

Reading Comprehension Based on Indian National Movement (1885-1947)

Passage 1

Title: The Epoch of the Indian National Movement: A Prelude to Revolution (1885-1905)

Within the annals of historical discourse, the Indian National Movement emerges as an epic saga characterized by unyielding perseverance, fervent zeal, and profound sacrifice. Spanning the latter years of the 19th century to the nascent years of the 20th century, this epoch serves as a seminal prelude to the tumultuous events that would eventually culminate in the overthrow of colonial hegemony.

The genesis of the Indian National Movement finds its genesis in the establishment of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885. This seminal institution, conceived as a conduit for articulating Indian grievances and aspirations within the rigid framework of colonial governance, initially adhered to moderate tenets of petitioning and negotiation. Under the tutelage of luminary figures such as Allan Octavian Hume and Dadabhai Naoroji, the nascent Congress assemblies served as crucibles for the formulation of demands pertaining to representation, economic amelioration, and civil liberties within the confines of British dominion.

However, the disillusionment with the efficacy of moderate methodologies soon burgeoned, as the colonial authorities exhibited an obstinate propensity towards apathy and obstinacy. The economic exploitation of the Indian subcontinent, epitomized by the exsuction of wealth through policies encapsulated within the infamous 'Drain Theory' propounded by Naoroji, served as a catalyst for the burgeoning of nationalist fervor. Furthermore, the racial prejudices and curtailment of civil liberties further ignited the flame of indignation among the indigenous populace, fostering the germination of radicalism and defiance.

The epoch also bore witness to the emergence of dynamic leaders who would come to symbolize the ethos of resistance against colonial subjugation. Figures of indomitable spirit such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Lala Lajpat Rai espoused a more assertive approach, emphasizing the imperatives of self-reliance, cultural resurgence, and mass mobilization. Tilak's resounding proclamation of "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" encapsulated the burgeoning clamor for self-determination, resonating profoundly with the aspirations of millions.

The year 1905 heralded a momentous juncture in the trajectory of the Indian National Movement, with the advent of the Partition of Bengal. This arbitrary demarcation, orchestrated by the colonial overlords for administrative expediency, evoked widespread consternation and ignited mass agitation across the expanse of the subcontinent. The Swadeshi Movement, distinguished by the boycott of British commodities and the propagation of indigenous alternatives, emerged as a potent manifestation of popular discontent, transcending regional and linguistic demarcations.

The fervency of the Swadeshi Movement was further augmented by the concurrent rise of the Swarajists, who advocated for unequivocal emancipation from British suzerainty. Organizations such as the Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar sought to engender revolutionary fervor, resorting to acts of sabotage and armed insurrection against the colonial apparatus. The martyrdom of luminaries such as Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki, who made the supreme sacrifice in the crucible of liberation, served as poignant reminders of the escalating confrontation between the forces of imperialism and nationalism.

In summation, the epoch spanning from 1885 to 1905 stands as a watershed moment in the annals of the Indian National Movement, characterized by a gradual metamorphosis from moderate assertion to radical defiance. It bore witness to the sprouting of nationalist fervor, the crystallization of ideological currents, and the ascendance of iconic leaders who would chart the course of the struggle for emancipation. Despite the vicissitudes and tribulations encountered, this period laid the foundational bedrock for the subsequent phase of mass mobilization and intensified resistance that would ultimately herald the dawn of independence.

