



CLASS - VIII SOCIAL SCIENCE NOTES JANUARY

Geography: 5. Human Resources

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. Why are people considered a resource?

Human beings are the most important resource of a nation. They are significant because had they not utilised their brains, the other resources of nature would not have found any utility. In other words, human resource is the ultimate resource.

2. What are the causes for the uneven distribution of population in the world?

Population density depends on the climate conditions and topography of the place, like few people live in high latitude areas, tropical deserts, mountainous 'terrains, and forest areas, whereas a large number of people reside in plains. Fertility of soils, availability of fresh water, minerals are other major geographical factors behind this. Some social factors that boost the density of population in a region are better housing, education and health facilities. Places with cultural or historical significance are usually populated. Employment opportunities are another attraction for large chunks of population.

3. The world population has grown very rapidly. Why?

Because of the better food supplies, increase in medical facilities, reduced death rate, birth rate almost remaining the same.

- The difference between birth rate and death rate is called natural growth rate. This natural growth is high due to better medical and food facilities leading to growth in population.
- Many people move from one country to another due to various reasons. This also leads to increase in population of the countries having his immigration.

4. Discuss the role of any two factors influencing population change.

Geographical factors: People prefer to live on plains more than mountains or plateaus and they live more in moderate climates than extreme hot or cold. From the agriculture point of view, fertile lands are preferred. Areas with mineral deposits are more populated.

Economic factors: People prefer to industrial areas since they provide more and better employment opportunities. Due to this, industrial cities are thickly populated.

5. What is meant by population composition?

The structure of the population with various respects like age, sex, literacy, occupations, health facilities, economic condition, etc is called population composition.

6. What are population pyramids? How do they help in understanding about the population of a country?

Population pyramid is also called age sex pyramid. It shows:

- It shows division of population into various age groups like 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years etc.
- It gives the percentage of male female ratio, in each age group.
- It tells about number of dependents-young and old along with number of economically active peoples.
- It helps to understand the economic, health, social structure by indirectly referring to death, birth rate in terms of age and sex.

Civics: 7. Public Facilities

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?

There are few cases of private water supply in the world, because:

1. Private company deals for profit in the market.
2. In the water facility, there is no profit or very less profit.
3. Private companies do not take interest in undertaking no profit or low-profit work.

2. Do you think water in Chennai is available to and affordable by all? Discuss.

Water is not equally available to all citizens in Chennai. Certain areas like Anna Nagar get copious water while areas like Saidapet receive very little water. Municipal supply meets only about half the needs of the people of the city, on an average. Areas that are close to the storage points get more water whereas colonies further away receive less water. The burden of shortfalls in water supply falls mostly on the poor.

The middle class, when faced with water shortages, are able to cope through a variety of private means such as digging bore wells, buying water from tankers, and using bottled water for drinking. The wealthy have safe drinking water, whereas the poor are again left out. In reality, universal access to 'sufficient and safe' water, in Chennai, is still a dream.

3. How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of ground water? Can the government do anything in this regard?

The sale of water by the farmer to the water dealers in Chennai affects the local people as this water is for irrigation as well for drinking for them. So the agricultural crops, as well as people, suffer. Moreover, groundwater levels have dropped drastically.

- Local people can and should object to such exploitation of groundwater.
- The government on their part should restrict the use of groundwater by the individual farmers according to their needs and make strict laws against overuse.

4. Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Because of the following reasons:

- In major cities life is fast. People could not wait for hours together standing in long queues as they have to do in government hospitals.
- They can afford it as they have money to spend.
- City people are more ambitious.

- They expect better facilities in private hospitals and private schools.
- In private schools, infrastructural facilities are more.

5. Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair?

Give an example of your own to explain.

1. Distribution of public facilities such as the right to water, health, education, etc. in our country is not adequate and fair.
2. Major role of government is to ensure adequate public facilities for everyone.
3. But progress in this regard is far from satisfactory.
4. There are inequality and irregularity in the distribution of water supply. Compared to the metropolitan and big cities, towns and villages are provided low water supply.
 - In comparison to wealthy localities, the poorer localities are under-serviced.
 - People living in slums suffer a lot. They are provided with a very low water supply.

Examples

- The posh colonies of Delhi like Anand Niketan have all modern facilities and these facilities are sophisticated.
- Public facilities are lacking in unauthorized colonies.

6. Private educational institutions - schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.

- The government would withdraw from these activities or parents will send their children to private schools.
- Private agencies will be given a boost.
- The money would play an important role.
- Children from the deprived sections of the society would be at loss.
- Less qualified teachers would work in private institutions.
- Malpractices will be encouraged.

History: 8. The Making of the National Movement 1870s - 1947

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. Why were people dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s?

The dissatisfaction against British rule was intensified in the 1870s and 1880s.

1. The Arms Act was passed in 1878, which disallowed Indians from having arms.
2. Same year the Vernacular Press Act was also enacted to silence the critics of the government.
 - The Act allowed the government to confiscate the assets of newspapers including their printing presses if the newspapers published anything "objectionable".
3. In 1883, there was a furore over the attempt by the government to introduce the Ilbert Bill.
 - The bill provided for the trial of British or European persons by Indians, and sought equality between British and Indian judges in the country.
 - But the British (white) forced the government to withdraw the bill. Indians burst into anger. This event highlighted the whim of the British against Indians.

2. Who did the Indian National Congress wish to speak for?

The Indian National Congress wished to speak for the entire people belonging to different communities of India.

