



Grade VIII - History

Lesson 3. Ruling the Countryside

Objective Type Questions

(1 Mark each)

I. Multiple choice questions

- The Mughal emperor appointed the East India company as the Diwan of _____.
a. Bihar b. Bengal c. Odisha d. Mumbai
- Company purchased goods in India by importing _____ and _____ from Britain.
a. gold and copper b. silver and tin c. gold and silver d. silver and copper
- In 1770 a terrible famine killed _____ million people in Bengal.
a. five b. nine c. seven d. ten
- The Rajas and taluqdars were recognised as _____.
a. lohar b. Zamindars c. sonar d. ryots
- The Mahalwari system was devised by an Englishman called _____.
a. Thomas Munro b. Charles Cornwallis c. Holt Mackenzie d. Wellesley
- The company was trying to expand the cultivation of _____ and _____.
a. wheat and rice b. opium and indigo c. tea and sugar cane d. jute and cotton
- By 1810, the indigo imported to Britain from India was _____ percent.
a. 90 b. 95 c. 92 d. 100
- _____ is a unit of measurement of land.
a. Litre b. Bigha c. Kilogram d. Millilitre

1. b

2. c

3. d

4. b

5. c

6. b

7. b

8. b

II. Multiple choice questions

- One-third of the population was wiped out from Bengal because
a. a terrible famine occurred there b. a civil war broke out
c. An epidemic broke out d. none of the above
- The Mahalwari System was devised by



a. Charles Cornwallis

b. Robert Clive

c. Holt Mackenzie

d. James Mill

3. The ryots were

a. cultivators

b. zamindars

c. traders

d. money lenders

4. The Indigo Commission was set up to enquire into the system of indigo production. Whom did the Commission hold guilty?

a. The ryots

b. The government

c. The planters

d. Both a and b

5. After the indigo production collapsed in Bengal, the planters shifted their operation to

a. Gujarat

b. Bihar

c. Orissa

d. Rajasthan

1. a	2. c	3. a	4. c	5. b
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III. Multiple choice questions

1. The Champaran movement was against

a. peasants

b. East India Company

c. the oppressive attitude of the planters

d. None of the above

2. The Company was appointed as the Diwan of Bengal in

a. 1762

b. 1763

c. 1764

d. 1765

3. Gandhiji visited Champaran

a. to see the plight of Indigo planters in Champaran

b. to see the progress of Indigo plantation

c. to see the managing system of company

d. none of the above

4. Who devised the new-system of revenue called Mahalwari?

a. Queen Elizabeth

b. Holt Mackenzie

c. Queen Victoria

d. Gandhiji

5. Growers of woad in Europe saw _____ crop as competition to their earnings.

a. tea

b. rubber

c. indigo

d. coffee

6. Indigo production came down in Bengal in

a. 1850

b. 1852

c. 1855

d. 1859

7. Who had developed the Munro system?

a. Captain Alexander

b. Holt Mackenzie

c. Thomas Munro

d. None of these



8. How much proportion of Indigo was imported from India by Britain in 1810?
 a. 75% b. 95% c. 90% d. 85%
9. H.T. Colebrook describes the condition of the under-talent farmers in
 a. 1800 b. 1805 c. 1806 d. 1810
10. After harvest, the indigo plant was taken to the _____ in the indigo factory.
 a. dye b. vat c. farm d. machine
11. The international demand of indigo was affected by the discovery of
 a. synthetic dyes b. woad c. blue colour d. none of these

1. c	2. d	3. a	4. b	5. c	6. d	7. c	8. b	9. c	10. b	11. a
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IV. Multiple choice questions

1. As the price of indigo was very high, the Europeans depended on another plant called
 a. Woad b. Sal c. Palash d. Juniper
2. The Kuki belongs to the present state of
 a. Manipur b. Mizoram c. Nagaland d. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Ryotwari Settlement was introduced in:
 a. Bombay Presidency b. South and West India
 c. Deccan d. Punjab
4. Cinchona trees provide raw material for making
 a. Quinine b. Mats and ropes c. Rubber d. Beverages
5. The Permanent Settlement of Bengal was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in
 a. 1763 b. 1773 c. 1783 d. 1793
6. The British smuggled and sold
 a. Indigo to China b. Cotton to China c. Opium to China d. Coffee to China
7. By the late 18th century, Company was trying to expand the cultivation of
 a. Opium b. Indigo c. Cotton d. Tea
8. In 1927, Bardoli Satyagraha was led by
 a. Mahatma Gandhi b. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
 c. Sardar Patel d. Manubhai Patel

1. e	2. f	3. b	4. a	5. c	6. d
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III. Match the following