- 1) What was the primary objective of the Indian National Congress upon its inception in 1885?
 - a) To effectuate immediate cessation from British dominion
 - b) To promulgate moderate reforms within the colonial apparatus
 - c) To instigate armed insurrections against British colonialism
 - d) To foment religious sectarianism among indigenous communities
- 2) Which event delineated a watershed moment in the Indian National Movement in the year 1905?
 - a) The inception of the Swarajists
 - b) The Partition of Bengal
 - c) The assassination of a British dignitary
 - d) The promulgation of the Morley-Minto Reforms
- 3) Who among the following stalwarts famously articulated, "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it"?
 - a) Dadabhai Naoroji
 - b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- c) Bipin Chandra Pal
- d) Lala Lajpat Rai

- 4) Which movement burgeoned in response to the Partition of Bengal in 1905?
- a) Quit India Movement
 - b) Non-Cooperation Movement
 - c) Swadeshi Movement
 - d) Civil Disobedience Movement

Difficult word meanings used in the passage:

1. **Perseverance:** Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.
2. **Zeal:** Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective.
3. **Seminal:** Highly influential in the development of future events.
4. **Nascent:** Just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential.
5. **Conduit:** A channel for conveying something, often used metaphorically to indicate a means of communication or transmission.
6. **Petitioning:** Making a formal request to an authority, typically through a written document, often in the context of seeking redress of grievances.
7. **Colonial hegemony:** Domination or control exerted by one country over another, especially by a more powerful colonial power over a colony or dependent state.
8. **Luminary:** A person who inspires or influences others, especially through their achievements or reputation in a particular field.
9. **Exsuction:** The act of drawing out or extracting, often used in the context of the draining of resources.
10. **Fervor:** Intense and passionate feeling or expression.
11. **Obstinate:** Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action.
12. **Catalyst:** Something that provokes or speeds up significant change or action.
13. **Germination:** The process of sprouting or beginning to grow, often used metaphorically to indicate the initial stages of development or emergence.
14. **Assertive:** Confident and forceful in making one's views or demands known.
15. **Emasculation:** Deprivation of strength or vigor, often used metaphorically to indicate a weakening or undermining of power or authority.
16. **Juncture:** A critical point in time or a crucial stage in a process.
17. **Orchestrated:** Carefully planned and coordinated, often implying manipulation or control.
18. **Consternation:** Feelings of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected.
19. **Manifestation:** An event, action, or object that clearly shows or embodies a particular quality or idea.
20. **Emancipation:** The act of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberation.

Passage 2

Title: The Revival of the Indian National Movement: 1906-1920

The epoch spanning from 1906 to 1920 emerges as a watershed period in the annals of the Indian National Movement, delineated by a resurgence of fervor and ideological ferment. This era witnessed the crystallization of nationalist yearnings and the escalation of anti-colonial defiance, culminating in a seismic shift in the socio-political landscape of the Indian subcontinent. From the inception of the All-India Muslim League to the zenith of the Non-Cooperation Movement, these years epitomized a paradigmatic transition towards assertive mobilization and concerted resistance against imperial hegemony.

The genesis of the All-India Muslim League in 1906 heralded a seminal juncture in the mosaic of Indian polity. Conceived as a bastion for the articulation of the socio-political exigencies of the Muslim populace within the ambit of British suzerainty, the Muslim League sought to safeguard the vested interests of its constituents and advocate for constitutional reforms conducive to equitable representation. The schism engendered by the partition of Bengal in 1905 precipitated a climate of communal discord, and the Muslim League emerged as a pivotal counterbalance to the hegemony of the Indian National Congress, channeling the unique concerns of the Muslim demographic.

Concomitantly, the Indian National Congress underwent a metamorphic evolution, transmuting from a bastion of moderate entreaty to a bastion of mass mobilization and resolute resistance. The epochal inflection point manifested with the advent of the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920, spearheaded by the venerated Mahatma Gandhi. Anchored in the ethos of ahimsa and civil disobedience, the Non-Cooperation Movement endeavored to harness the collective potency of the Indian masses in a unified crusade against the yoke of British colonialism. It encompassed a multifarious array of stratagems, ranging from boycotts of British commodities to non-payment of levies and the voluntary abnegation of titles and accolades conferred by the colonial establishment.

