

Chapter 9. The Programme and Achievements of the Early Nationalist

Very Short Questions

Question 1: Name the sections into which the Congress was divided from its very inception.

Answer: The Moderates and the Assertives.

Question 2: During which period did the Moderates dominate the Congress?

Answer: The Moderates dominated the Congress from 1885 to 1905.

Question 3: Name any three important leaders of the Moderates.

Or

Name two leaders of the Moderates.

Answer: The three important leaders of the moderates were:

(i) Dadabhai Naoroji (ii) Surendra Nath Banerjee (iii) Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Question 4: What were the early nationalists called?

Answer: They were called the 'Moderates'.

Question 5: Why were the early nationalists called 'Moderates'?

Answer: The early nationalists had full faith in the sense of justice of the British. For this reason their demands as well as their methods help them in winning the title of 'Moderates'.

Question 6: Who were the Moderates ?

Answer: They were the early nationalists, who believed that the British always show a sense of justice in all spheres of their Government.

Question 7: State any two demands of the Moderates in respect of economic reforms.

Answer: (i) Protection of Indian industries. (ii) Reduction of land revenue.

Question 8: State any two demands of the Moderates in respect of political reforms.

Answer: (i) Expansion of Legislative Councils. (ii) Separation between the Executive and the Judiciary.

Question 9: Mention two demands of the Moderates in respect of administrative reforms.

Answer: (i) Indianisation of Civil Services. (ii) Repeal of Arms Act.

Question 10: What did the Moderates advocate in the field of civil rights?

Answer: The Moderates opposed the curbs imposed on freedom of speech, press and association.

Question 11: Name the moderate leader who explained the economic drain theory during the colonial times.

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji.

Question 12: Who was-called 'The Grand Old Man of India'?

Or

Who was known as 'India's unofficial ambassador in England'?

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji.

Question 13: What according to Dadabhai Naoroji the single cause of India's poverty.

Answer: According to Dadabhai Naoroji the single cause for India's poverty was the faulty economic policies followed by the British in India.

Question 14: Name Dadabhai Naoroji's work, which exposed the economic exploitation of India by the British.

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji's work—Poverty and Un-British Rule in India exposed the economic exploitation of the British.

Question 15: When and by whom was the association of Calcutta organised?

Or

Name the regional association Surendranath Banerjee was associated with.

Answer: The Indian Association of Calcutta was organised by Surendra Nath Banerjee in 1870.

Question 16: Where and when did the National Conference founded by Surendranath Banerjee has its first meeting?

Answer: The National Conference founded by Surendranath Banerjee had its first meeting in Calcutta in December 1883.

Question 17: Who is called the 'Father of the Nationalist Movement' in India?

Or

Name the nationalist leader who was the editor of 'The Bengali' newspaper and who set up the Ripon College.

Or

Name the first Indian who passed the Indian Civil Service Examination.

Answer: Surendranath Banerjee.

Question 18: When was the Servants of Indian Society founded? Who was its founder?

Or

Who founded the servants of Indian Society?

Answer: The Servants of Indian Society was founded in 1906. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was its founder.

Question 19: State the aim of 'The Servants of Indian Society.'

Answer: The aim of 'The Servants of Indian Society' was to train national missionaries for service of India and promote the true interests of the Indian people by constitutional means alone.

Question 20: What did Gokhale do for the farming community in India?

Answer: Gokhale impressed upon the Government to reduce the land revenue and also to repeal the production tax on cotton, as both of these affected the farming community.

Question 21: What did Gokhale advise his countrymen to do for their welfare during the British rule?

Answer: Gokhale was an idealist. He requested his countrymen to be cautious and move slowly. He favoured the use of constitutional means to achieve his aims.

Short Questions – I

Question 1: Mention the main aims of the early nationalists.

Answer: The early nationalists had a three fold aim:

- (i) To educate people in modern politics.
- (ii) To arouse national and political consciousness.
- (iii) To create a united public opinion on political questions.

Question 2: State briefly the attitude of Moderates towards the British.

Or

Mention the reasons for the moderates faith in the British sense of justice.

Answer: The Moderates did not want to overthrow the British rule by violence. They believed in loyalty to the British Government. They believed that the British presence in India was a blessing to Indians and they relied on the British to guide the politics in India.

Question 3: The early nationalists realized that the British Government did not do anything to remove the economic backwardness of the country. They demanded certain economic reforms. Mention any two.

Answer: (i) They demanded the reduction of land revenue and provision of cheap credit to the farmers, and
(ii) They demanded rapid development of modern industries.