Column A	Column B
1. Diwan	a. Village
2. Indigo	b. Cultivation of planter's own land
3. Vat	c. Chief finance administrator
4. Mahal	d. A plant producing blue colour
5. Nij	e. Storage vessel
6. New Munro System	f. Fixing revenue

1. c	2. d	3. e	4. a	5. b	6. f
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IV. Match the following

I. Column I	Column II
1. Vats	a. Champaran Movement
2. Gandhiji	b. Indigo Plantation
3. Mahal	c. Land Measurement
4. Bigha	d. Village / Group of Villages
5. 1770	e. Diwani Rights
6. 1765	f. Famine in Bengal

1. b	2. a	3. d	4. c	5. f	6. e
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Column I	Column II
1. Mahalwari	a. Slave
2. Ryotwari System	b. Bigha
3. Kalamkari	c. Vat
4. A person owned by someone else	d. Munro
5. A unit of measurement of land	e. Jean Baptiste Labat
6. A fermenting for storage vessel	f. Printing style of Andhra Pradesh
7. A French missionary	g. Mackenzie
8. The agents of planters	h. Latifials
9. The strongmen maintained by the planters	i. Woad
10. A plant to make violet and blue dyes	j. Gomasthas

1. g	2. d	3. f	4. a	5. b	6. c	7. e	8. j	9. h	10. i
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I. Fill in the blanks

- Growers of woad in Europe saw _____ as crop which would provide competition to their earnings.
- The demand for indigo increased in late-eighteenth century Britain because of _____.
- The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of _____.
- Indigo produced a rich _____ colour.
- In March 1859 thousands of ryots in Bengal refused to grow _____.
- One bigha of indigo cultivation required _____ ploughs.
- The two main systems of indigo cultivation were _____ and _____.
- In 1792 France abolished _____ in the French colonies.
- The indigo plant grew primarily in the _____.

1. indigo	2. industrialisation	3. synthetic dyes	4. blue
5. indigo	6. two	7. Nij and ryoti	8. slavery
9. tropics			



II. Fill in the blanks

1. Indigo cultivation was done under two main systems known as _____ and _____.
2. By the terms of the Permanent Settlement, the rajas and taluqdars were recognized as _____.
3. _____ developed Ryotwari System which gradually extended all over south India.
4. The indigo villages were usually around indigo factories owned by _____.
5. The planters at times pressurised the village headmen to sign the _____ on behalf of the ryots.

1. nij ; ryots	2. zamindars	3. Thomas Munro
4. planters	5. contract	

III. Fill in the blanks

1. Gomast has were the agents of _____.
2. The Mughal emperor appointed the _____ as the Diwan of Bengal.
3. The painter was commissioned by _____ to record memorable events of his life.
4. Ryotwari system was also known as _____.
5. _____ is cultivation on Ryot's lands.
6. Bigha is the unit of _____ measurement by the British in Bengal.

1. planters	2. East India Company	3. Clive
4. Munro System	5. Ryoti	6. land

IV. Fill in the blanks

1. Growers of Woad in Europe sowed _____ as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.
2. The demand for indigo increased in the late-eighteenth-century Britain because of _____.
3. The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of _____.



4. The Champaran movement was against _____.
5. _____ developed ryotwari system which gradually extended all over South India.
6. On 12th August, 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the _____ as the Diwan of Bengal.
7. In 1770 a terrible _____ killed ten million people in _____.
8. The _____ settlement, created problems.
9. _____ felt that the village was an important social institution in north Indian society.
10. By the late eighteenth century, the company was trying its best to expand the cultivation of _____ and _____.
11. India was the biggest supplier of _____ in the world.
12. The French began cultivating Indigo in _____.
13. The two main systems of Indigo cultivation were _____ and _____.
14. Under the _____ system, the planters forced the _____ to sign a contract.
15. After the revolt, Indigo production _____ in Bengal.
16. Peasants were _____ to pay the dues.
17. The rajas and _____ were recognized as zamindars.
18. In British revenue records _____ is a revenue estate.
19. _____ fled the countryside.
20. Indian Indigo was being used by cloth manufactures in _____, _____, and _____ to dye cloth.
21. The dye obtained from woad was _____ and _____.
22. Indigo produced a rich _____.
23. Indigo could be cultivated only on _____ lands.
24. One _____ of Indigo cultivation required two ploughs.
25. In India the harvest of indigo plant was cut mostly by _____.

