INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: History
Chapter 3 Question Bank No:3	Topic: PRINT CULTURE AND THE MODERN WORLD	Year:2026-27

Q1	**Describe the earliest method of print technology in China.** • The earlier kind of print technology was a system of hand printing. • From AD 594 onwards, books in China were printed by rubbing paper also invented there against the inked surface of woodblocks. As both sides of the thin, porous sheet could not be printed, the traditional Chinese 'accordion book' was folded and stitched at the side. • Superbly skilled craftsmen could duplicate, with remarkable accuracy, the beauty of calligraphy.
Q2	**"From the 16th century the volume of print increased in China". Give reasons** • The imperial state in China was, for a very long time the major producer of printing material. China possessed a huge bureaucratic system which recruited its personnel through civil services examinations. • Textbooks for this examination were printed in vast numbers under the sponsorship of the imperial state. • From the 16th century the number of examination candidates went up and that increased the volume of print.
Q3	**"As urban culture flourished in China during the seventeenth century, printing began to serve a broader range of purposes". Justify** • Print was no longer used just by scholar officials. • Merchants used print in their everyday life, as they collected trade information. • Reading increasingly became a leisure activity. The new readership preferred fictional narratives, poetry, autobiographies, anthologies of literary masterpieces, and romantic plays. Rich women began to read, and many women began publishing their poetry and plays. • Wives of scholar-officials published their works and courtesans wrote about their lives. This new reading culture was accompanied by a new technology. • Western printing techniques and mechanical presses were imported in the late nineteenth century as Western powers established their outposts in China. • Shanghai became the hub of the new print culture, catering to the Western-style schools. From hand printing there was now a gradual shift to mechanical printing.
Q4	**"Printing in Japan was not limited to religious purposes; it became a part of everyday life." Justify the statement with examples**. Buddhist missionaries from China introduced hand-printing technology into Japan around AD 768-770 • **Printing moved beyond religion**: Although printing was initially used mainly for Buddhist religious texts, its use gradually expanded to other areas of life. The oldest Japanese book, printed in AD 868, is the Buddhist Diamond Sutra, containing six sheets of text and woodcut illustrations • **Books for everyday readers**: Printed materials included illustrated collections, picture books and stories, which became popular among ordinary people. • **Growth of popular literature**: In Edo (Tokyo), printing helped produce books on topics such as beautiful women, tea ceremonies, musical instruments and cooking, showing that printing catered to everyday interests.

	• **Entertainment and culture:** Printed books and illustrations became a source of entertainment and cultural enjoyment, rather than being restricted to religious teachings. • **Wider access to knowledge**: The availability of printed material allowed more people to read and enjoy books, making printing an important part of daily life in Japan.
Q5	**How did the exchange of goods and ideas along the Silk Route influence the development of printing technology in Europe?** • For centuries, silk and spices from China flowed into Europe through the silk route. In the eleventh century, Chinese paper reached Europe via the same route. • Paper made possible the production of manuscripts, carefully written by scribes. In 1295, Marco Polo, a great explorer, returned to Italy after many years of exploration in China. • Marco Polo brought the knowledge of print to his home town. Italians began producing books with woodblocks, and soon the technology spread to other parts of Europe.
Q6	**How was the increase in demand for books met in Europe in the fourteenth century?** The expanded demand for books in Europe was met in the following ways. • Booksellers all over Europe began exporting books to many different countries. • Book fairs were held at different places. • Production of handwritten manuscripts also continued to meet the expanded demand. Skilled hand writers were employed by booksellers. Sometimes more than 50 scribes were employed by one bookseller. • Woodblock printing was widely used to meet the demand, but in spite of the above efforts, there was still a great need for even quicker and cheaper reproduction of texts which was fulfilled by the development of the printing press by Johann Gutenberg in the 1430s
Q7	**"The production of handwritten manuscripts could not satisfy the ever-increasing demand for books". Explain.** • Copying was an expensive, laborious and time-consuming business. • Manuscripts were fragile, awkward to handle, and could not be carried around or read easily. Their circulation therefore remained limited. • With the growing demand for books, woodblock printing gradually became more and more popular.
Q8	**"The new technology did not entirely displace the existing art of producing books by hand." Explain the statement.** **OR** **How did Gutenberg personalise the technology of Print?** The new Printing technology did not displace the existing art of producing books by hand. • The printed books at first closely resembled the written manuscripts in appearance and layout. The metal letters imitated the ornamental handwritten styles. • Borders were illuminated by hand with different patterns and illustrations were painted. • In the books printed for the rich, space for decoration was kept blank on the printed page. Each purchaser could choose the design and decide on the painting school that would do the illustrations. • No two copies of the first printed Bible were same and every copy was unique, for no one else owned a copy that was exactly the same.
Q9	**'The shift from handwriting to mechanical printing led to the print revolution.' Justify.** Between 1450 and 1550, printing presses were set up in most countries of Europe. • Printers from Germany traveled to other countries-seeking work and helping start new presses. • As the number of printing presses grew, book production boomed. • The second half of the fifteenth century saw 20 million copies of printed books flooding the markets in Europe. • The number of books went up in the sixteenth century to about 200 million copies. • The above shift from hand printing to mechanical printing led to the print revolution. It was a new way of producing books. It transformed the lives of people, changing their relationship to information and knowledge and with institutions and authorities. It opened up new ways of

