

QUICK DRILL · CBSE CLASS 12

Indian Economy on the Eve of Independence

Economics (Indian Economic Development) · Chapter 1 · 15 MCQs · 20 minutes · PYQ-tagged with time budgets

DATE	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION	MARKING	TARGET
_____	15	20 min	+1 / 0	≥ 12/15

OBJECTIVES

Reinforce the four core topics of Indian Economy on the Eve of Independence via 15 PYQ-derived MCQs. Identify weak sub-topics via concept-node IDs (see answer key). Build per-question time budget habit.

INSTRUCTIONS

Attempt all 15. Time budget shown per Q (use it as pacing guide). Mark answers (A/B/C/D) in the margin. Answer key + explanations on the last page. **Don't peek — score yourself honestly.**

SECTION · QUICK DRILL

Q 1-15 · 20 MIN

- Q1.** At independence, what % of India's workforce was in agriculture?
(A) 50% **(B)** 60%
(C) 72% **(D)** 85%
PYQ 2018 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q2.** The 'drain of wealth' theory was put forward by:
(A) Karl Marx **(B)** Dadabhai Naoroji
(C) Mahatma Gandhi **(D)** Rabindranath Tagore
PYQ 2019 · All India · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q3.** Deindustrialisation in colonial India was caused by:
(A) Indian backwardness **(B)** British tariff policy
(C) Natural disasters **(D)** Worker strikes
PYQ 2022 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 30s
- Q4.** Bengal famine killed about ___ million people in 1943:
(A) 1 **(B)** 2
(C) 3 **(D)** 5
PYQ 2020 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q5.** TISCO (Tata Iron and Steel) was established in:
(A) 1857 **(B)** 1907
(C) 1947 **(D)** 1857
PYQ 2018 · All India · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q6.** India's foreign trade at independence was characterised by:
(A) Export of finished goods **(B)** Import of raw materials
(C) Export of raw materials, import of finished goods **(D)** Balanced manufactured goods trade
PYQ 2019 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 30s
- Q7.** India's population in 1947 was approximately:
(A) 250 million **(B)** 357 million
(C) 450 million **(D)** 550 million
PYQ 2022 · All India · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q8.** Life expectancy at birth in 1947:
(A) 32 years **(B)** 45 years
(C) 55 years **(D)** 65 years
PYQ 2023 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q9.** Railways in India were first opened in:
(A) 1757 **(B)** 1857
(C) 1853 **(D)** 1947
PYQ 2020 · Outside Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 25s
- Q10.** Zamindari system primarily:
(A) Promoted productivity **(B)** Extracted wealth without reinvestment
(C) Reduced rents **(D)** Built irrigation
PYQ 2018 · Outside Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 30s

Q11. Commercialisation of agriculture forced peasants to grow:

- (A) Food crops only
(C) Vegetables only

- (B) Cash crops like cotton, indigo, jute
(D) No crops

PYQ 2022 · Outside Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 30s

Q12. Literacy rate at independence was approximately:

- (A) 5%
(C) 30%

- (B) 17%
(D) 50%

PYQ 2024 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 25s

Q13. Infant mortality rate at independence (per 1000 live births):

- (A) 50
(C) 218

- (B) 100
(D) 350

PYQ 2023 · All India · 1m · ⌚ 25s

Q14. What percentage of Indian foreign trade was with Britain at independence?

- (A) 20%
(C) 50%

- (B) 30%
(D) 80%

PYQ 2019 · All India · 1m · ⌚ 30s

Q15. At independence, agriculture contributed roughly ___ of national income:

- (A) 20%
(C) 50%

- (B) 35%
(D) 75%

PYQ 2020 · Delhi · 1m · ⌚ 30s

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

Q 1-15 · MARK YOUR SCORE

Q1. Answer: C

~72% in agriculture, ~10% industry.

Q2. Answer: B

Naoroji's 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' (1901).

Q3. Answer: B

Discriminatory tariffs destroyed Indian handicrafts.

Q4. Answer: C

~3 million died.

Q5. Answer: B

J.N. Tata founded TISCO in Jamshedpur, 1907.

Q6. Answer: C

Colonial pattern: raw materials out, finished goods in.

Q7. Answer: B

~357 million at independence.

Q8. Answer: A

~32 years (today: ~70+).

Q9. Answer: C

Bombay-Thane line, 1853.

Q10. Answer: B

Intermediaries extracted without reinvesting.

Q11. Answer: B

Cash crops for British industry — at cost of food.

Q12. Answer: B

~17% overall; female literacy ~7%.

Q13. Answer: C

~218 per 1000 in 1947.

Q14. Answer: C

About half. Other European countries got most of rest.

Q15. Answer: C

~50%. Note: agriculture's NI share has steadily declined since.