The Non-Cooperation Movement garnered an unprecedented swell of support across the geographical expanse of the subcontinent, transcending linguistic, religious, and socio-economic divides. It engendered a forum for the proactive engagement of women, peasants, and laborers in the pursuit of emancipation, thereby democratizing and decentralizing the fabric of the nationalist struggle. The coalescence of the Khilafat Movement with the Non-

Cooperation Movement, conceived in parallel to protest the dismantling of the Ottoman Caliphate, served as a catalyst for galvanizing Muslim solidarity and fostering interfaith amity in the pursuit of shared political objectives.

However, the fervor of the Non-Cooperation Movement was tempered by its precipitous suspension in 1922, precipitated by the eruption of violence in Chauri Chaura. Mahatma Gandhi, perturbed by the specter of bloodshed, enjoined the cessation of the movement, underscoring the preeminence of non-violence as a moral imperative. Despite its premature denouement, the Non-Cooperation Movement etched an indelible imprint upon the collective consciousness of the Indian populace, instilling a reservoir of solidarity, self-sufficiency, and fortitude in the crucible of adversity.

In summation, the epoch from 1906 to 1920 emerges as a crucible of transformation and upheaval within the Indian National Movement, exemplifying a renaissance of nationalist fervor and resolute defiance against colonial subjugation. It bore witness to the articulation of communal identities, the mobilization of marginalized strata of society, and the proliferation of innovative modalities of resistance. The convergence of the Non-Cooperation Movement with the Khilafat Movement epitomized the burgeoning unity of purpose among disparate segments of the Indian populace, presaging the inexorable march towards self-determination and sovereignty.

- 5) What seminal event transpired in 1906, heralding a significant shift in the political milieu of India?
 - a) The advent of the Indian National Congress
 - b) The partition of Bengal
 - c) The foundation of the All-India Muslim League
 - d) The promulgation of the Morley-Minto Reforms
- 6) What was the primary objective animating the Non-Cooperation Movement launched in 1920?
 - a) To instigate armed insurrection against British colonial hegemony
 - b) To foment communal discord between Hindu and Muslim communities
 - c) To attain independence through non-violent civil disobedience
 - d) To engage in negotiations with the British administration for incremental reforms
- 7) Which movement was initiated concurrently with the Non-Cooperation Movement to protest against the dissolution of the Ottoman Caliphate?
 - a) Quit India Movement
 - b) Swadeshi Movement
 - c) Khilafat Movement
 - d) Civil Disobedience Movement
- 8) Why was the Non-Cooperation Movement abruptly terminated in 1922?
 - a) Due to internal dissension within the Indian National Congress
 - b) Owing to the suppression of the movement by the British authorities
 - c) Following the outbreak of violence at Chauri Chaura
 - d) In response to the successful negotiation of constitutional reforms

Difficult word meanings used in this passage:

1. **Resurgence:** A revival or renewal of activity, interest, or attention.
2. **Fervor:** Intense and passionate feeling or expression.
3. **Ideological ferment:** A state of agitation or excitement characterized by the development of new ideas or beliefs.
4. **Culminating:** Reaching a climax or conclusion.
5. **Seismic shift:** A significant or dramatic change, often likened to the movement of tectonic plates during an earthquake.
6. **Polity:** The form or system of government in a country or organization.
7. **Suzerainty:** A situation in which a state or country has control over another state or country that is internally autonomous.
8. **Constituents:** The people represented by an elected official or organization.
9. **Schism:** A division or disunion, especially within a religious or political group.
10. **Counterbalance:** A force or influence that offsets or counteracts another.
11. **Metamorphic:** Undergoing a transformation or change in form.
12. **Epochal:** Highly significant or momentous.
13. **Ahimsa:** The principle of non-violence, especially as practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and adherents of his philosophy.
14. **Abnegation:** The act of renouncing or rejecting something, often referring to one's own desires or interests.
15. **Stratagems:** Clever or deceitful schemes or strategies.
16. **Expanse:** A wide and open area or stretch.
17. **Transcending:** Going beyond or surpassing.
18. **Democratizing:** Making something accessible to or controlled by the people as a whole.
19. **Galvanizing:** Stimulating or arousing to action.

