Q3. What were the main causes of India's agricultural stagnation during the colonial period? Ans. Indian agriculture was primitive and stagnant. The main causes of stagnation of agriculture sector were as follows:

1. **Land Tenure System:** There were three forms of Land tenure system introduced by the British rulers in India. These were:
   (a) Zamindari system
   (b)Mahalwarisystem
   (c)Ryotwarisystem
   In the Zamindari system, Zamindars or landlords were the owners of land. The actual collections by Zamindars were much higher than what they had to pay to the Government. Zamindari system led to multiplication of middlemen between cultivators and Government, absentee landlordism, exploitation of peasants by unsympathetic agents and enmity between landlords and tenants. Under the system, intermediaries benefited at the cost of both actual cultivators and the state.

2. **Commercialization of Agriculture:** Commercialization of agriculture means production of crops for sale in the market rather than for self consumption. Farmers were forced to cultivate commercial crops like Indigo. Indigo was required by the textile industry in Britain for dyeing of the textile. As a result, there was fall in the production of food crops. The farmers had to suffer

   from frequent occurrence of famine. Indian agriculture was transformed into a raw material exporting sector for England.
3. **Partition of the Country:** Partition of the country in 1947 also adversely affected India's agricultural production. The rich food producing areas of West Punjab and Sindh went to Pakistan. It created food crisis in the country. Also, the whole of fertile land under jute production went to East Pakistan. The jute industry was most severely affected due to partition. Thus, Indian agriculture became backward, stagnant and non-vibrant under the British rule. Indian Economy on the Eve of Independence.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 10 of 14

Q4. Name some modern industries which were in operation in our country at the time of independence.
Ans. The Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) was incorporated in August 1907 in India. It established its first plant in Jamshedpur (Bihar). Some other industries which had their modest beginning after Second World War were: sugar, cement, chemical and paper industries.

Q5. What was the two-fold motive behind the systematic de-industrialization effected by the British in pre-independent India?
Ans. De-industrialisation- Decline of India Handicraft Industry. Britishers followed the policy of systematically de-industrializing India. The primary motive behind the de-industrialization by, the British government was two-fold:

1. To get raw materials from India at cheap rates in order to reduce India to a mere exporter of raw materials to the British industries.
2. To sell British manufactured goods in Indian market at higher prices. In this way, they exploited India through the device of double exploitation.

Q6. The traditional handicraft industries were mined under the British rule. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.
Ans. The main cause of exploitation of traditional handicraft industries was de-industrialisation

Q12. Highlight the salient features of India's pre-independence occupational structure. Ans. Occupational structure means the distribution of work-force among different sectors of an economy. The state of occupational structure on the eve of independence was as follows:

1. **Pre-dominance of Agriculture Sector:** The agricultural sector accounted for the largest share of work-force, which was 72 per cent. The manufacturing and service sectors accounted for 10 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.
2. **Growing Regional Variations:** There was growing regional variation. In the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal, the dependence of the workforce on the agricultural sector declined. On the other hand, there was increase in the share of work force in the agriculture sector in the states of Orissa, Rajasthan and Punjab.
   Thus, India's occupational structure was static and imbalanced.

Q13. Underscore some of India's most crucial economic challenges at the time of independence. Ans. Most crucial economic challenges at the time of independence were:

1. Little industrialization and decline of handicrafts.
2. Low agricultural output and high imports of grains.
3. Low figure of national income and per capita income which showed extreme poverty.
4. Very sluggish economic progress.'
5. Unemployment and underemployment.

6. Very high infant mortality rate, low life expectancy and low standard of living.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 13 of 14

Q14. When was India's first official census operation undertaken?
Ans. First official census was undertaken in the year 1881.

Q15. Indicate the volume and direction of trade at the time of independence. Ans. India has been an important trading nation since ancient times. But the restrictive policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the British government adversely affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade. The state of India's foreign trade on the eve of independence was as follows:

1. **Exporter of Raw Material and Importer of Finished Goods:** India became an exporter of primary products such as raw silk, cotton, wool, sugar, indigo, jute, etc. and an importer of finished consumer goods like cotton, silk and woolen clothes and capital goods like light machinery produced in the factories of Britain. UK was the chief supplier to India contributing to over 31 per cent of total import at the time of independence. The principal item of import was food grains and by 1947 food grain imports had touched the level of 3 million tones.

2. **Britain had Monopoly Control on Foreign Trade**. Opening of Suez Canal in 1869 served as a direct route for the ships operating between India and Britain. The canal connected Port Said on the Mediterranean Sea with the Gulf of Suez. It provided a direct trade route for ships operating between European or American ports and ports located in South Asia, East Africa and Oceania.
   It reduced the cost of transportation and made access to the Indian market easier. In other words, the exploitation of Indian market was now easier. British maintained monopoly control over India's foreign trade. More than half of India's foreign trade was with Britain. British allowed trade with few other countries like China, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Persia (Iran).

Q16. Were there any positive contributions made by the British in India? Discuss. Ans. British rule