3. What economic impact did the First World War have on India?

1. World War I altered the economic and political situation in India.
2. Defence expenditure of the Government of India rose manifold. As a consequence taxes on individual incomes and business profits increased several times.
3. Increased military expenditure and demands for war supplies, resulted in a sharp rise in prices, causing great difficulties for the common people.
4. Demand for industrial goods (jute bags, cloth, rails) and a decline of imports from other countries led to the expansion of Indian industry. So, Indian business groups earned a huge profit.

4. What did the Muslim League resolution of 1940 ask for?

The Muslim League resolution of 1940 asked for “Independent States’ for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of the country. The resolution did not mention partition or the name Pakistan.

5. Who were the Moderates? How did they propose to struggle against British rule?

The Congress in the first twenty years of its formation was “moderate” in its objectives and methods.

1. During this period it demanded a greater voice for Indians in the government and in administration.
 - It wanted that the Indians should be given more representation in the Legislative Councils and given more power.
 - Legislative councils should be introduced in provinces where it did not exist.
 - It demanded that Indians be placed in high positions in the government.
 - For this, it called for civil service examinations to be held in India as well, not just in London.
2. Other demands of the Congress included:
 - The separation of the judiciary from the executive
 - The repeal of the Arms Act and
 - Freedom of speech and expression.
3. The early Congress raised numerous economic issues.
 - The Congress demanded:
 - reduction of revenue
 - cut in military expenditure
 - more funds for irrigation
4. It passed various resolutions on:
 - The salt tax
 - Good treatment of Indian laborers abroad
 - The sufferings of forest dwellers.
5. The Moderate leaders wanted to develop public awareness about the unjust nature of British rule. For this, they published newspapers, wrote articles, and showed the economic ruin of the country by the British.
 - They criticised British rule in their speeches and sent representatives to different parts of the country to mobilise public opinion.
6. Congress talked about many other issues concerned with the Indians, besides those of professional groups, zamindars, and industrialists.
7. The Moderates felt that the British had respect for the ideals of freedom and justice.
 - So they would accept these demands if they made the government aware of the feelings of Indians.

6. How was the politics of the Radicals within the Congress different from that of the Moderates?

The Radicals within Congress cherished different opinions. They had a deep faith in action and wanted to drive away from the foreigners as soon as possible. They criticised the Moderates for their “politics of prayers” and gave emphasis on self-reliance and constructive work. They argued that people must fight for swaraj. Unless they fought against the British rule unitedly, they would not bring independence to their country.

7. Discuss the various forms that the Non-Cooperation Movement took in different parts of India. How did the people understand Gandhiji?

- The leaders of the Khilafat agitation, Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, wished to start a full-fledged Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Gandhiji supported their call. He urged the Congress to campaign against “Punjab wrongs” (Jallianwala massacre), the Khilafat wrong and demand
- Different classes and groups, interpreting Gandhiji’s call in their own manner, protested in their own ways. Thus, people linked their movements to local grievances.

Examples:

- In Kheda, Gujarat, Patidar peasants organised non-violent campaigns against the high land revenue demand of the British.
- In coastal Andhra and interior Tamil Nadu, liquor shops were
- In the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, tribals and poor peasants staged a number of “forest satyagrahas” by sending their cattle into forests without paying grazing fee.
- In many forest villages, peasants declared swaraj and believed that “Gandhi Raj” would be established.
- In Sind (now in Pakistan), Muslim traders and peasants supported the Khilafat call wholeheartedly.
- In Bengal, the Khilafat/Non-Cooperation alliance gave a strong communal unity and strength to the national movement.
- In Punjab, the Akali agitation of the Sikhs removed corrupt mahants—supported by the British—from their gurdwaras.
- In Assam, tea garden labourers shouted “Gandhi Maharaj ki Jaif. They demanded a big increase in their wages. They left the British-owned plantations declaring that they were following Gandhiji’s wish.
- In the Assamese Vaishnava, songs of the period the reference to Krishna, was Substituted by “Gandhi Raja”.

Understanding of Gandhiji by the people

- People thought of Gandhiji as a messiah, as someone who could help them overcome their misery and poverty.
- Gandhiji wished to build class unity, not class conflict, yet peasants could imagine that he would help them in their fight against zamindars.
- Agricultural labourers believed Mahatma Gandhi would provide them land and get taxes reduced.
- Common people credited Gandhiji with their own.

8. Why did Gandhiji choose to break the salt law?

Gandhiji was very much worried about the salt law. According to this law, the state had a monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt. Gandhiji thought that it was sinful to tax salt because it is an essential item of our food and is required equally by the rich and the poor. Hence he decided to break this law in anticipation that people

from all walks of life would extend their support. Needless to say that Gandhiji's Salt March became very successful.

9. Discuss those developments of the 1937-47 period that led to the creation of Pakistan.

Developments of 1937-1947 period Leading to the creation of Pakistan:

- Muslim league was formed in 1906 but Congress's failure to mobilise the Muslim masses in the 1920s allowed the League to widen its social support.
- In Election results of 1937, they got very less seats, even in areas where a large number of Muslims lived, made them feel as a minority community.
- In 1940 two nation theory was floated by them.
- Elections to the provinces were again held in 1946. Congress did well in the "General" constituencies but the the league's success in the seats reserved for Muslims was spectacular. So the league persisted with its demand for "Pakistan".
- In March 1946 the British cabinet sent a three-member mission to Delhi to examine this demand and to suggest a suitable political framework for a free India.
- After the failure of the Cabinet Mission, the Muslim League decided on mass agitation for winning its Pakistan demand and announced 16 August 1946 as "Direct Action Day".
- On this day riots broke out in Calcutta, lasting several days and resulting in the death of thousands of people, mostly Hindus.
- By March 1947 violence spread to different parts of northern India.
- With mass agitation, India was partitioned in 1947 and Pakistan was born.