

Civilizing the “Native”, Educating the Nation

Q1. Match the following:

William Jones	Promotion of English education
Rabindranath Tagore	Respect for ancient cultures
Thomas Macaulay	Gurus
Mahatma Gandhi	Learning in a natural environment
Pathshalas	Critical of English education

Answer.

William Jones	Respect for ancient cultures
Rabindranath Tagore	Learning in a natural environment
Thomas Macaulay	Promotion of English education
Mahatma Gandhi	Critical of English education
Pathshalas	Gurus

Q2. State whether true or false:

- (a) James Mill was a severe critic of the Orientalists.
- (b) The 1854 Despatch on education was in favour of English being introduced as a medium of higher education in India.
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi thought that the promotion of literacy was the most important aim of education.
- (d) Rabindranath Tagore felt that children ought to be subjected to strict discipline.

Answer. (a) True (b) True (c) False (d) False

Q3. Why did William Jones feel the need to study Indian history, philosophy and law?

Answer. William Jones expressed deep respect for the ancient cultures of both India and the West. Indian civilization, he felt, had attained its glory in ancient times, but declined later. In order to understand India, it was necessary to discover the sacred and legal texts that were created in ancient time. Only those texts can reveal the real ideas and laws of Hindus and Muslims, and only a new study of these texts can form the basis of future development in India.

Q4. Why did James Mill and Thomas Macaulay think that European education was essential in India?

Answer. James Mill and Thomas Macaulay thought that European education would enable Indians to recognize the advantages of expanding trade and commerce and see the importance of developing the resources of the country. The introduction of European ways of life would change their tastes and desires and create demand for British goods, as Indians would begin to appreciate and buy things that were unregistered. This will also improve the moral character of Indians. This will make them truthful and honest and thus supply the company with civil servants who can be trusted and demanded. It can also instill in people a sense of commitment to duty and work and to develop the skills required for administration. The education of English can help establish people. They saw it as the abode of peace, where children could cultivate their naturalness by keeping pace with nature.

Q5. Why did Mahatma Gandhi want to teach children handicrafts?

Answer. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to teach children handicrafts as it would develop their mind and ability to understand. This will also allow them to know how different things operate. This would also enable them to know how different things operated. Only Handicraft should not be taught only mechanically as it is done today scientifically.

Q6. Why did Mahatma Gandhi think that English education had enslaved Indians?

Answer. English education, according to Mahatma Gandhi, used to instill a sense of inferiority in the minds of Indians. This saw them as superior to Western civilization and destroyed the pride of their own culture. Gandhi thought that there was poison in English education and it was sinful, it enslaved Indians, it made a bad impression on them. Followed by the West, appreciating everything coming from the West, educated Indians in these institutions began to praise British rule. Mahatma Gandhi wanted an education that could help Indians restore their dignity and sense of self-respect. During the national movement, he urged students to leave educational institutions to show the British that Indians were no longer ready to be enslaved.