Question 4: The early nationalists demanded a few constitutional reforms. Mention any two of them.

Answer: (i) The nationalists hoped that the British Government would allow a larger share of Indians in the government by increasing the number of Indians in the Legislative Councils.
(ii) The nationalists also demanded the separation of executive from judicial functions.

Question 5: Name any four prominent leaders who co-operated with A.O. Hume in launching the Congress.

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji, Badruddin Tyabji, Surendra Nath Banerjee and Feroz shah Mehta were among the various other prominent leaders who worked hard along with A.O. Hume in forming the Indian National Congress.

Question 6: Name the moderate leaders. Why were they called so?

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji, W. C. Bonnerjee, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale were the moderate leaders. They were called moderates because their demands were moderate in nature and they followed constitutional methods.

Question 7: Mention any two achievements of the Moderates.

Answer: (i) The Moderates developed and consolidated the feeling of national unity among Indians.
(ii) They promoted the ideas of democracy, fraternity, civil liberties and representative institutions.

Question 8: Briefly state any two points of criticism levelled against the Moderates.

Answer: (i) The Moderates did not have the support of the masses. The movement did not have wide appeal and the area of their influence was limited to urban community.
(ii) The Moderates used half hearted measures when they were treated with contempt by the British.

Question 9: Brief about the opposition made by the Moderates for defence of Civil Rights.

Answer: Defence of Civil Rights: The moderates firmly opposed the restrictions imposed by the Britishers on the freedom of speech, press and association. They demanded the scrapping of the Preventive Detention Act and restoration of individual liberties.

Question 10: Who organised the East India Association in London? When and why was it organized?

Or

Who founded the 'East India Association'?

Or

Name the regional association Dadabhai Naoroji was associated with.

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji organized the East India Association in London. It was organized in 1866. Dadabhai Naoroji felt that the British were basically just and fair, but he wanted to make the British conscious towards the grievances of Indian people so that they could find a remedy for their ills.

Question 11: Mention two objectives of the congress as enumerated by W.C. Bonnerjee.

Answer: The two objectives of the congress as enumerated by W.C. Bonnerjee are:
(i) To enable National workers from all parts of India to become personally known to each other.
(ii) To end all racial, religious and provincial prejudices and to promote a feeling of National unity among all lovers of the country.

Question 12: Who founded the Indian Association? Why was the Association founded?

Answer: Surendra Nath Banerjee had founded the Indian Association. The Association was founded to fight against injustice. It demanded equal treatment of the Indians with the Europeans while making recruitment to the Indian Civil Service.

Question 13: Mention two acts against which Surendra Nath Banerjee protested?

Answer: In 1877, the age-limit for the civil service examination was reduced from 21 years to 19 years. Surendra Nath made a tour of India, protesting against the reduction of the maximum age limit. He fearlessly criticised such measures as the Arms Act and the Vernacular Press Act, passed in 1878.

Question 14: State two policies of the British which were opposed by Gokhale.

Answer: (i) It was due to Gokhale's untiring efforts that the toll tax was reduced and more Indians were appointed to high posts.
(ii) Gokhale opposed Lord Curzon for dividing Bengal and establishing Government control over universities.

Short Questions – II

Question 1: “Moderates laid the foundation of the National movement.” Discuss.

Answer: Honestly speaking, the early nationalists are to be considered as the builders of modern India. They laid the foundation of a very strong National Movement, which overpowered one of the greatest imperialistic powers of the world and forced to grant independence after having ruled ruthlessly for two hundred years.

The failures of the early nationalists were the source of strength which needed so earnestly to get independence.

Question 2: Mention the methods adopted by Moderates.

Answer: The methods of the moderates were:

- (i) Sending petitions to the Government officials.
- (ii) Sending memorandums to the officers.
- (iii) Passing resolutions.
- (iv) Sending delegations to England.
- (v) Organising meeting in cities, towns and villages, and
- (v) Distribution of leaflets and pamphlets.

Question 3: Mention two contributions of Dadabhai Naoroji to the National Movement.

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji: Contribution:

(i) He founded the East India Association in London in 1866. The association provided information on all Indian subjects to British citizens and Members of Parliament. It voiced the grievances of Indians and suggested remedial measures. The association had its branches in Bombay (Mumbai), Calcutta (Kolkata) and Madras (Chennai).

(ii) He founded the Bombay Association, edited the newspaper Rast Goftar (Speaker of Truth). He started a magazine Dharma Marg Darshak and started movements against the Vernacular Press Act, the atrocious treatment of poor peasants by the Zamindars and raised his voice against the economic exploitation of India by the British which he proved in his book Poverty and Un-British Rule in India.