1. Indigo	2. the expansion of cotton production as a result of industrialisation, which in turn created an enormous demand for cloth dyes.
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3. synthetic dyes	4. the indigo planters	5. Thomas Munro
6. East India Company	7. Famine, Bengal	8. Permanent
9. Holt Mackenzie	10. Opium, Indigo	11. Indigo
12. St. Domingue	13. Nij, Ryoti	14. Ryotis, ryots
15. Collapsed	16. Unable	17. Taluqdars
18. Mahals	19. Ryots	20. Italy, France, Britain
21. Pale, dull	22. Blue colour	23. Fertile
24. Bigha	25. Men	

I. True or False

- After the indigo production collapsed in Bengal, the planters shifted to Bihar.
- Sugarcane was grown in Assam.
- The company became Diwan but still was seen as traders.
- Peasants were unable to pay, ryots fled the countryside.
- In India, the indigo plant was cut mostly by men.
- In 1860, the indigo cultivators started to rebel.
- The company introduced permanent settlement in 1793.

1. True	2. False	3. True	4. True	5. True	6. False	7. True
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II. True or False

- Indigo could be cultivated only on fertile lands.
- Indigo was easily available in Europe.
- Thomas Munro was the Governor of Bengal during 1819-26.
- The permanent Settlement created many problems.
- The Bengal economy boomed after the Company was appointed as Diwan of that province.

1. True	2. False	3. False	4. True	5. False
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III. True or False

1. The demand for indigo increased in late seventeenth century.
2. Revenues were fixed in the permanent settlement.
3. The company purchased goods in India before 1865 through gold and silver imports.
4. Mahalwari system came into existence in 1700.
5. Very high rate of revenue was the major problem of ryotwari system.
6. Weekly markets were very flourishing during economic crisis of Bengal.
7. The company introduced the Permanent Settlement in 1793.

1. False	2. True	3. True	4. False	5. True	6. False	7. True
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IV. True or False

1. Industrialization was not the cause of growing demand of indigo in the eighteenth century.
2. Gomasthas were the agents appointed by planters.
3. Mahatma Gandhi visited Champaran in 1917.
4. The French began cultivating indigo in Brazil and Jamaica.

1. False	2. True	3. True	4. False
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Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe how company became the Diwan.

On 12 August 1765, Robert Clive was granted the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa by the Mughal ruler.

2. Write the revenue procedure for the company.

Before 1865, the company had purchased goods in India by importing gold and silver from Britain. Now revenue collected in Bengal could finance the purchase of goods for export.

3. In which year was Permanent Settlement introduced by company?

The company introduced Permanent Settlement in 1793.



4. What do you mean by Permanent Settlement?

The amount of revenue the peasants were expected to pay was fixed permanently, that is, it was not to be increased ever in future.

5. How did Permanent Settlement create problems?

The revenue that had been fixed was so high that the zamindars found it difficult to pay. Anyone who failed to pay the revenue lost his zamindari.

6. Who was Charles Cornwallis?

Charles Cornwallis was the Governor-General of India when the Permanent Settlement was introduced.

7. What is indigo?

Indigo is a plant that produces rich blue colour which is used as a dye.

8. What is Kalamkari print?

Kalamkari print is created by weavers of Andhra Pradesh in India.

9. What is nij?

Nij was the cultivation on planter's own land.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

(NCERT)

The main features of Permanent Settlement are as following.

i. Rajas and taluqdars were recognised as zamindars, who were asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the company.

ii. The amount to be paid was fixed.

iii. The revenue that had been fixed was so high that the zamindars found it difficult to pay.

iv. This would ensure a regular flow of revenue into the company's coffers and at the same time encourage the zamindars to invest in improving the land.

v. Since the revenue demands of the state would not be increased the zamindar would benefit from increased production from the land.



2. How was the Mahalwari System different from the Permanent Settlement? (NCERT)

S.No	Mahalwari Settlement	Permanent Settlement
i	In Mahalwari Settlement it was decided that the rate of revenue would be revised periodically and not permanently fixed.	Under the Permanent Settlement the rate of revenue was fixed permanently.
ii.	Under the Mahalwari system the charge was given to the village headmen of collecting the revenue and paying it to the Company	The zamindars were given the charge of collecting revenue from the peasants and paying it to the Company.

3. What is Munro system?

In the British Territories in the south a new system of land revenue was devised which was known as ryotwar or ryotwari. It was tried on a small scale by Captain Alexander Read and developed by Thomas Munro.

4. Give two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue.

The two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue were.

- Revenue officials fixed a very high revenue demand and peasants were unable to pay it.
- Ryots fled the countryside, and villages became deserted in many regions.

5. The British forced cultivators to produce which crops of Europe in India?

The British forced cultivators to produce crops in various parts of India and there were jute in Bengal, tea in Assam, sugarcane in United Provinces, wheat in Punjab, cotton in Maharashtra and Punjab, rice in Madras.

