into Standstill Agreement with India in November 1947 for a year. While negotiations with the Indian government were going on, the peasantry in the Telangana region, women, Communists and the Hyderabad Congress started a movement against the Nizam. The Nizam responded by unleashing a para-military force known as the 'Razakars' on the people. The atrocities and communal nature of the Razakars knew no bounds. They murdered, maimed, raped and looted, targeting particularly the non-Muslims. The central government had to order the army to tackle the situation. In September 1948, Indian army moved in to control the Nizam's forces. After a few days of intermittent fighting, the Nizam surrendered. This led to Hyderabad's accession to India.

Q.23. What was Indian government's stand on merging of Princely States in India?

Ans. Government of India adopted tough stand on the second division of India. Muslim league opposed congress and affirmed that princely states should be given independence to take their own decisions. The then Home Minister of India Sardar Patel, known as 'Iron Man' took stern view of the situation. He played significant role in negotiating with the Princely States and with his diplomatic skill he successfully persuaded them to form part of Indian Union. The present day Orissa was divided into 26 small States, same way Saurashtra State of present Gujarat was divided into 14 big and 119 small States. This governmental task was divided in three stages:

- (i) People of Princely States, who clearly wished to join Indian Union.
- (ii) The Government was ready to give autonomy to some regions so that diversity could be amalgamated.
- (iii) The causes of partition made it necessary that unification and integration of States is given its due importance.

Many princely states merged in Indian Union with own wish. However, unification of princely states like Junagardh, Kashmir, Hyderabad and Manipur brought anger and fear among people.

Q.24. How was Manipur integrated in Indian Union?

Ans. The ruler of Manipur Maharaja Bodh Chandra Singh signed 'Instrument of Accession' with Indian government to join Indian Union before declaration of independence and in return received an assurance that autonomy of Manipur would be maintained. But due to popular pressure, Maharaja conducted elections in June 1948. As a result of it, constitutional monarchy was established. Manipur was the first state of India where elections were conducted on the basis of universal adult suffrage. However, there was a conflict of opinion in the Manipur state assembly regarding Manipur's integration in Indian Union. Manipur congress was in favour of merging but other parties opposed it. The Indian government ignored the Manipur legislative assembly and put

pressure on Maharaja to sign accession agreement and successfully integrated Manipur in Indian Union.

Q.25. Explain any three consequences of partition of British India in 1947.

[CBSE Delhi 2013]

Ans. Migration of Population across the Borders: In 1947, after partition of India, large number of population was forced to migrate across the borders. This migration of population was tragic and unorganised. People started killing each other in the name of religion. The regions where Hindus and Sikhs were dominant, Muslims stopped going there and same way where Muslims were dominant, Hindus and Sikhs stopped going there. They were made aliens in their own land and police and local administration treated them unkindly. Partition was just not division of assets and liabilities but division of communities, who lived as neighbours and were made victim of violence by each other.

Refugee Rehabilitation: The partition of India into two nations led to the serious problem of rehabilitation of refugees. In 1947, daily, thousands of refugees migrated to New Delhi through rail. They left their ancestral homes back in Pakistan in the wake of communal violence. The violence against Hindus in Pakistan provoked violence against Muslims in India. Refugees had left their property and home in Pakistan hence, there was serious need to resettle them. After independence, nation was battling with backwardness, due to which it was facing difficulties in rehabilitation of the middle class and educated class. Perhaps, the political leadership never in their wildest imagination thought that migration of population would become such a serious issue. The State provided them major assistance in rehabilitation, which included mainly Punjabi educated class. In the western part of the border, refugee camps were established for labours. It was the problem of refugee rehabilitation on the both sides of the border which eclipsed the joy of independence.

Communal Riots: During the partition, cities like Lahore, Amritsar, Kolkata transformed into wrestling arenas. Hindus stopped going in Muslim dominated areas and Muslim stopped going in areas dominated by Hindus. Minorities were forced to leave their homes to save their lives. Communal riots inflicted deep injuries on the lives of people.

Q.26. 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?

[NCERT]

Ans. Nehru wanted India to be a secular state and not a Hindu state. He wanted every religion to be treated equally. He realised that partition had devastating impact on Hindu-Muslim unity. Therefore, he placed many arguments to convince people. He asserted that India has been Secular State since time immemorial. In India, from time to time, people from different religions and cultures had visited with various objectives and

India had always welcomed them with open arms and absorbed their good values into its own culture. If we do not accept this character of India then we might lose the soul of India. The reasons given by Nehru were not only emotional and moral but also strategic in nature because he was aware of the fact that Muslim population was so large in number that they could not be relocated and it was important for the unity of the country to give it a secular nature, in which Muslims were given equal rights. If this was not done, it would have been difficult to maintain peace. Due to this Nehru policy, today India is secular in nature and respects all the religions, which has secured our diversity as well as unity.