20. **Indelible:** Not able to be forgotten or removed; permanent.

Passage 3

Title: The Indian National Movement: The Quest for Emancipation (1921-1940)

The interregnum from 1921 to 1940 stands as an epoch of fervent agitation, strategic maneuvering, and ideological ferment within the annals of the Indian National Movement. Characterized by a mosaic of disparate movements, political alliances, and socio-economic transformations, this period witnessed the consolidation of nationalist aspirations and the intensification of anti-colonial resistance. From the impetus provided by the Non-Cooperation Movement to the cresting wave of the Quit India Movement, these years epitomized a relentless quest for emancipation and sovereignty.

The resounding reverberations of the Non-Cooperation Movement, despite its abrupt suspension in 1922, continued to reverberate throughout the Indian subcontinent, catalyzing a plethora of socio-political transformations. The ensuing years witnessed the proliferation of civil disobedience campaigns, spearheaded by stalwarts such as Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, aimed at unraveling the fabric of colonial hegemony. The Salt Satyagraha of 1930, symbolized by the iconic Dandi March, served as a quintessential exemplar of non-violent resistance, galvanizing millions of Indians in a crusade against the oppressive salt tax imposed by the British authorities.

Simultaneously, the landscape of Indian politics witnessed the emergence of alternative strands of resistance, characterized by assertive nationalism and radical fervor. The rise of revolutionary movements such as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), led by luminaries such as Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad, underscored a departure from the Gandhian paradigm of non-violence towards more militant strategies of liberation. The specter of armed insurrection loomed large on the horizon, challenging the efficacy of non-cooperation as the sole modus operandi for attaining independence.

The period also bore witness to the exacerbation of communal tensions, exacerbated by the politics of partition and the stratagems of divide and rule employed by the colonial administration. The demand for separate electorates for Muslims, enshrined in the Government of India Act of 1935, served to deepen the schisms within Indian society and impede the crystallization of a unified nationalist front. The Lahore Resolution of 1940, advocating for the creation of a separate Muslim-majority state, marked a nadir in the trajectory of Hindu-Muslim unity, paving the way for the eventual partition of the Indian subcontinent.

Despite the formidable challenges and fissiparous tendencies, the Indian National Movement persisted in its inexorable march towards independence. The epoch from 1921 to 1940 witnessed the forging of strategic alliances and the mobilization of diverse constituencies, transcending regional, linguistic, and communal barriers. The Congress Working Committee, through its adept navigation of political exigencies and astute leadership, succeeded in consolidating the disparate strands of anti-colonial sentiment into a cohesive force that would ultimately propel India towards the threshold of freedom.

In retrospect, the period from 1921 to 1940 emerges as a crucible of contention and resilience within the Indian National Movement, characterized by a kaleidoscope of ideological currents and tactical permutations. It bore witness to the juxtaposition of non-violent resistance with militant insurgency, the confluence of communal discord with nascent aspirations for unity, and the maturation of India's quest for self-determination on the cusp of liberation.

- 9) What pivotal event symbolized the continuation of the Non-Cooperation Movement after its suspension in 1922?
 - a) The Civil Disobedience Movement
 - b) The Salt Satyagraha
 - c) The Lahore Resolution
 - d) The Government of India Act of 1935
- 10) Who were the key leaders associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) during the Indian National Movement?
 - a) Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru
 - b) Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad
 - c) Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - d) Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- 11) What significant consequence resulted from the demand for separate electorates for Muslims, as enshrined in the Government of India Act of 1935?
 - a) Deepening of communal tensions within Indian society
 - b) Consolidation of Hindu-Muslim unity
 - c) Acceleration of the Indian independence movement
 - d) Attainment of constitutional reforms from the British administration

12) Which event marked a nadir in the trajectory of Hindu-Muslim unity during the Indian National Movement?

