



History

Paper 1J (AS) Specimen Question Paper

Question 02 Student 2

Specimen Answer and Commentary

V1.0 26/02/16

Specimen Answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

Paper 1J (AS): Specimen question paper

02 'British policies towards India completely changed in the years 1857 to 1877.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

Student response

After the Indian Mutiny of 1857, British policy in India changed a considerable amount however some continuity remained within the colony.

Firstly, the most considerable change was that the British government took rule from the East India Company and established direct rule of India; the 1858 Government of India Act removed power from the chartered company and gave it to the British government. With a monopoly of trade since 1600, the East India Company had increasingly asked the British government for help regarding the governing of the colony; its charter meant that its actions were discussed in parliament allowing the British great influence in India despite indirect rule, however the taking of direct rule after 1857 allowed much change in British policy towards India. On the other hand, many of those who had previously governed India remained the same; the Nawab's still remained to rule India in alliance with the British as well as administrators such as Earl Canning remaining the same, who became Viceroy of India having previously been Governor of India under the East India Company; India was still governed by a foreign power despite changes within the British government. Overall, British policy towards the way Britain ruled India changed a considerable amount due to the 1858 Government of India act establishing direct rule despite some continuity regarding the Nawab's and some British governors like Earl Canning.

Following on from this, reorganisation of the British army meant that all artillery was in the hands of the Europeans as well as Hindu and Muslim regiments being put together in the hope of conflict between the two religions rather than with the British. Additionally, the ratio of British soldiers to Sepoy's was changed to the ratio 2:1 which allowed greater British dominance within the army as well as causing the British and India's to live in fear and mistrust of each other even more. In contrast to this, the fact that the British continued to use the Sepoy's as well as the British army questions the amount of change within the army after 1857. Overall, there was a notable amount of change in British policy towards the army within India such as the ratio change to 2:1 yet the continued use of Sepoy's also shows some continuity also.

Thirdly, Britain began to focus on the material development of India rather than the cultural; missionary activity was curbed and controlled with focus put on the creation of railways and the establishment of irrigation systems within the colony. Furthermore, the British began to respect religions more with Queen Victoria's 1858 proclamation stating that Britain didn't intend to push Christianity into India which had been blamed for the beginning of the Mutiny; many Indians felt they were being forced to adopt an alien culture. On the other hand, despite control, missionaries continued to circulate within India attempting to spread Christianity and subtly 'civilise' the indigenous population as well as a continued lack of cultural understanding towards the Indians which had

reached its peak previously as the spark of the Mutiny. Overall, the change in British policy controlled missionary activity and cultural development yet missionaries still circulated within India showing a continuation also.

Lastly, as previously mentioned, British policy towards the Nawab's was also somewhat changed; many now had to pledge allegiance in Durbars towards the British crown, showing that their real interests lay with the British crown. Nevertheless, the Mutiny had brought many of the Nawab's closer to the British, with many remaining loyal during the revolt despite others rebelling; the British now governed in alliance with the Nawab's. On the other hand, British policy towards the Indian Ryot's (peasants) remained the same; many were continuing to be forced and commanded, by the British, to produce products such as indigo and cotton despite many not wanting to, as well as the Indian market continuing to be swamped by British manufactured goods. Overall, policy towards government with the Nawab's did change with the introduction of Durbars yet not towards the Ryot's with continued force being used to produce certain products within the colony.

To conclude, it is valid to argue that there was considerable change between the years of 1857 to 1877 including the transition between indirect and direct rule of India, reorganisation of the army and material rather than cultural development within the colony. In contrast to this, there was some continuity including the continued use of Sepoy's and governors such as Earl Canning and the circulation of missionaries also. However overall, British policy towards India changed a considerable amount during these years.

Commentary – Borderline Level 3/4

This is a controlled and balanced answer which is consistently relevant and which identifies key elements of change and continuity in relation to the question. It does not always fully develop the points it makes. The assessment, for example, of 'material development' is referred to but very little developed detail is offered. The last paragraph is also somewhat repetitive of points made in the opening paragraph. The answer then, lacks some range (not all relevant issues are referred to) and development and is a borderline Level 3/4 answer.