



Lucknow IAS Academy



Mains Answer Writing Practice

Day 4

Modern History

Specific Instructions for Mains answer writing:**Introduction –**

Keep it short not more than 2, 3 lines. This is just an example. You can use your own introduction

Body –

First understand the demand of the question. Directly hit the demand of the questions, use headings and subheadings as necessary.

Keyword –

Here we have to make a comment about the statement. Comment means commentary - So break the whole statement into parts and give the details of it.

Write in points below each heading. Don't forget to support your points with example.

Way of Highlighting Keywords - Use underline, Encircling the whole word in rectangular box and writing the word in CAPITAL LETTER. Don't use one method more than two times on one page.

Heading one - details/Examples

Heading two- Give details Examples **Heading three** -Give details\ Examples

Conclusion:

Connect it with what happened after that or present.

Q1: Decline of Mughal Empire reflected the structural weakness of the socio economic and political system of 18th century India. Discuss.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Aurangzeb's death marked the end of an era in Indian history. When Aurangzeb died, the empire of the Mughals was the largest in India. Yet, within about fifty years of his death, the Mughal Empire disintegrated.

Body:

Reasons for decline of Mughal Empire:

Structural weakness:

Wars of Succession:

The Mughals did not follow any law of succession that led to war of succession and instability in the empire. It additionally inspired effective nobles to assert their independence or take undue gain from succeeding emperors.

Weak Successors of Aurangzeb:

- -The successors of Aurangzeb were weak and worthless.
- -became victims of the intrigues and conspiracies of the faction-ridden nobles.

Group Rivalry at the Court:

The nobles divided themselves mainly in two rival businesses viz. one group consisting of foreign Muslims and the difference that of Indian Muslims. Each of these groups tried to capture the strength of the kingdom for itself.

Weak social system:

- Aurangzeb's spiritual bigotry created trust deficit between Hindus and Mughal Empire.
- This led to loss of support of the Rajputs who had contributed greatly to

the strength of the Empire.

Weak Economic system:

- budgetary challenges due to Aurangzeb's long wars in the south and wars with Sikhs, Marathas, Jats.
- Foreign invasions hastened the process of disintegration and resulted in further drainage of wealth and shook the stability of the empire.

Eg: invasion of Ahmed Shah Abdali.

- grant of jagirs instead of paying directly from state treasury to the officials. 'limited Jagirdari' lands led to a constant clash of interest between the nobles and zamindars.

Administrative weakness:

Rise of regional revolts . Eg: Satnami, the Jat and the Sikh uprisings and Aurangzeb's inability to handle it.

- The Mughal Empire had become too large to be controlled by any ruler from one centre i.e. Delhi.
- the later Mughals were poor administrators. That led to creation of independent states. Eg: Bengal, Awadh.
- The absence an efficient bureaucracy and a capable army made Mughal empire weak as it was not able to suppress revolt and manage such a huge empire.
- Rise of the Marathas and failure to subdue the Marathas. The Attacks of the Marathas in the North weakened Mughal Empire.

Conclusion:

Decline of successful Mughal Empire made the conquest of British in India much more easier.

Q2: Conditions of 18th century India gave rise to many regional powers. Comment.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

During the first half of 18th century, the boundaries of the Mughal Empire were reshaped by the emergence of a number of independent regional states.

Body:

Conditions that gave rise to regional powers:

- Emperor Aurangzeb had depleted the military and financial resources of his empire by fighting a long war in the Deccan.
- The Mughal Empire has become too large to be controlled by any emperor from one centre.
- The later Mughal emperors were worthless and poor administrators. Thus the powerful Nobels asserted their independence in different regions.
- Nobles who were appointed as governors (subadars) controlled the offices of revenue and military administration (diwani and faujdari) which gave them extraordinary political, economic and military powers over vast regions of the Mughal Empire.
- The absence of an efficient bureaucracy and capital army made Mughal empire and difficult to manage such a huge empire.

These states can be broadly divided into three overlapping groups:

States that were old Mughal provinces:

- After Aurangzeb's death, these powerful states asserted their independence as no powerful king was there to contain them.
- Though these were extremely powerful and quite independent, the rulers did not break their ties with the Mughal emperor.

Eg: Awadh, Bengal , Hyderabad.

- States which had enjoyed considerable independence under the Mughals as watan jagirs.
- They also tried to extend their territories by seizing portions of imperial territories neighbouring their watans. Eg: Rajput principalities

Conclusion:

States under the control of the Marathas, Sikhs and others like Jats were of differing sizes and had seized their independence from the Mughals after an armed struggle for a long time.