- The Lahore Resolution of 1940
- The Salt Satyagraha of 1930
- The Civil Disobedience Movement
- The Quit India Movement

Difficult word meanings used in this passage:

- Interregnum:** A period of time between two distinct regimes or periods of authority.
- Fervent:** Intensely passionate or enthusiastic.
- Agitation:** The act of campaigning or advocating for a cause, often involving passionate or forceful action.
- Strategic maneuvering:** The use of carefully planned and executed actions to achieve specific goals or objectives.
- Mosaic:** A complex mixture or arrangement of diverse elements.
- Disparate:** Fundamentally different; distinct or separate.
- Cresting wave:** A peak or culmination of a particular trend or movement.
- Quest for emancipation and sovereignty:** The pursuit of freedom and self-governance.
- Reverberations:** The continuing effects or repercussions of an event or action.
- Proliferation:** Rapid or widespread increase or growth.
- Satyagraha:** A method of nonviolent resistance developed by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Galvanizing:** Stimulating or energizing into action.
- Quintessential:** Representing the most typical or perfect example of something.
- Strands of resistance:** Different approaches or methods of opposing an oppressive force.
- Luminaries:** Respected or influential figures in a particular field.
- Specter:** A haunting or threatening possibility or apparition.
- Exacerbation:** The worsening or intensification of a situation or condition.
- Schisms:** Divisions or separations, especially within a group or organization.
- Nadir:** The lowest point; the point of greatest adversity or despair.
- Fissiparous tendencies:** Tendencies or inclinations toward division or fragmentation.

Passage 4

Title: The Culmination of the Indian National Movement: 1941-1947

The chronicles from 1941 to 1947 epitomize the zenith of the Indian National Movement, encapsulating a saga of tumult, strategic machinations, and profound sacrifices that culminated in the fruition of India's protracted struggle for emancipation from the yoke of British colonialism. This epoch, marked by tempestuous upheavals and diplomatic intricacies, bore witness to the consolidation of nationalist aspirations and the inexorable march towards sovereign nationhood. From the seminal Quit India Movement to the tumultuous partition of the Indian subcontinent, these years unfolded as a saga of resilience, fortitude, and transformative metamorphosis.

The Quit India Movement of 1942, catalyzed under the clarion call of Mahatma Gandhi, stood as a pivotal milestone in the annals of the Indian freedom struggle. Enshrined within the ethos of non-violence and civil disobedience, the movement aimed at unleashing a veritable tidal wave of mass mobilization, orchestrated to paralyze the machinery of British administration and expedite the process of decolonization. However, the movement encountered the iron fist of colonial repression, leading to a spate of widespread arrests, incarcerations, and acts of brutal suppression perpetrated against peaceful dissenters.

Amidst the turbulence of the Quit India Movement, the Indian National Congress, under the sagacious stewardship of luminaries such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, embarked upon a parallel trajectory of diplomatic negotiations with the British colonial overlords. The advent of the Cripps Mission in 1942 and the subsequent convocation of the Simla Conference in 1945 provided veritable crucibles for the deliberation of proposals aimed at delineating the contours of India's nascent constitutional order. However, the inability to broker a consensus on pivotal issues such as the composition of the constituent assembly and the safeguarding of minority rights underscored the deep-seated fissures and divergent interests pervading the Indian political landscape.

The denouement of World War II in 1945 emerged as a pivotal inflection point that precipitated a seismic shift in British policy towards India. Confronted with the exigencies of post-war reconstruction and the burgeoning clamor for self-rule from its colonies, the British Empire found itself compelled to recalibrate its stance vis-à-vis India. The mounting pressure exerted by nationalist movements within India, juxtaposed against the shifting geopolitical dynamics of the post-war milieu, catalyzed a paradigmatic transformation in British perceptions towards Indian self-governance. The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946 delineated a blueprint for the establishment of a federal union of India, envisaging a polity comprising autonomous provinces endowed with varying degrees of self-governance.