6. Why did cloth dyers prefer indigo as dye instead of woad?

Cloth dyers preferred indigo as a dye because it produced a rich blue colour whereas the dye from woad was pale and dull.

7. Describe nij cultivation.

In the nij system, the planter produced indigo in lands that he directly controlled. He either bought the land or rented it from other zamindars and produced indigo by directly employing hired labourers.



8. Explain the ryoti system.

Under the ryoti system the planters forced the ryots to sign a contract, an agreement. The pressurised the village headmen to sign the contract on behalf of the ryots. Those who signed the contract got cash advances from the planters at low rates of interest to produce indigo.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo? (NCERT)

- i. Under the ryoti system, the planters forced the ryots to sign a contract an agreement.
- ii. Those who signed the contract got cash advances from the planters at low rates of interest to produce indigo.
- iii. But the loan committed the ryot to cultivating indigo at last 25% of the area under his holding.
- iv. The planter provided the seed and the drill, while the cultivators prepared the soil, sowed the seed and looked after the crop.
- v. When the crop was delivered to the planter after the harvest, a new loan was given to the ryot, and the cycle started all over again.
- vi. The price they got for the indigo they produced was very low and the cycle of loans never ended.

2. What were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?

- i. In March 1859, thousands of ryots in Bengal refused to grow indigo.
- ii. They became dissent and refused to pay rents to the planters and attacked indigo factories armed with swords and spears, bows and arrows.
- iii. In 1859, the indigo ryots felt they also had the support of the local zamindars and village headmen in their rebellion against the planters. Some zamindars were unhappy with the increasing power of the planters and angry at being forced by planters to give them land on long leases.
- iv. This worried the government and resulted in setting up the indigo commission to enquire into the system of indigo cultivation and military to protect the planters from assault.



v. The commission held the planters guilty and it declared that indigo production was not profitable for ryots.

vi. Therefore, they could refuse to produce indigo in future.

vii. As a result indigo production collapsed in Bengal.

3. How did indigo attract the foreign traders to India?

i. By the end of the eighteenth century, the demand for Indian indigo grew further.

ii. As the indigo trade grew commercial agents and officials of the company began investing in indigo production.

iii. Over the years, many company officials left their jobs to look after their indigo business.

iv. Attracted by the prospect of high profits, numerous Scotsmen and Englishmen came to India and became planters.

4. What led the setting up of indigo commission by the government?

i. To enquire into the system of indigo production led the setting up of indigo commission by the government.

ii. The commission held the planters guilty and criticised them for the coercive methods they used with indigo cultivators.

iii. It declared that indigo production was not profitable for ryots.

iv. The commission asked the ryots to fulfil their existing contracts but also told them that they could refuse to produce indigo in future.

5. How was indigo produced?

i. After the harvest, the indigo plants were taken to the vats, the storage or fermenting vats, in the indigo factory.

ii. Three or four vats were needed to manufacture the dye. Each vat had a separate function.

iii. The leaves stripped off the indigo plant were first soaked in warm water in a vat for several hours.

iv. When the plants fermented, the liquid began to boil and bubble.

v. After that rotten leaves were taken out and the liquid was drained into another vat. In the second vat, the solution was continuously stirred and beaten with paddles.

vi. When the liquid slowly turned green and then blue, lime water was added to the vat.

vi. When the liquid slowly turned green and then blue, lime water was added to the vat.



vii. The indigo separated out in flakes, a muddy sediment settled at the bottom of the vat and a clear liquid rose to the surface.

viii. The liquid was drained off and the sediment-the indigo pulp - was transferred to another vat and then pressed and dried for sale.

6. What was 'Blue Rebellion' ?

i. 'Blue rebellion' started in 1859 when thousands of ryots in Bengal refused to grow indigo.

ii. Those who worked for the planters were socially boycotted, and the gomasthas - agents of planters - who came to collect rent were beaten up.

iii. Ryots swore they would no longer take advances to was indigo not be bullied by latihyals.

iv. In many villages, leaders who had been forced to sign indigo contracts, mobilised indigo peasants and fought pitched battles with the latihyals.

7. What was Champaran movement ?

i. Indigo movement collapsed in Bengal but shifted to Bihar.

ii. With the discovery of synthetic dyes, their business was severely affected.

iii. When Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa, a peasant from Bihar persuaded him to visit Champaran and see the plight of the Indigo planters here.

iv. Mahatma Gandhi's visit in 1917 marked the beginning of the Champaran movement against the Indigo planters.



Next Generation School