Decline of Mughal Empire and strong rulers in these states, helped the states in development and exercise of considerable autonomy.



Q3 - Although many European powers aspired to establish their supremacy in India only British succeeded among them. Examine.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Many European powers aspired to establish their supremacy:

The Portuguese:

They were the first one to come to India. Their hold over the coastal areas and superiority in naval power helped them significantly. By the end of the 16th century, the Portuguese brought Goa, Daman, Diu, and Salsette and a vast area around the Indian coast line under their control.

The Dutch:

The main commercial interest of the Dutch lay not in India but in the Spice Islands of Indonesia. They had no dream of establishing an empire in India. They were satisfied with the huge profit earned through business.

The French:

French wanted to control the profitable trade of India and establish there Empire in India

The British:

They came to India as trading entity but soon aspired to rule over India. In the end, they succeeded in subjugating all other European powers in the conquest of India.

Body:

Of all the European Nations who came as traders to India, England emerged as the most powerful and successful by the end of 18th century. There was some major factors which can be attributed for the success of English against other European countries powers in India.

Structure and nature of trading company:

The English East India company was controlled by board of directors whose members were elected annually and shareholders exercise considerable influence. The English East India company was independent of state. The trading companies of France and Portugal were largely owned by estate and their nature was in many ways feudalistic.

Naval Superiority:

- The royal Navy of Britain was largest and most advanced of its Times. It helped in the victory against the Spanish Armada and against French at Trafalgar.
- Industrial revolution: industrial revolution started in England in the early 18th century with the invention of new machines like steam engine. These measures greatly improve the production. The industrial revolution reached other European countries late and this helped England to maintain its hegemony.
- Military skills and discipline: the British soldiers were disciplined, well-trained and technically advanced. The British commanders were strategists who tried new tactics in warfare.

Stable government:

Britain has stable government after glorious revolution of 1688 with efficient monarchs whereas most of the European Nations were facing political crisis till mid-18th century. E.g. Napoleonic wars

Lesser zeal for religion:

Britain was less jealous about religion and spreading Christianity as compared to Spain and Portugal. This makes its rule more acceptable to the subjects than that of other colonial powers.

Use of debt market:

Britain succeeded because it used the debt markets to fund its war. the world's first Central Bank; the bank of England ,was established to sell

government's debt to money markets on the promise of a decent returns on Britain's defeating rivals. Thus Britain was enabled to spend much more on its military than its rivals

Quality of leadership:

Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, Elphinstone, Munro etc. showed high quality of leadership. The British had also advantage of second line of leadership such as Sir Eyre Coote, Lord Lake, Arthur Wellesley etc. who fought for the cause and glory of their countrymen. Other European powers lacked in second line of command.

Conclusion:

Although many European powers aspired to establish their supremacy in India only British succeeded among them due to it's financial, commercial and Strategic edge.



Q4 - Subsidiary alliance was an extended version of Ring Fence policy. Analyse.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

The Ring-Fence policy was a doctrine enacted by Warren Hasting which involved defending their neighbors' frontiers in order to safeguard their own territories. The East India Company would send troops to strengthen the defence of its allies and the expenses for their upkeep would be borne by rulers of such a kingdom. In this way the local ruler would stay dependent on the East India Company for its defence.

Body:

Same policy was extended to neighbouring princely states by Lord Wellesley in the name of '**subsidiary alliance**'. Characteristics of Subsidiary alliance:

- The rulers of Indian state were compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within its territory and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance.
- The Indian ruler had to agree to the posting of a British resident in his court.
- The Indian ruler could not employ any European in his service without the prior consultation with the company.
- The Indian ruler could not go to war or negotiation with any other Indian ruler without consulting the governor general.
- In return for all this, the British would defend the ruler from his enemies and adopt a policy of non-interference in the internal matters of allied states.

Both the policies helped East India Company in expansion of British rule:

- Subsidiary alliance helped in keeping check on French from reviving and expanding their influence in India as around this time the fear of

Napoleons expedition was looming.

