

Case Study Questions

Case Study - 1

'To the altar of this revolution we have brought our youth as incense 'Many nationalists thought that the struggle against the British could not be won through non-violence. In 1928, the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA) was founded at a meeting in Ferozeshah Kotla ground in Delhi. Amongst its leaders were Bhagat Singh, Jatin Das and Ajoy Ghosh. In a series of dramatic actions in different parts of India, the HSRA targeted some of the symbols of British power. In April 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutta threw a bomb in the Legislative Assembly. In the same year there was an attempt to blow up the train that Lord Irwin was travelling in. Bhagat Singh was 23 when he was tried and executed by the colonial government. During his trial, Bhagat Singh stated that he did not wish to glorify 'the cult of the bomb and pistol' but wanted a revolution in society: 'Revolution is the inalienable right of mankind. Freedom is the imprescriptible birthright of all. The labourer is the real sustainer of society ... To the altar of this revolution we have brought our youth as incense, for no sacrifice is too great for so magnificent a cause. We are content. We await the advent of revolution. Inquilab Zindabad!'

(i) Why Hindustan Socialist Republican Army was formed? With reference to the above context.

(ii) Consider the following statements and find the incorrect from the given options.

- Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutta threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly.
- Hindustan Socialist Republican Army was based on the principles given by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Bhagat Singh wanted a revolution in the society

Codes

- Only I
- Only II
- Only III
- Both II and III

(iii) What lessons does Bhagat Singh's life have for modern-day India? Identify the correct option.

- (a) He emphasised on socio-economic changes rather than changing political leaders.
- (b) He inspired the masses to break social barriers of casteism.
- (c) He taught people to shed away the fear of British rulers.
- (d) All of the above

(iv) The HSRA and Bhagat Singh focussed on which section of the society to bring a revolution? Identify the correct option.

- (a) Labourers (b) Leaders (c) Youth (d) Merchants

(v) During whose tenure as the Viceroy of India were the great martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru hanged? Choose the best suitable option.

- (a) Lord Canning (b) Lord Irwin (c) Lord Minto (d) Lord Curzon

(vi) Which of the following were the Revolutionary activities of HSRA? Choose the correct option.

- (a) Central Assembly Bombing Case.
- (b) An attempt to blow up the train that Lord Irwin was travelling in.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).
- (d) Involved in Lahore Conspiracy Case.

Solutions –

- i)** Hindustani Socialist Republican Army was formed to fight against the British colonial rule in India and to achieve independence for the country through an armed rebellion if necessary.
- ii)** (b) Statement II is incorrect. Hindustan Socialist Republican was not based on the Mahatma Gandhi's principle of Non-violence.
- iii)** (d) All the given statements are correct.
- iv)** (c) The HSRA and Bhagat Singh focussed on youth to bring a revolution
- v)** (b) During the tenure of Lord Irwin, Bhagat Singh Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged.
- vi)** (c) The revolutionary activities of HSRA were Central Assembly bombing case and an attempt to blow up the train in which Lord Irwin was travelling.

Case Study – 2

In February 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement. He felt the movement was turning violent in many places and satyagrahis needed to be properly trained before they would be ready for mass struggles. Within the Congress, some leaders were by now tired of mass struggles and wanted to participate in elections to the provincial councils that had been set up by the Government of India Act of 1919. They felt that it was important to oppose British policies within the councils, argue for reform and also demonstrate that these councils were not truly democratic. C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru formed the Swaraj Party within the Congress to argue for a return to council politics. But younger leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose pressed for more radical mass agitation and for full independence. On 31 January 1930, he sent a letter to Viceroy Irwin stating eleven demands. Some of these were of general interest; others were specific demands of different classes, from industrialists to peasants. The idea was to make the demands wide-ranging, so that all classes within Indian society could identify with them and everyone could be brought together in a united campaign. The most stirring of all was the demand to abolish the salt tax. Salt was something consumed by the rich and the poor alike, and it was one of the most essential items of food. The tax on salt and the government monopoly over its production, Mahatma Gandhi declare, revealed the most oppressive face of British rule.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

- (i) What was the reason for suspension of the Non cooperation Movement?**
- (ii) This marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement**
- (iii) In which year the Swaraj Party was formed?**
- (iv)..... and the government monopoly over its production, Mahatma Gandhi declare, revealed the most oppressive face of British rule.**

Solutions:

(i) Chauri-Chaura incidence.

(ii) Dandi March.

(iii) 1923.

(iv) Tax on salt.

Case Study – 3

Read the source given below and answer the question that follows. Source: The Movement in the Towns The movement started with middle-class participation in the cities. Thousands of students left government-controlled schools and colleges, headmasters and teachers resigned and lawyers gave up their legal practices. The council elections were boycotted in most provinces except Madras, where the Justice Party, the party of the non-Brahmans, felt that entering the council was one way of gaining some power-something that usually only Brahmans had access to. The effects of non-cooperation on the economic front were more dramatic. Foreign goods were boycotted. The import of foreign cloth halved between 1921 and 1922, its value dropping from 102 crore. In many places, merchants and traders refused to trade in foreign goods or finance foreign trade. As the boycott movement spread, and people began discarding imported clothes and wearing only Indian ones, production of Indian textile mills and handlooms went up.

(i) Explain the role of 'Justice Party in boycotting of Council elections'.

(ii) How was the effect of 'non-cooperation on the economic front dramatic'?

(iii) Explain the effect of 'Boycott Movement on foreign textile trade'.

Solutions:

Ans. (i) The Justice Party members were non-Brahmans and so far had not been able to win elections, as the Brahman candidates always won. They thought it was a golden opportunity for them to enter the councils. So, they decided not to boycott council elections.

(ii) The effects of Non-Cooperation on the economic front were more dramatic because the movement was started with middle class participation in the cities. Thousands of students left government schools and colleges, headmasters and teachers resigned and lawyers gave up their legal practice.

(iii) The effects of 'Boycott Movement' on foreign textile trade were that the foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops picketed and foreign cloth burnt in huge bonfires.

Source – KVS Raipur Question Bank