

## British Colonization of India DBQ

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the questions for each document on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1) Skim the document
- 2) After looking at the questions, read the passage more closely and annotate
- 3) Look at the questions to figure out what information you need to find to support your answer
- 4) Answer the questions, in complete sentences, on a separate sheet of paper. Support your answer with quotes, facts, and references to the document.

\*When citing a document, use **(Doc. \_\_\_\_)** at the end of the sentence

Ex: Many African Americans--such as those in Frankfort, Kentucky--were terrorized for simply living as free people in the American South [Doc. D)

3 points - Questions fully answered AND supported by references to the document

2 points - Question partially answered AND supported by references to the document

1 point - Question partially answered with no (or incorrect) references to the document

0 points - Question not answered, off topic, or answer doesn't make sense

### **Doc. A**

Modern progressive nations (European colonizers) ... seek to control "garden spots" in the tropics. Under their direction, these places can yield the tropical produce that their citizens need. In return the progressive nations bring the people of those garden spots the foodstuffs and manufactures they need. They develop the territory by building roads, canals, railways, and telegraphs. The progressive nations can establish schools and newspapers for the people of the colonies. They can also give these people the benefit of other blessings of civilization which they have not the means of creating themselves.

Source: O.P. Austin, "Does Colonization Pay?" The Forum, 1900 (adapted)

1. According to this author, what are the benefits of imperialism to the colony?
2. What are the benefits of imperialism to the colonizer?

### **Doc. B**

[In this speech, Dadabhai Naoroji, an Indian, describes the effect of imperialism on India. In these later comments, Naoroji stresses the negative aspects.]

To sum up the whole, the British rule has been – morally, a great blessing; politically, peace and order on one hand ... on the other, materially, impoverishment ... The natives call the British system ... "the knife of sugar." That is to say there is no oppression, it is all smooth and sweet, but it is a knife, nevertheless.

...

Europeans (the British) occupy almost all the higher places in every department of government ... Natives, no matter how fit, are deliberately kept out of the social institutions started by Europeans... All they (the Europeans) do is live off of India while they are here.

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When they go, they carry all they have gained.

Source: Dadabhai, Naoroji, Essays, Speeches, Addresses and Writings, Caxton Printing Works, 1887 (adapted)

3. According to Naoroji, how is British imperialism both positive and negative for India?

### **Document C**

...British brains, British enterprise, and British [money] have, in a material sense, transformed the face of India. Means of communication have been developed: innumerable bridges, over 40,000 miles of railway, 70,000 miles of metalled roads, [built by] British engineers. Irrigation works on a [massive] scale have [created] 30,000,000 acres [of farmland], and thus greatly added to the agricultural wealth of a country which still lives mainly by agriculture. But, on the other hand, the process of industrialization has already begun. The mills of Bombay have become dangerous competitors to Lancashire, and the Indian jute [rope] industry is threatening the prosperity of Dundee. Thanks to improved sanitation (much resented by the more ignorant beneficiaries), to a higher standard of living, to irrigation...carefully thought-out schemes for relief work, [and other contributions], famines, which by their regular recurrence formerly presented a perennial [continuing] problem...have now virtually disappeared. To have conquered the menace of famine in the face of greater longevity, of diminished death-rate, and the suppression of war, is a remarkable achievement for which India is wholly indebted to British administration. . . .

Source: J.A.R. Marriott, The English in India, Clarendon Press, 1932

4. According to this author, how did the British help the people of India? Use at least 5 examples.

### **Document D**

British rule brought with it from the West certain standards of humanity that Indian society had not reached. Early action was taken to stop infanticide (the killing of female babies)... The slave trade was ended and the owning of slaves was forbidden... One result of the new order was a steady rise in the value of India's export trade.

Source: Sir Reginald Coupland, India: A Restatement, 1945 (adapted)

6. How does this author portray Indian civilization and culture before being a British colony?