- Policy of Ring Fence neutralized the main threat coming from Marathas and Afghan invaders.
- In both the policies, Native rulers had to pay for the maintenance of the British army and in subsidiary alliance there was additional clause that if he failed to make the payment, a portion of his territory was taken away and ceded to the British. Thus subsidiary alliance expanded the companies hold over Indian states and gradually brought more and more territory into the companies fold.
- Both the alliance made the Indian rulers weak and irresponsible, the subjects were exploited and this created the dissatisfaction among population. It gave an excuse to British for annexation. Eg: Awadh
- In subsidiary alliance, the native Indian ruler, lost all of his powers in respect of foreign affairs and the military affairs. Thereafter, he virtually lost all his independence and became a British '**protectorate**'.
- The native rulers were separated from each other thus breaking the unity among them.
- The native rulers were entirely dependent on the English due to the presence of the force within his territory. Therefore, the English gradually became the de facto rulers of his state.
- The Britishers were able to maintain a large military force at the expense of the native rulers. The subsidiary forces which were kept in the territories of different rulers could be effectively utilized by the English against any one of them.

Conclusion:

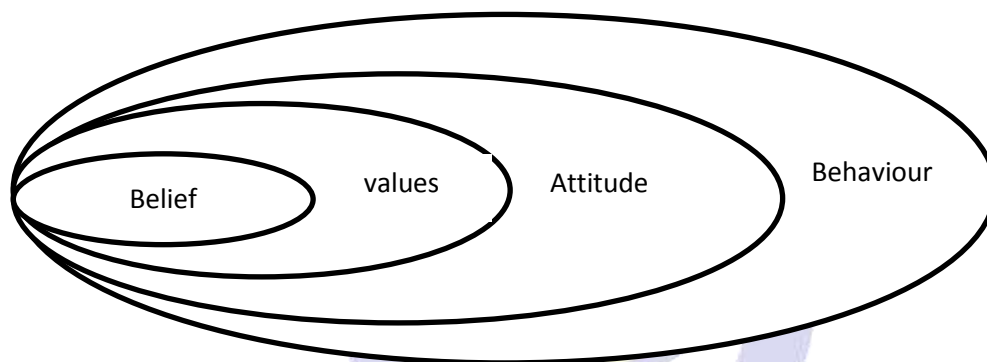
Thus it can be logically concluded that subsidiary lines was an extended version of ring policy.

Q5: Discuss the role of Family and Society in inculcating values?

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Values are abstract things to which an individual or a group of individuals or society attaches importance. In simpler words, values are the worthy things people want to uphold. These values determine the preferences in life and act as a basis for Ethics and morality.



Body

Role of Family in Inculcating Values

A family is a unit of parents and the children and is the foundation on which values are built. Social standards and customs defined by a family provide the emotional and physical basis for children.

Moral values like truthfulness, happiness, peace, justice are instilled in children's thoughts, feelings and actions and they function as ideals and standards that govern their actions in their life.

- Family is the first society for a child. It is the first agency for socialisation for a child.

- Children learn from every action of their parents normally known as copying the adult consciously and unconsciously both. Children copy the value system of their parents
- The influence of family on children is maximum during infancy and toddler age when the child is only exposed to family members.
- Family is available round the clock to solve the dilemmas of children and to guide them properly.
- Ideas passed down from generation to generation make up a family values. Family values enhance the character and turns the children to be good human being.
- Beliefs and trusts built around a family helps the children to be responsible and conscientious adults.
- For example, if elders are respected in the family, then the child also becomes the one to give respect to the elders or the child treats women in the same way as the father treats the mother. If the boy in the family differentiates from the girl, then the same value comes in the child living in it.

Similarly family inculcates following other values:

- non-discriminatory
- feeling of compassion
- Superstition or Scientific Value
- conservative thinking or innovative thinking

Role of Society in Inculcating Values

Society for an individual includes everyone from friends to teachers, from neighbours to classmates, leaders, government servants; everyone outside the family is society. Our beliefs and values develop on the basis of our culture and our culture emerges from society.

Each agency of society contributes in its own to develop our value system in the following manner:

- ❖ Public servants inculcate the values of courage, abiding by the rules and compliance.
- ❖ Society moulds are ethical values by guiding us about what the society feels is right or wrong.
- ❖ Our neighbours are treated as an extended family and help mould our belief system.

The following are other values that we develop from society:

- brotherhood,
- Justice or fairness
- Non-discrimination
- Acceptance
- Recognition
- care to other

Conclusion

Family and society both have a significant bearing not only on our value system but also on our behaviour. We learn from them, we behave based on our learnings, and in case we our wrong they teach us the correct thing. So it is a two way street where both the individual and the society are influenced by one another and evolve as per need basis.



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