	looking at things
Q10	**"Printing is the ultimate gift of God and the greatest one." Who remarked this statement and why?** • In 1517, the religious reformer Martin Luther wrote Ninety-Five Theses criticizing many of the practices and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church. • A printed copy of this was posted on a church door in Wittenberg. It challenged the Church to debate his ideas. Luther's writings were immediately reproduced in vast numbers and read widely. • This led to a division within the Church and to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Luther's translation of the New Testament sold 5,000 copies within a few weeks and a second edition appeared within three months. • Deeply grateful to print, Luther said, 'Printing is the ultimate gift of God and the greatest one.' Several scholars, think that print brought about a new intellectual atmosphere and helped to spread the new ideas that led to the Reformation.
Q11	**"Catholic church began to maintain an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558". Give reasons.** **OR** **Who was Menocchio? Why he had to face opposition from the Roman Catholic church?** • Print stimulated even little-educated working people. Menocchio, a miller in Italy, began to read books that were available in his locality and he reinterpreted the message of the Bible and formulated a view of God and Creation that enraged the Roman Catholic Church. • When the Roman Church began its inquisition to repress heretical ideas (Beliefs which do not follow the accepted teachings of the Church) Menocchio was hauled up twice and ultimately executed. • The Roman Church, troubled by such effects of popular readings and questioning of faith, imposed severe controls over publishers and booksellers and began to maintain an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558.
Q12	**"New forms of popular literature appeared in print targeting new audiences in the Eighteenth century". Explain with examples.** New forms of popular literature appeared in print targeting new audiences. • Book sellers employed pedlars who roamed around villages, carrying little books for sale. There were almanacs or ritual calendars (an annual publication giving astronomical data, information about the movements of the sun, moon etc.), along with ballads and folktales. • In England, penny chapbooks were carried by petty pedlars known as chapmen and sold for a penny. • In France 'Biliotheque Blue', low priced small books printed on poor quality paper were bound in cheap blue covers. Romances and the 'histories' which were stories about the past were printed on four to six pages. Books were of various sizes, serving many different purposes and interests.
Q13	**"Tremble, therefore, tyrants of the world!". Who proclaimed this and why?** **OR** **Why did some people in the eighteenth-century Europe think that print culture would bring enlightenment and end despotism?** • This is a statement proclaimed by a French novelist of the eighteenth century – Louise Sebastien Mercier. • By mid-eighteenth century, people started believing that books were a means of spreading progress and enlightenment. They believed books could change the world and liberate society from despotism and tyranny. Mercier and many believed Print to be the engine of progress that would enlighten people to fight against autocratic rule and injustice. • In many of the Mercier 's books heroes are transformed by the acts of reading, and give them strength to fight against despotism.