Q.27. How did language become political issue? Explain.

Ans. Independence brought linguistic separatism and regionalism in Indian politics. Nehru realised that provincial interest would impair the integrity of India. With the Telangana movement in 1953, demand for the creation of States on the linguistic basis rose. Potti Sriramulu sacrificed his life for the creation of Andhra Pradesh. After his death, Telugu speaking districts were separated from Madras and Andhra Pradesh was created. Political movements started in Telugu and Marathi speaking regions of Bombay and Madras. The Vishalandhra movement demanded that the Telugu speaking areas should be separated from the Madras province. In 1953, Prime Minister Nehru appointed the State Reorganisation Commission to look into the question of redrawing of the boundaries of states on the basis of different languages in 1956. The State Reorganisation Commission made many changes in state boundaries on a linguistic basis. States of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore and Rajasthan were created by joining small states and some parts of adjoining states. Hyderabad was divided into Bombay, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, Kerala was formed by joining Malayalam speaking regions of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar region of Madras. 14 states and 6 union territories were created by the end of 1956 on the basis of language. Considering the rising of linguistic movement in Bombay, it was divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat in May 1960. Boundary issues cropped up between Bombay and Karnataka. In 1965, Madras witnessed riots when it was decided to declare Hindi as a national language. Entire South India was facing fiery conditions due to this issue. In Bengal and part of South India, protests were carried out to oppose the declaration of Hindi as official language. The protests against Hindi rose to such an extent that the demand was made for the creation of Dravidistan in Tamil Nadu. The entire country came under the grip of linguistic riots which forced the central government to incorporate English, Hindi and 22 other regional languages as official languages in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution. In every state, the regional language is its official language. Everywhere there was controversy over language. In 1966, Punjab was divided into two parts on a linguistic basis, Punjab for Punjabi speaking and Haryana for Hindi speaking. The hilly part of Punjab which had a different language was separated and formed into Himachal Pradesh. In 1972, a significant reorganisation took place in the state of Assam. Meghalaya was separated from Assam and the same year Tripura and Manipur were given statehood. Nagaland came into existence in 1963 where Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were created in 1987. In every region, the socially

influential groups made language as a basis for drawing state boundaries. Thus the majority communities became more influential in the States. For the reason of being in majority, these communities were expected to grow politically and economically stronger. Despite being built on the basis of language, there exist linguistic minority in every state due to which, there are minority issues in every state. Today, it is a major issue, which is impediment in nation building.

Q.28. Analyse any six consequence of the partition of India in 1947.

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. Consequences of partition of India in 1947:

- (i) The Year 1947 was the year of one of the largest, most abrupt, unplanned and tragic transfer of population that human history has ever known.
- (ii) There were killing and atrocities in the name of religion on both the sides.
- (iii) Thousands of women were abducted.
- (iv) People were forced to abandon their homes and move across the border.
- (v) Women were killed by their own family members to preserve the family honour.
- (vi) All the intellectuals in various fields expressed their grief and anger.

Q.29. It is said that the nation is to a large extent an 'imagined community' held together by common beliefs, history, political aspirations and imaginations. Identify the features that make India a nation.

[NCERT]

Ans. It is not entirely justified to say that a nation is an 'imagined community', because nation building involves many elements such as citizens, well defined geographical area and recognised government or rules etc. A nation has its own universal policy and foreign policy in which lies its power. But despite all these facts a nation cannot exist unless its citizens do not recognise and believe in their nation. The history of any nation is its traditional capital which binds its people. Political aspirations like independence, equality etc. along with common belief and history leads to welfare of citizens and also helps in uniting the citizens of a nation. Thus nation is united by its common faith, history and political aspirations. India is the only country which has inherited common faith and belief. Though there have been periodical changes but that has not threatened its existence. India is an ancient country which has its own glorious political and economic history. It not only enlightens us on our glorious traditions but also makes us realise our old mistakes committed in those times. The ancient culture of our country makes it a complete nation. Its culture is full of diversity. It has its own rituals, practices and sacraments etc. which unites this nation. After independence, democratic form government was adopted and all were given equal rights and duties so that a united and

welfare state could be established. The ever growing mass communication, mobile and tele-communication system etc also helped in unifying people.

Q.30. How the process of formation of states on the basis of languages changed the nature of democratic politics in India?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

Ans. The linguistic states and the movements for the formation of these states changed the nature of democratic politics and leadership in some basic ways:

(i) The path to politics and power was now open to people other than the small English speaking elite.

(ii) Linguistic reorganization also gave some uniform basis to the drawing of state boundaries.

(iii) It did not lead to the disintegration of the country as many had feared earlier. On the contrary, it strengthened national unity.