



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Question 1. Why did many Company officials in India want to promote Indian rather than Western learning?

Answer: Many Company officials felt that institutions should be set up to encourage the study of ancient Indian texts and teach Sanskrit and Persian literature and poetry. These officials were of the opinion that Hindus and Muslims ought to be taught what they were already familiar with and what they valued and preserved, not subjects that were alien to them. They believed that only by doing this the British could win the hearts of the Indians, only then they could expect to be respected by their subjects.

Question 2. What were the views of other Company officials?

Answer: Other Company officials did not approve the ideas of the Orientalists. They began to criticise the Orientalist- vision of learning. They saved that the knowledge of the East was full of errors and unscientific thought. They saw Eastern literature as non-serious and light-hearted. So, they argued that it was wrong on the part of the British to spend so much effort in encouraging the study of Arabic and Sanskrit language and literature.

Question 3. Define the term 'vernacular'. Why did the British use this term in colonial countries like India?

Answer: The term 'Vernacular' refers to a local language or dialect as distinct from what is known as the standard language. In colonial countries like India, the British used this term to mark the difference between the local languages of everyday use and English, the language of the imperial masters.

Question 4. What measures were taken by the English Education Act of 1835?

Answer: The following measures were taken under the English Education Act 1835:

- (a) English was made the medium of instruction for higher education.
- (b) Promotion of Oriental institutions like the Calcutta Madrasa and Benaras Sanskrit College was stopped. These institutions were seen as temples of darkness that were falling of themselves into decay.
- (c) English textbooks began to be produced for schools.

Question 5. What measures were taken by the British after issuing of Wood's Despatch?

Answer: Following measures were taken:

- (a) Education departments of the government were set up to extend control over all matters regarding education.
- (b) A system of universities education was introduced. Universities were established in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.
- (c) Attempts were also made to bring about changes within the system of school education.

Question 6. How were the views of Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi on the West different?

Answer: Both Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi thought about education in similar ways. But there were differences too. Gandhiji

was highly critical of Western civilisation and its worship of machines and technology. Tagore wanted to combine elements of modern Western civilisation with what he saw as the best within Indian tradition. He emphasised the need to teach science and technology at Shantiniketan, alongwith art, music and dance.

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