Question 4: Who was known as “India’s Unofficial Ambassador in England”? What were his views on the cause of poverty in India?

Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji was called India’s Unofficial Ambassador in England. He wrote a book ‘Poverty and Un-British Rule in India’. Through this book he exposed the exploitative nature of the British rule in India. He explained the “Drain of Wealth” and it should be stopped for the development of India. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1892 and presented the cause of the Indian’s Poverty in the house. He wanted that Indians should be appointed to high posts. He helped in the passing of resolution of swaraj, swadeshi, boycott and national education in his presidency. He founded the East India Association.

Question 5: Mention in brief the methods, advocated by Surendranath Banerjee for the attainment of political goals.

Answer: Surendranath Banerjee started the Indian National Conference in 1883, so that the Moderates could discuss all sorts of political problems. He advocated the achievement of his aim through this but when he found that the aims and objectives of his Indian National Conference and the National Union were the same, the two merged with each other to form the Indian National Congress. He advocated constitutional means for the attainment of the political goals.

Question 6: Describe the attitude of the British towards Moderates.

Answer: In the beginning the British were not opposed to the Congress (Moderates). They were provided all facilities to organise sessions of Congress. But, when the Congress leaders criticised some of the policies of the Government and condemned its despotic system, British hostility towards the Congress surfaced. The British used the policy of 'Divide and Rule' to keep the activities of the Congress under control.

Long Questions

Question 1: Why were the early Congress leader called the 'Moderates'?

Answer: The earlier leaders of the Congress were called the Moderates because of their thinking and activities, they were not extreme. In other words, the demand raised by the earlier leaders of the Congress were of moderate nature. Moreover, they used constitutional and peaceful methods like filing petitions, appeals, resolutions etc. Therefore, the period from 1885 to 1905 is generally described as being the moderate phase. The congress was controlled by the Moderate leaders such as Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, W. C. Banerjee, Surendra Nath Banerjee and Madan Mohan Malaviya.

Question 2: Early Nationalist aroused national consciousness by exposing true character of British Imperialism. Discuss.

Answer: Considering all the circumstances we easily can believe that the early nationalists did yeoman service to their motherland. If India could attain her independence without much bloodshed, it was certainly due to the sincere efforts of these early nationalists. They sowed the seeds of patriotism and nationalism among the masses. Although Lala Lajpat Rai Said, 'After more than twenty years of more or less futile agitation for concessions and redress of grievances, they had received stones in place of bread.' But nevertheless, no one can ignore that the nationalists were successful to a great extent in arousing political awakening and national consciousness among the people of India of all shades. They not only spread the idea of civil liberties and democracy among the Indian people, but they also succeeded in exposing the true nature of British imperialism in India. The common people began to believe that the British rule in India was just to carry on economic exploitation of the Indian masses. The people forgot that the British Government ever had any 'benevolent character'.

Question 3: Mention four basic beliefs of the early Nationalists.

Answer: The Early Nationalists believed in:

- (i) Indirect struggle for political liberation.
- (ii) Promoting Nationalism in the minds of Indian.
- (iii) Bringing a large number of public into the forefront of national politics.
- (iv) Training large number of people in politics and political agitation.

Question 4: State the political demands of the Moderates.

Answer: Political Demands:

- (i) The Congress asked for the expansion of the Legislative Councils created by the act of 1861 and make them representatives by including some members elected by local bodies, chambers of commerce, universities etc.
- (ii) They demanded that all legislative measures and all financial questions, including budgets, should be submitted to these councils.
- (iii) Abolition of the Indian Council.
- (iv) Complete separation of executive and judicial functions.
- (v) They laid stress on 'Colonial form of self-Government', which was prevalent in the dominions of Canada and Australia.

Question 5: What were the administrative demands of the early Nationalist leaders?

Answer: Administrative Demands:

- (i) They demanded for wider employment of Indian's in the higher services.
- (ii) Their major demand was Indianization of services through simultaneous ICS examinations in England and India.
- (iii) Repeal of the Arms Act.
- (iv) An increase in the powers of the local (municipal) bodies and reducing official control over them.
- (v) They demanded for more jobs for Indians in the army, and the raising of an Indian volunteer force.

Question 6: Mention the socio-economic demands made by the Moderates.