	• Convinced of this Louise Sebastien Mercier, proclaimed: "Tremble, therefore, tyrants of the world!".
Q14	**"Print culture created the conditions within which French Revolution occurred." Explain** • Print popularized the ideas of the enlightenment thinkers. The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were read widely. These thinkers argued that everything should be judged through the application of reason and rationality. They attacked the authority of the church and the despotic power of the state. • Print created a new culture of dialogue and debate. All values, norms and institutions were re-evaluated and discussed by a public that had become recognized the need to question existing ideas and beliefs. • By the 1780s, there was an outpouring of literature that mocked the royalty and criticized their morality. Cartoons and caricatures suggested that monarchy remained absorbed only in pleasures while the common people suffered. Thus, Print did not directly shape their minds, but it opened up the possibility of thinking differently.
Q15	**Explain the features of handwritten manuscripts before the age of print in India.** • India had a very rich and old tradition of handwritten manuscripts in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, as well as in various vernacular languages. Manuscripts were copied on palm leaves or on handmade paper. • Handwritten were copied on palm leaves or on handmade papers. • Pages were beautifully illustrated. • They were pressed between wooden covers or sewn together to ensure preservation • Manuscripts were available in vernacular languages. • Manuscripts Highly expensive and fragile. • They could not be read easily as script was written in different styles.
Q16	**Trace the growth of print technology in India.** • **Handwritten manuscripts:** India had a very rich and old tradition of handwritten manuscripts in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, as well as in various vernacular languages. Manuscripts were copied on palm leaves or on handmade paper. • **Print came to India:** The printing press first came to Goa with Portuguese missionaries in the mid 16th century. Jesuit priests learnt Konkani and printed several tracts. By 1674, about 50 books had been printed in the Konkani and in Kanara languages. • **James Hicky and print:** From 1780, James Augustus Hicky began to edit the Bengal Gazette, a weekly magazine. • **Print in the 18th century**: By the close of the 18th century, a number of newspapers and journals appeared in print. The first Indian weekly i.e. Bengal Gazette also came into picture in the late 18th century • **Print in the 19th century:** By the end of the 19th century, a visual culture started taking place. By 1870's caricatures and cartoons were being published in journals and newspapers.
Q17	**"Printing technology gave women a chance to share their feelings with the world outside." Support the statement with any five suitable examples.** • **Rash Sundari Debi**, a young married girl in a very orthodox household, learnt to read in the secrecy of her kitchen. Later, she wrote her autobiography **Amar Jiban** which was published in 1876. It was the first full- length **autobiography** published in the Bengali language. • From the 1860s, many Bengali women writers like **Kailashbashini Debi** wrote books highlighting the experiences of women- about how women were imprisoned at home, kept in ignorance, forced to do hard domestic labour and treated unjustly by the menfolk, they generally, served. • In the 1880s, in present-day Maharashtra, **Tarabai Shinde and Pandita Ramabai** wrote with passionate anger about the miserable lives of the upper-caste Hindu women, especially the widows. The poor status of women was also expressed by the Tamil writers. • In the early 20th century, the journals written by women became very popular in which

	women's education, widowhood, widow remarriage, etc., were discussed. Some of them offered fashion lessons for women too.
Q18	**Explain any five effects of spreading of Print culture on poor people in nineteenth century India.** **OR** **Evaluate the impact of Print technology on the poor people in India.** • Very cheap small books were brought to markets in Madras towns and sold at crossroads, allowing poor people travelling to markets to buy them. Public libraries were set up expanding the access to books. • From the late nineteenth century, issues of caste discrimination began to be written. **Jyotiba Phule**, the Maratha pioneer of 'low caste' protest movements, wrote about the injustices of the caste system in his **Gulamgiri**. In the twentieth century, B.R. Ambedkar in Maharashtra and **E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker** in Madras, better known as **Periyar**, wrote powerfully on caste and their writings were read by people all over India. • **Kashibaba**, a Kanpur millworker, wrote and published **Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal** to show the links between caste and class exploitation. • The poems of another Kanpur millworker, who wrote under the name of **Sudarshan Chakr**, were brought together and published in a collection called **Sacchi Kavitayan**. • By the 1930s, Bangalore cotton millworkers set up libraries to educate themselves. These were sponsored by social reformers who tried to restrict excessive drinking among them, to bring literacy and, sometimes, to propagate the message of nationalism**.**
Q19	**"Print played a prominent role in awakening sentiments of Nationalism amongst the Indians". Explain** • Newspapers grew in numbers in all parts of India. They reported on colonial misrule and encouraged nationalist activities. Government's attempts to censor nationalist criticism provoked militant protest. Example, when Punjab revolutionaries were deported in 1907, Bal Gangadhar Tilak wrote with great sympathy about them in his Kesari. He was arrested and this provoked widespread nationalist protests. • The vernacular press brought cases of misrule to the notice of the masses. • After the revolt of 1857, the attitude to freedom of the press changed. Enraged Englishmen demanded a clamp down on the 'native' press. • As vernacular newspapers became assertively nationalist, the British government passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1878.
Q20	**What restrictions were imposed by the Vernacular Press Act on the Indian Press? Explain.** **OR** **In what ways the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was a repressive step by the Government. Explain.** • The British government began to perceive vernacular newspapers as a threat to its rule. This led to the enactment of Vernacular Press Act in 1878. It was based on the Irish Press Laws. • It provided the government with extensive right to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular newspapers. • The government started regularly tracking the vernacular newspapers. • For any report which proved anti-British rule, the newspaper was first warned. • For the second mistake, there was provision to seize the press and confiscate the machinery.