

**Q1 State whether true or false:**

**(a) James Mill divided Indian history into three periods – Hindu, Muslim, Christian.**

**Answer:- False**

**(b) Official documents help us understand what the people of the country think.**

**Answer:- False**

**(c) The British thought surveys were important for effective administration.**

**Answer:- True**

**Q2. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?**

**Answer.** *In his massive three-volume work, A History of British India, James Mill divides Indian history into three periods - Hindu, Muslim and British. According to his prejudiced version of Indian history, the British rule represents all the forces of progress and civilisation, while the period before British rule represents darkness, ignorance, despotism, religious intolerance, caste taboos, superstitious practises, etc. However, the periodisation of Indian History on the basis of religion is problematic for several reasons. A variety of faiths, apart from Hinduism and Islam, existed in the periods categorized as Hindu and Muslim by Mill. Also, it is not right to classify an age according to the religion of the rulers of the time. To do so would suggest that the lives and the practices of the others do not really matter. Another point to keep in mind is that all rulers in ancient India did not share the same faith.*

**Q3 Why did the British preserve official documents?**

**Answer.** *For the British, the act of writing was important. Every official document had to be clearly written up and preserved. Once this was done, things could be properly studied and debated. The preserved documents could be used as a point of reference whenever.*

**Q4:- How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police reports?**

**Answer.** Historian also goes through the unofficial records relating to that period, like the diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims and travelers, autobiographies of important personalities, popular booklets, newspapers, etc. Unlike the restricted nature of official documents like police records, recordings such as newspapers have the advantage of providing varied information to the historian. However, it would not be right to say that such information represents the complete truth. Even a newspaper report may be influenced by the biases and interests of the person writing report.

**Q5. Can you think of examples of surveys in your world today? Think about how toy companies get information about what young people enjoy playing with or how the government ends out about the number of young people in school. What can a historian derive from such surveys?**

**Answer.** In the present day scenario various kinds of surveys are carried on both by the government as well as private enterprises. The government surveys include census in which various details of a family are collected. Private companies also carry surveys for the use of their products and to and the prospective customers. We can take example of the toy companies. These companies prepare a questionnaire and put them on a sheet of paper. They engage a number of representatives. For this purpose that visit school and distribute these papers among young people after the school is over. Young people are asked to take or cross options of their choice. Then they get these papers back through which they derive their conclusion about the toy liked by young people. The government carries out census every 10 years. Each household provides details of its children. It is from this detail that the government comes to know about the number of young people in the school. Historians study these data and come to know about the education level and other details.

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