

## Chapter 1 How, When and Where

1. State whether true or false:

- (a) James Mill divided Indian history into three periods – Hindu, Muslim, Christian.
- (b) Official documents help us understand what the people of the country think.
- (c) The British thought surveys were important for effective administration.

Answer 1.

- a. False
- b. False
- c. True

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

Answer.

The problem with the periodisation of Indian History that James Mill offers is the superiority of British shown over Hindu and Muslim. James Mill periodized Indian History into Hindu, Muslim and British claiming that it was necessary to introduce European manners, arts, institutions and laws in India. James Mill's views have several defects given below:

- a. He thought that all Asian societies were at a lower level of civilisation than Europe.
- b. According to his telling of history, before the British came to India, Hindu and Muslim despots ruled the country.
- c. Religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstitious practices dominated social life before the British came to India

3. Why did the British preserve official documents?

Answer.

British had preserved official documents as they thought if they write and record everything, it will later be easier for them to study them and debate. According to British, they needed official records of all what they thought was right so that in future, these can serve as proofs of all the decisions they had taken.

4. How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police reports?

Answer.

The difference in the information historians get from old newspapers and that found in the police report is due to the source of information and the tool of reporting. While the information found in old newspapers shows the new editors and reporters' point of views, the police reports were based on facts. The newspaper might not also show the entire story about the incident happened whereas police reports will be detailed and will show the entire society as it is.