

PRACTICE SET

British Conquest of Bengal & Battle of Plassey

20 Questions • Mixed Typologies • With Answers

Coverage: Rise of independent Bengal, Murshid Quli Khan, Alivardi Khan, Siraj-ud-Daulah, British presence, Farman/Dastaks, Fort William, Black Hole episode, Treaty of Alinagar, conspiracy and Battle of Plassey.

Pattern note: Questions are designed in the style of UGC NET including single-correct, multiple-statement, assertion–reason, matching, chronology, statement-based, case-based and analytical formats. PYQs are explicitly marked with the year.

1. Single Correct

Murshid Quli Khan is associated with which of the following developments in Bengal?

- (A) Establishment of an autonomous Bengal administration away from effective Mughal central control
- (B) Introduction of the Subsidiary Alliance in Bengal
- (C) Replacement of Siraj-ud-Daulah by Mir Qasim
- (D) Signing of the Treaty of Allahabad

Answer: A

Explanation: Murshid Quli Khan gradually distanced Bengal from Mughal central control and effectively established it as an autonomous state.

2. Multiple Statements – Choose the correct combination

Consider the following statements regarding the administrative measures of Murshid Quli Khan:

1. Rebellious zamindars/jagirdars were replaced by more loyal major landholders.
2. The scope of Khalisa lands was increased.
3. Jagirdars were transferred to the outskirts of the province such as Orissa.
4. Revenue collection was increasingly organised in cash.

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only

- (B) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation: All four statements reflect the administrative and fiscal measures described in the supplied notes.

3. Match the Following

Match List I with List II.

List I: A. Murshid Quli Khan; B. Alivardi Khan; C. Siraj-ud-Daulah; D. Robert Clive

List II: 1. Battle of Plassey; 2. Challenges from Maratha incursions; 3. Administrative consolidation of Bengal; 4. Reoccupation of Calcutta

- (A) A–3, B–2, C–1, D–4
- (B) A–2, B–3, C–4, D–1
- (C) A–3, B–4, C–2, D–1
- (D) A–1, B–2, C–3, D–4

Answer: A

Explanation: Murshid Quli Khan—administrative consolidation; Alivardi Khan—Maratha challenge; Siraj—conflict over Calcutta; Clive—reoccupation of Calcutta.

4. Chronological Order

Arrange the following developments in the correct chronological order:

1. Acquisition of zamindari rights over Govindapur, Sutanuti and Calcutta
2. First English factory in Bengal
3. Farrukhsiyar's Golden Farman
4. Capture of Calcutta by Siraj-ud-Daulah
5. Battle of Plassey

- (A) 2–1–3–4–5
- (B) 1–2–3–5–4
- (C) 2–3–1–4–5
- (D) 1–2–4–3–5

Answer: A.

5. Assertion–Reason PYQ (UGC NET June 2014)

Assertion (A): The British won the Battle of Plassey without any real fighting.

Reason (R): The Battle of Plassey gave the British a political foothold in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

Choose the correct code:

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true, but R is false.
- (D) A is false, but R is true.

Answer: C

Explanation: The reason describes a consequence, not an explanation of the assertion.

6. Statement I–Statement II

Statement I: The British fortification of Fort William became a major source of conflict with Siraj-ud-Daulah.

Statement II: The British undertook the fortification without obtaining the Nawab's necessary permission.

- (A) Both statements are correct and II explains I.
- (B) Both statements are correct but II does not explain I.
- (C) Statement I is correct but II is incorrect.
- (D) Statement I is incorrect but II is correct.

Answer: A

7. Incorrectly Matched Pair

Which of the following is NOT correctly matched?

- (A) Dastak – Pass/document used in connection with Company goods
- (B) Golden Farman – Imperial decree of Farrukhsiyar, 1717
- (C) Treaty of Alinagar – Agreement concluded after Clive's military pressure in 1757
- (D) Fort William – British fortified settlement at Calcutta

Answer: C

Explanation: The Treaty of Alinagar was signed on 9 February 1757; it followed the British reoccupation of Calcutta and preceded the conspiracy and Plassey.

8. Cause–Effect / Multiple Statements

Which of the following factors contributed to the growing conflict between the Bengal Nawab and the East India Company?

1. Misuse of trade privileges/dastaks
2. British fortification of Calcutta without permission
3. British political involvement in the Nawab's court
4. The Company's attempt to strengthen its position amid Anglo-French rivalry

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(D) 2 and 4 only

Answer: C

9. Case-Based Question

A provincial ruler discovers that a foreign trading company is strengthening a fort in his capital without seeking his permission. At the same time, the company's officials are using trade privileges to avoid local duties. Which historical situation most closely resembles this case?

- (A) Siraj-ud-Daulah's conflict with the English in Bengal
(B) Alivardi Khan's conflict with the Marathas
(C) The Third Battle of Panipat
(D) The Anglo-Sikh War

Answer: A

Explanation: The case combines the two issues highlighted in the notes: unauthorised fortification and misuse of Company trade privileges under Siraj-ud-Daulah.