However, the specter of communal schism loomed ominously over the Indian subcontinent, exacerbated by the machinations of partition politics and the pernicious stratagems of divide and rule propagated by the colonial administration. The fervent clamor for a separate Muslim homeland, articulated with increasing fervor by the All-India Muslim League under the leadership of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, gained inexorable traction amidst the escalating

fissures between Hindu and Muslim communities. The promulgation of the Mountbatten Plan in 1947 heralded the tragic partition of British India into two independent dominions, India and Pakistan, precipitating the largest mass migration in human history and the unfathomable loss of millions of lives.

Notwithstanding the dolorous connotations of partition, India emerged triumphant on the eve of August 15, 1947, as the resplendent tricolor flag was unfurled atop the hallowed ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi. This historic moment, resonant with the echoes of valor and sacrifice, heralded the advent of a new epoch of liberty and self-governance. The Indian National Movement, through its indomitable spirit and steadfast commitment to the ideals of liberty and egalitarianism, had at last realized the lofty aspiration of independence, thereby inaugurating a new chapter in the annals of human history.

- 13) What strategic implications did the colonial repression of the Quit India Movement have on the trajectory of the Indian freedom struggle?
 - a) It galvanized international support for Indian independence.
 - b) It fueled internal dissent within the Indian National Congress.
 - c) It precipitated the proliferation of militant insurgencies.
 - d) It accentuated the schism between moderate and radical factions within the nationalist movement.
- 14) During the deliberations of the Simla Conference in 1945, what contentious issues impeded the attainment of a consensus between the Indian National Congress and the British administration?
 - a) The delineation of boundaries between princely states and provinces.
 - b) The formulation of a timeline for British withdrawal from India.
 - c) The composition of the constituent assembly and safeguards for minority rights.
 - d) The allocation of resources for post-war reconstruction efforts.
- 15) What catalytic event in 1945 precipitated a paradigm shift in British policy towards India and hastened the process of decolonization?
 - a) The outbreak of World War II
 - b) The Cripps Mission
 - c) The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi
 - d) The conclusion of World War II
- 16) Which leader spearheaded the demand for a separate Muslim homeland, leading to the eventual partition of British India?
 - a) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - b) Mahatma Gandhi
 - c) Mohammad Ali Jinnah
 - d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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Difficult word meanings used in this passage:

1. **Zenith:** The highest point or culmination of something.
2. **Tumult:** A state of noisy confusion or disorder; chaos.
3. **Emancipation:** The act of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberation.
4. **Protracted:** Extended or prolonged in time; drawn-out.
5. **Decolonization:** The process of undoing colonialism, wherein colonies gain independence from their colonizers.
6. **Clarion call:** A loud and clear appeal or summons, often used metaphorically to indicate a rallying cry for action.
7. **Tidal wave:** A metaphorical term used to describe a powerful and overwhelming force or surge of activity.
8. **Paralyze:** To render someone or something unable to move or function effectively.
9. **Iron fist:** A metaphorical term for harsh and oppressive control or rule.
10. **Repression:** The act of suppressing or quelling something, often through force or coercion.
11. **Sagacious:** Having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; wise.
12. **Crucibles:** Situations or events in which significant change or development occurs, often through intense pressure or testing.
13. **Deliberation:** Careful consideration or discussion of a matter.
14. **Contours:** Outlines or shapes, often used metaphorically to describe the defining features or parameters of something.
15. **Fissures:** Deep divisions or schisms, especially within a group or organization.
16. **Inexorable:** Impossible to stop or prevent; relentless.
17. **Recalibrate:** To adjust or make changes to something in order to bring it back into alignment or proper functioning.
18. **Vis-à-vis:** In relation to; concerning or regarding.
19. **Promulgation:** The official announcement or proclamation of a law or decree.
20. **Triumphant:** Having achieved victory or success; victorious.