

Chapter-1 How, When and Where

- Important Dates:-
 - i. *Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India in 1773.*
 - ii. *In 1817, James Mill published a massive three-volume work, A History of British India.*
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1. **How do we write history?**

we write history by reading some texts of the pasts, reading about the account of traveller, explorers, poets, writeres, etc. Another source of writing history is reading some paintings, looking at sculptures. After we have gathered all the required information we just need a pen and paper to write history.

2. **Why is history devided into periods?**

History is devided into periods in an attempt to capture the important event and charecterestics, and its central features as they appear to us. Each period reflects our ideas of the past and of them show the significance of the change from each period.

3. **What do you mean by periodisation?**

Periodisation refers to the classification of periods based on numerous things such as the rulers in different times, the people who lived, the language that was spoken, the administrative system that was set up. It refers to a set of time in the past that has similar things.

4. *By which criteria do we choose a set of dates as important?*

When we focus on a particular set of events as important, that set of dates appear significant.

5. *What source do historians use in writing about the past?*

Historians use many things to study about past. These writings could be administrative records, surveys that was done once in a gap of some year. Apart from these there were records of writers, novelist, journalist or sometimes records of travellers. So these were the major sources to study about the last 250 years.

6. *Why did surveys become important?*

Surveys become important because the British thought that Indian had to know properly before it could be effectively administrated. By the early nineteenth century detailed were being carried out to map the entire country. These prepared detailed records of the number of people in all provinces of India, nothing information on religion, castes, occupations.

7. *How did historians divide Indian history?*

Historians divided the Indian History into three parts 'Hindu', 'Muslim', and 'British'. They divided on the basis of the people who ruled India.

8. *What do you mean by colonial?*

When the subjugation of one country by another leads to many social, cultural, economical, and political changes which are not good for the inhabitant of that place. The place where these changes take place is called a colonial.

9. *What is the importance of dates in Histories?*

Dates are very important in histories, there are heated debates on years, such that, when a ruler fought a particular, war or the day he was crowned or when he died. These are some very important events in our history and it is very important to know that particular date or a span of time. Dates are also very important in political, social, and communal events.

10. *What was the Mills opinion about the Asian Societies?*

According to Mill the Asian societies were at a lower rate of Civilisation than the European Nations. He observed that religious intolerance, caste taboos, and superstitious practices dominated social life. He felt that India could be civilised in British Rule, but it was necessary to introduce European manners, arts, institutions and laws in India.

11. *What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?*

The problems with the periodisation of Indian history that Mill offers are it is not wise to say that in a period of time only people of one religion or faith lived there, there were people of other religion living there simultaneously. And we could also not characterise an age by the religion of the ruler, because there were people who did not follow the same religion and there were not any note of these people in official records.

12. *Why did the British preserve the official records?*

British preserved the official records because they wrote down every instructions, decision, agreement, investigation etc. And these records could be used later. And through these records all the things could be

debated or studied. British people also preserved these records because these were sources of British dominance in India.

13. *How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police records?*

There will be much difference in the information that we will get from old newspapers to police records.

In police records there would be reports on cases and the judgement and will contain data on the appearance of criminals but on the other hand in newspapers we would get the report on the social situation and economic and political status of the time of a case. It will explain what the people think and what do they do, whereas in police records we could not find it.