10. Statement-Based

Consider the following statements about the 1717 Farman and dastaks:

1. Farrukhsiyar issued the Golden Farman in 1717.

2. The decree allowed the Company to issue dastaks/passes.
 3. Presentation of dastaks enabled Company goods to receive exemption from local taxes/customs.
 4. The misuse and sale of dastaks later became a source of tension.
- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

11. **Direct PYQ (UGC NET Paper II, 29 August 2024, Shift 1)**

Who seized the English factory at Kasim Bazar, marched on to Calcutta, and occupied Fort William on 20 June 1756?

- (A) Tipu Sultan
(B) Mir Jafar
(C) Siraj-ud-Daulah
(D) Mir Kasim

Answer: C

12. **Chronology of the Road to Plassey**

Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Treaty of Alinagar
2. Conspiracy involving Mir Jafar and other influential figures
3. Siraj-ud-Daulah's capture of Calcutta
4. Battle of Plassey

- (A) 3–1–2–4
(B) 1–3–2–4
(C) 3–2–1–4
(D) 2–3–1–4

Answer: A

Explanation: Calcutta was captured in 1756; the Treaty of Alinagar followed in February 1757; the conspiracy intensified thereafter; Plassey occurred on 23 June 1757.

13. Odd One Out

Which one of the following was NOT a principal figure in the conspiracy leading to the Battle of Plassey?

- (A) Mir Jafar
- (B) Jagat Seth
- (C) Khwaja Petruse
- (D) Tipu Sultan

Answer: D

Explanation: Tipu Sultan belonged to the Mysore context and was not part of the Bengal conspiracy described in the notes.

14. Match Terms with Functions

Match the following:

A. Dastak; B. Khalisa; C. Treaty of Alinagar; D. Black Hole episode

1. Revenue lands under direct control of the Nawab; 2. Pass/document for Company goods; 3. Agreement of 9 February 1757; 4. Controversial episode following the fall of Calcutta

- (A) A–2, B–3, C–1, D–4
- (B) A–1, B–2, C–4, D–3
- (C) A–2, B–1, C–3, D–4
- (D) A–4, B–1, C–2, D–3

Answer: C

15. Analytical Multiple Statements

Which statements best explain why the Battle of Plassey was decided as much by political factors as by battlefield action?

- 1. Mir Jafar was involved in the conspiracy against Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- 2. A large part of the Nawab's forces did not effectively fight for him.
- 3. The British had already built a political network among influential groups.
- 4. The outcome depended only on superior British troop numbers.

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Explanation: The notes emphasise conspiracy, betrayal and political instability. They do not support the claim that the result depended only on troop numbers.

16. **Consequence-Based Question**

Which of the following was an immediate political consequence of the Battle of Plassey?

- (A) Mir Jafar became Nawab of Bengal and the British gained a decisive political advantage
- (B) Mir Qasim immediately became Nawab of Bengal
- (C) The Mughal emperor recovered direct control over Bengal
- (D) The French gained permanent supremacy in Bengal

Answer: A

Explanation: The notes identify the collapse of Siraj-ud-Daulah's position and the installation of Mir Jafar as central consequences of Plassey.

17. **Passage-Based Question**

Read the passage and answer the question

"Negotiations intensified between February and May 1757. The conspirators led by Mir Jafar and Jagat Seth offered the British substantial financial rewards and promised political changes if the Nawab were overthrown."

What does the passage primarily demonstrate?

- (A) The battle was purely a conventional military contest
- (B) Economic interests and court politics were central to the British advance
- (C) The French controlled the Nawab's army
- (D) Murshid Quli Khan personally led the conspiracy

Answer: B

Explanation: The passage highlights the connection between financial interests, elite political alliances and the Company's expansion.

18. Direct PYQ (UGC NET June 2011)

Who among the following had fought the English at Buxar?

- (A) Mir Jaffar
- (B) Siraj-ud-Daulah
- (C) Mir Kasim
- (D) Shujauddin

Answer: C

19. Assertion–Reason

Assertion (A): The Black Hole episode became an important element in the British justification of military intervention in Bengal.

Reason (R): Reports of the episode reached Britain and were used to generate public outrage, although later accounts questioned the scale of the incident.

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true, but R is false.
- (D) A is false, but R is true.

Answer: A

20. Integrated Higher-Order Question

Which sequence most accurately represents the broad transition from commercial presence to political dominance in Bengal?

- (A) Factory → acquisition of Calcutta-area villages → 1717 Farman/dastaks → conflict over fortification and trade → Treaty of Alinagar → conspiracy → Plassey
- (B) Plassey → first factory → 1717 Farman → Treaty of Alinagar → capture of Calcutta
- (C) Treaty of Alinagar → first factory → Plassey → 1717 Farman → conspiracy
- (D) 1717 Farman → first factory → acquisition of villages → Plassey → capture of Calcutta

Answer: A