



EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Indian Economy on the Eve of Independence

*Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.***FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS**

STATE AT 1947: low per capita income (~₹200/year, 1940s prices), 32-year life expectancy, ~17% literacy, 218/1000 infant mortality, 357 million population

AGRICULTURE: 72% of workforce, ~50% of national income (low productivity per worker)

INDUSTRY: ~10% of workforce, ~17% of national income (small modern sector, declining handicrafts)

SERVICES + INFRASTRUCTURE: ~18% of workforce, ~33% of national income

DEINDUSTRIALISATION: handicrafts destroyed by British tariff policy — not by technological inferiority

DRAIN OF WEALTH (Dadabhai Naoroji): Home Charges + war funding + profits flowed Britain ← India

ZAMINDARI: intermediary landlords extracted wealth from peasants; no reinvestment in productivity

COMMERCIALISATION: peasants forced to grow cash crops (cotton, indigo, jute) at the cost of food crops

FAMINES: 1943 Bengal famine killed ~3 million; frequent regional famines throughout colonial era

FOREIGN TRADE: India = exporter of RAW MATERIALS, importer of FINISHED GOODS. ~50% of trade with Britain

INFRASTRUCTURE: Railways (since 1853), telegraph, post — built for British purposes (troops + raw material transport)

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

- 1 Critically appraise British rule's impact**
6 marks · 95% of years
5-step template: intro thesis + 3 negative impacts + evidence + concede positives + conclusion.
- 2 State of agriculture**
4 marks · 75% of years
Dependence + productivity + Zamindari + famines.
- 3 Why industry was poor**
4 marks · 60% of years
Decline of handicrafts (British policy) + limited modern industry + no capital goods sector.
- 4 Foreign trade pattern**
3 marks · 60% of years
Raw material export + finished goods import + 50% with Britain.
- 5 Occupational structure**
3 marks · 40% of years
72% agri / 10% industry / 18% services. Stagnant despite heavy agri dependence.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

- 0–10 min**
Memorise key numbers: 72%/10%/18% workforce, 50%/17%/33% income shares, 1943 Bengal famine 3M, 32-year life expectancy, 218/1000 IMR.
- 10–25 min**
Write the 6-mark 'critically appraise British rule' answer from memory.
- 25–40 min**
Make a 1-page summary table: Agriculture / Industry / Trade / Demographics / Infrastructure — one sentence each.
- 40–55 min**
Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill.
- 55–60 min**
Review wrong answers.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning. Helpline: +91 70330 05444 · readyforboards.com