Answer: Socio-Economic Demands: The early Congress leaders blamed the imperial Government for growing economic backwardness of the country. They demanded economic reforms. Some of them were as under:

- (i) More funds for technical education to promote Indian industries.
- (ii) Abolition of salt tax.
- (iii) Reduction in land revenue and expenditure on military.
- (iv) An enquiry into India's growing poverty and famines.
- (v) Improvement in the conditions of work of plantation workers.
- (vi) To end the unfair tariffs and excise duties.
- (vii) Extension of the permanent settlement assessment.

Question 7: Describe the achievements of the Moderates.

Answer: Achievements of the Moderates:

- (i) Their greatest achievement was that they saved the Indian masses from being misled.

For the first time, they presented Indian demands in organised manner.

(ii) They popularized the ideas of democracy and civil liberties as well as representative institutions.

(iii) The early nationalists succeeded in creating national awakening by arousing among people the feeling that they belonged to one common nation of India. They made Indians conscious of the bonds of common political, economic and cultural interests that united them.

(iv) The Moderates like Justice Ranade and Gokhale advocated social reforms in India. They opposed social evils such as child marriage and supported widow remarriage.

Question 8: Explain the major ideological differences which emerged amongst the leaders within the first twenty years of the foundation of this organization.

Answer: The liberal nationalists did not believe in agitation or unconstitutional means. The Moderates carried their agitation through:

(i) Petitions to high Government officials.

(ii) Resolutions.

(iii) Meetings in towns, cities and the countryside.

(iv) Distribution of leaflets and pamphlets.

(v) Preparing memorandum for the Government Committees, and

(vi) Delegations of leading politicians to England. The memorandum or petitions were nominally addressed to the government. They merely wanted to mitigate the evils of British rule and not to terminate it.

Question 9: Mention the achievement of Dadabhai Naoroji in strengthening Indian nationalism.

Answer: Achievement in Strengthening Indian Nationalism:

(i) He was one of the foremost leaders of the Congress for over 20 years. Thrice he presided over the sessions of the Congress.

(ii) He was one of the earliest Indian leaders to hold the view that the poverty of the Indian people was the result of exploitation of India by the British and the drain of India's wealth to Britain.

(iii) He started movements against the Vernacular Press Act and the atrocious treatment of the poor peasants by Zamindars.

(iv) The credit for demanding Swaraj from the Congress platform (1906) goes to Dadabhai Naoroji.

(v) He helped in making the national movement more vigorous because four resolutions on self government Swaraj, boycott, swadeshi and national education were passed by the Congress under his presidentship.

Question 10: Discuss the political goals of Surendranath Banerjee.

Answer: Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian Association in 1876. He was a great intellectual and the first Indian who passed the Indian Civil Services competitive examination. Due to British discrimination he was rejected on a very flimsy ground. This was a shock to him but at the same time it filled in him the spirit of nationalism. He

decided to educate the Indians about the discriminatory attitude of the English towards the Indians. His political goal encouraged him to start an English daily newspaper under the name, 'The Bengali'. He was a man of talents. He was a first class journalist, a narrator and educationist. All these qualities helped him to achieve his goal of spreading nationalism among people. He forcefully protested the repressive measures of the British Government. He opposed the Vernacular Press Act, the Arms Act And the treatment of the English towards the Indian workers in tea and indigo plantations. He achieved some success towards his political goal.

Question 11: Discuss in brief about the organization, established by Gopal Krishna Gokhale to educate and to arouse national awakening among the people.

Answer: Gopal Krishna Gokhale was one of the greatest moderates among the early nationalists. He fought and struggled hard for national liberation. He was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress. He was always willing to co-operate with the British Government but the same time always eager that the British Government would introduce certain reforms in the Indian administration. He was always so eager that the British Government in all fairness and sense of justice absorbed more and more Indians in the administration by offering them jobs in Civil Services. He established the 'Servants of Indian Society' in 1905. It was his desire that educated Indians be trained so that they may serve their motherland as whole time workers.

Question 12: Discuss the methods, adopted by Gopal Krishna Gokhale to achieve his political objectives.

Answer: Gopal Krishna Gokhale was not only a political thinker but also a great economist of his time.

- (i) He wanted to achieve his political goal by improving the economy of his country.
- (ii) He wanted to abolish feudalism and improve economic conditions of the poor farmers.
- (iii) When he became a member of the Legislative Assembly, he made very strong and forceful commentaries on the prevailing miserable economic condition in the country.
- (iv) He always advocated the growth of industries in the country.
- (v) He was fully convinced that economic growth in the country will always lead to political freedom.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale visited South Africa at the invitation of Mahatma Gandhi to raise his voice against the oppressive laws based on racial considerations.