

Class 8

Subject : History

CH 7: Civilising the “Native”, Educating the Nation

Exercise Solution

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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 promotion of literacy was the most important aim of education.

(d) Rabindranath Tagore felt that children ought to be subjected to strict discipline.

- Ans. (a) True**
(b) True
(c) False
(d) False

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

Ans. William Jones felt that the study Indian history, philosophy and law would not only help the British learn from Indian culture, but it would also help Indians rediscover their own heritage, and understand the lost glories of their past.

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

Ans. James Mill and Thomas Babington Macaulay thought that European education was essential for India because they were of the opinion that the knowledge of the East was unscientific, illogical and irrational. They argued that the western education was scientific and logical.

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

Ans. Mahatma Gandhi believed that education ought to develop a person's mind and soul. He felt that children needed to work with their hands, learn a useful handicraft and know how different things operated. This would develop their mind and their capacity to understand.

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

Ans. Mahatma Gandhi felt that colonial education had enslaved Indians and created a sense of inferiority in the minds of Indians. It made them

see Western civilisation as superior, and destroyed the pride they had in their own culture. Indians educated in these institutions welcomed everything that came from the West, and started admiring British rule. Gandhiji felt that English education made Indians strangers in their own lands. He wanted an education that could help Indians recover their sense of dignity and self-respect.