



Question 1. What social ideas did the following people support:

Rammohun Roy

Dayanand Saraswati

Veerasingam Pantulu

Jyotirao Phule

Pandita Ramabai

Periyar

Mumtaz Ali

Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar

Answer: These people supported the following ideas:

1. Spread of education among women.
2. Widow remarriage.
3. Caste equality and justice.
4. Abolition of child marriage.
5. Social equality for untouchables.

Question 2. State whether true or false:

1. When the British captured Bengal they framed many new laws to regulate the rules regarding marriage, adoption, the inheritance of property, etc. T
2. Social reformers had to discard the ancient texts in order to argue for reform in social practices. F
3. Reformers got full support from all sections of the people of the country. F
4. The Child Marriage Restraint Act was passed in 1929. F

Question 3. How did the knowledge of ancient texts help the reformers promote new laws?

Answer:
The reformers tried to convince people that widow burning, caste distinctions, child marriage, etc had no sanction in ancient texts. Their knowledge of ancient texts gave them immense confidence and moral support which they utilised in promoting new laws. They did not get feared when people raised voice against the reforms they had brought.

Question 4. What were the different reasons people had for not sending girls to school?

Answer:
Vidyasagar in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and many other reformers in Bombay. (now Mumbai) set up schools for girls.

- When the first schools were opened in the mid-nineteenth century, many people were afraid of them.

- They feared that schools would take girls away from home.
- They would prevent them from doing their domestic duties.
- Girls had to travel through public places in order to reach school. This would have a corrupting influence on them.
- GMs should stay away from public spaces.

Question 5. Why were Christian missionaries attacked by many people in the country? Would some people have supported them too? If so, for what reasons?

Answer:

Christian Missionaries were attacked in the country by many people because they suspected that they were involved in forced conversion and conversion using money power of poor and tribal people from Hinduism to Christianity. If some people supported them, that was because they felt this might improve the economical condition and education of the poor and tribals.

Question 6. In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low"?

Answer:

With the expansion of cities, new demands of labor created. Drains had to be dug, roads laid, buildings constructed and cities cleaned. This required coolies, diggers, carriers, bricklayers, sweepers, rickshaw pullers, etc. This labour came from people who belonged to the "low" caste. They left their villages and small towns and shifted to the cities to get work. Some went to work in plantations in Assam, Mauritius, Trinidad, and Indonesia. Although it was not easy to work in the new locations, poor people saw this an opportunity to get away from the exploitations of the upper-caste.

Question 7. How did Jyotirao, the reformer, justify their criticism of caste inequality in society?

Answer:

Jyotirao Phule, born in 1827, was the most vocal amongst the "Low-caste" leaders.

- He attacked the Brahmans' claim of their superiority to others. He argued the Aryans were foreigners, who came from outside the subcontinent.
- They defeated and subjugated the true children of the country and looked at the defeated population as inferior.
- According to Phule, the "upper" castes had no right to their land and power. In reality, the land belonged to the so-called low castes.
- Phule opined that there existed a golden age when warrior-peasants tilled the land and ruled the Maratha countryside in just and fairways.
- He proposed that the Shudras (labouring castes) and Ati Shudras (untouchables) should unite to challenge caste discrimination.
- The Satyashodhak Samaj association founded by Phule propagated caste equality.

Question 8. Why did Phule dedicate his book Gulamgiri to the American movement to free slaves?

Answer:

Jyotirao Phule wrote a book in 1873. He named the book Gulamgiri meaning slavery. Some ten years before this, the American Civil War had been fought, leading to the end of slavery in America. Phule dedicated his book to all those Americans who had fought to free slaves. He did this in order to establish a link between the conditions of the lower castes in India and the black slaves in America.

Question 9. What did Ambedkar want to achieve through the temple entry movement?

Answer:

Ambedkar was born into a Mahar family. In childhood, he experienced various forms of caste prejudice in his everyday life.

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