ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SCHOOL Adjacent Navniti Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj Delhi-110092
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CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: HISTORY	CH-4

India under Colonial Rule- I

A. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. Colonialism refers to **(ii) control of one country over another for power and economic gain.**
2. Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in **(iv) 1498 CE.**
3. Which European power arrived first in India? **(iii) Portuguese**
4. The turning point that marked the beginning of British political rule in India was the **(ii) Battle of Plassey.**
5. The Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by **(iii) Lord Dalhousie.**
6. The meaning of 'Diwani' is **(i) Right to collect revenue.**
7. Which of the following statements defines 'Wealth Drain'? **(ii) Transfer of Indian revenue and resources to Britain without return**

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The European nations expanded across the world during the **age** of Discovery.
2. The Battle of Plassey was fought in **1757** CE.
3. Mir Jafar betrayed **Siraj-ud-Daulah** during the Battle of Plassey.
4. According to the Doctrine of Lapse, the British annexed states with no **natural/male** heir.
5. **Bengal** was one of the Indian regions badly affected by the Great Famine of 1770.
6. The British used Indian **taxes** to buy Indian goods, causing wealth drain.
7. Indian handloom industries declined due to the arrival of **machine-made** goods.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. India was called the Golden Bird because of its wealth and flourishing trade. **T**
2. The Dutch established political rule at many places in India. **F**
3. The French were defeated by the British in the Carnatic Wars. **T**
4. The British won the Battle of Plassey purely because of military strength. **F**
5. The Doctrine of Lapse increased fear and anger among Indian rulers. **T**
6. The British focus on cash crops led to frequent famines in India. **T**
7. The Industrial Revolution in Britain benefited Indian craftsmen greatly. **F**

D. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. **What is colonialism?**
   Colonialism is defined as control over a weaker country for economic and political gain, motivated by the need for raw materials and markets.

2. **Why was India attractive to European traders?**
   India was attractive to European traders because of its rich markets. Traders from Europe were eager to buy spices, silk and cotton textiles and precious gems from India which were extremely valuable in European markets.
3. **Why is the Battle of Plassey considered a turning point?**
   The Battle of Plassey is considered one of the biggest turning point in the history of India as it marked the beginning of direct British political control.
4. **What is meant by the Wealth Drain?**
   A systematic transfer of revenue and resources from India to Britain without any equivalent economic return.
5. **How did the British Industrial Revolution affect Indian industries?**
   India became a market for expensive, machine-made British goods. This destroyed local industries and made India dependent on British manufactured goods.
6. **Why did famines become frequent under British rule?**
   Famines became frequent under British rule dur to colonial revenue policies and cash cropping.

E. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. **Describe the main motives behind European colonial expansion.**
   - Wealth and Trade: Europeans wanted cheap raw materials (like spices, cotton, and silk) and markets to sell their factory goods for profit.
   - Power and Prestige: European countries like Britain, France, and Spain competed to capture more lands to become the most powerful nation.
   - Control of Trade Routes: They wanted direct sea routes to Asia to cut out Arab middlemen and make more money.
   - Spreading Religion: They wanted to spread Christianity and European lifestyle to other parts of the world.

2. **Explain India's economic status before colonial rule with reference to global trade and manufacturing.**
   - "Golden Bird" (Sone ki Chidhiya): Before British rule, India was extremely wealthy, contributing nearly 25% of the world's wealth (GDP).
   - Textile & Handicrafts Hub: Indian goods-especially fine cotton, muslin, silk, and metal items-were famous worldwide for their supreme quality.
   - Rich in Trade: Foreign countries bought Indian goods by paying in gold and silver, keeping India's trade balance heavily in its favour.

3. **Discuss the role of treachery in the Battle of Plassey and its consequences.**
   Role of Treachery:
   In 1757, Mir Jafar (the commander of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah's army) secretly made a deal with Robert Clive. During the battle, Mir Jafar kept his soldiers from fighting, leading to the Nawab's defeat and death.
   Consequences:

   - Mir Jafar was made a puppet ruler, while the British gained huge wealth and tax rights.
   - The British got revenue rights over the 24 Parganas region.
   - It marked the beginning of British political control in India.

4. **Analyse the Doctrine of Lapse and why it created widespread resentment.**
   It was introduced by Lord Dalhousie. This rule stated that if an Indian ruler died without a natural male heir, his kingdom would automatically pass to British control, as adopted sons were not recognized. States like Jhansi, Satara, and Nagpur were taken over this way.
   Causes of resentment:
   - Violated Customs: It ignored ancient Indian traditions that accepted adopted sons as legal heirs.
   - Fear Among Kings: Indian rulers lived in constant fear of losing their kingdoms.
   - Loss of Jobs: Native soldiers, court poets, and artisans lost their livelihoods when royal courts dissolved.
   - Triggered 1857 Revolt: This anger became a major cause of the Revolt of 1857, led by leaders like Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.
5. **Explain how the wealth drain system worked and why it damaged India's economy.**
   1. Tax Misuse: The British collected taxes from Indian farmers and traders.
   2. Buying Free Goods: They used this Indian tax money to buy Indian raw materials and exported them to Britain.
   3. No Returns: India received no money, goods, or development in return for these exports.
   It damaged India's economy as:
   - It continuously siphoned off India's gold, silver, and wealth to Britain.
   - It left the country impoverished and lacking capital for local industries, roads, and farming development.
6. **Explain the causes and impact of the Great Bengal Famine of 1770.**
   Causes:
   1. Drought: Crop failure due to bad weather in 1769.
   2. High Revenue Demands: The East India Company strictly collected high land taxes even when crops failed.
   3. Forced Cash-Crop Farming: Farmers were forced to grow cash crops (like indigo and opium) instead of food grains (like rice).
   Impact:
   1. Massive Loss of Life: Around 10 million people (nearly one-third of Bengal's population) died of starvation.
   2.Economic Collapse: Vast areas of agricultural land were abandoned, causing long-term poverty and ruined villages across Bengal.