

**SWAMI DAYANANDA COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE,  
MANJAKKUDI**

**(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University)**

**Thiruvarur – 612610**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**SOCIAL HISOTRY OF  
ENGLAND**

**SUBJECT CODE: 16AACEN1**

**MATERIAL PREPARED BY**

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## QUESTION PATTERN

**MARKS: 75**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

**SECTION A: 2 MARKS QUESTION (ALL) - 10 X 2 = 20**

**SECTION B: 5 MARKS QUESTIONS 10 OUT OF 5 - 5 X 5 = 25**

**SECTION C: 10 MARK QUESTIONS 6 OUT 3 – 3 X 10 = 30**

### **SYLLABUS: ALLIED COURSE I – SOCIAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND**

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
<b>UNIT – I</b>	<b>MEDIVAL AND TUDOR ENGLAND</b>
<b>UNIT – II</b>	<b>THE CIVIL WAR AND THE RESTORATION ENGLAND</b>
<b>UNIT – III</b>	<b>THE AGE OF QUEEN ANNE</b>
<b>UNIT – IV</b>	<b>THE VICTORIAN AGE</b>
<b>UNIT – V</b>	<b>TWENTIETH CENTURY</b>

## **PART C – 10 MARKS QUESTIONS:**

### **Write an essay on the impact of Renaissance on the other fields.**

Renaissance not only did impact culture but also it impacted various areas of human interest. It did affect art, education, science, astronomy, maritime activity to name a few. The Renaissance began as a cultural movement in the 1300s in Italy. But it spread to Europe in the 1400s and 1500s. It announced the rebirth or renewed interest in the ancient Greek and Roman culture.

#### **Art**

In art realism replaced artificiality. Life like paintings of human figures and nature echoed the spirit of the Renaissance. Giotto, a Florentine painter painted nature in a realistic manner. Michelangelo sculpted the statue of Moses and painted the ceiling of Sistine Chapel. Raphael painted Madonna and Leonardo da Vinci painted The Last Supper and Mona Lisa. These are a few of the masterpieces of the Renaissance art.

#### **Literature**

Petrarch and Boccaccio were the Renaissance humanists. They revived the ancient manuscripts. Petrarch through his poems and Boccaccio through his stories brought out human feelings. Thomas Wyatt and Earl of Surrey took the sonnet form to England.

#### **Education**

Tudors in England patronized the Renaissance scholars in England. Classics were translated in to English. Learning Greek and Roman works became a fashion. It led to the origin of universities. Universities that day consisted of group of teachers and learners. Halls were rented for lectures. Examinations were in the form of open discussions. Grocyn and Linacre taught Greek at Oxford. Colet lectured on Greek Testament. Colet founded St. Paul's Grammar School. William Lily was its first headmaster. Erasmus was a great scholar. The mother of Henry VII founded two Cambridge colleges Christ's and St. John's.

#### **Science**

The Renaissance gave rise to interest in science. John Gutenberg's invention of printing press contributed to the spread of Renaissance. William Caxton set up a printing press in England. The invention of mariner's compass and telescope led to the growth of science.

#### **Maritime Activity**

New sea routes were discovered. Christopher Columbus discovered America. Vasco da Gama found sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope. Ferdinand Magellan was the first to sail around the world. Sir John Hawkins, **Sir Francis Drake** and **Sir Walter Raleigh** were the other mariners of importance.

## **Astronomy**

The invention of telescope and Copernicus' theory of solar-centered universe led to more breakthroughs in the field of astronomy. In the past the earth was believed to be the centre of the universe. The theory of Copernicus shocked the people.

## **New Learning vs Old Values**

The spirit of enquiry led to new learning. People started questioning old values. It started affecting religion. Later it led to Reformation.

## **Society**

The society was divided in to poor and wealthy and feudal system was in practice. Nobles and barons owned huge estates and lived a lavish life. The men of Renaissance lived life to the full.

## **Bring out the causes and consequences of Reformation in England.**

**Martin Luther** questioned the Catholic doctrines and as a result Reformation was born. But, in England King Henry VIII's personal interests sowed the seed for Reformation to gain ground in England. Initially English scholars were more enthusiastic in the new movement, yet it failed to gain momentum. What began as a religious movement in Germany took a political turn in England? Henry VIII who had been given the title Defender of Faith by Pope Leo X became furious after he was denied the annulment of his marriage to Catherine by Pope Clement VII. Henry's fury put an end to papal authority over the Church in England. The Reformation Parliament summoned by Henry aimed at curbing Pope's power. Henry then decided to proceed without Pope and got married secretly to Anne Boleyn. Henry was against Papal authority at the same time he insisted on his subjects observing Catholic doctrine.

Henry through the Reformation Parliament passed two acts of great importance. They were the Act of Succession and the Act of Supremacy. The Act of Supremacy declared that the king was the supreme head of the Church of England. Englishmen were instructed to refer to the Pope as, '**the Bishop of Rome**'. According to the Act of Succession, the children born of Henry and Anne Boleyn were heirs to the throne.

The dissolution of monasteries put an end to an important form of religious life. Monks and nuns disappeared from the English scene. The monasteries were plundered. Henry's Parliament passed Statue of the Six Articles according to which Catholic beliefs and worship were made compulsory.

Henry's successor Edward VI made the Church of England definitely Protestant. An English Bible was introduced. The Catholic form of worship was strictly banned in England. The

Parliament passed the first Act of Uniformity. This Act introduced a Common Prayer Book in English and made it compulsory and priests were permitted to marry.

The English Reformation was complete during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

## **Chapter 5: The Stuart Age**

### **Anti-Puritan and Anti-Parliament attitude are the bane of the Stuarts. Discuss**

Be it **James or Charles** the enemies are common. The Parliament on the one hand in the political side and the Puritan on the other hand in the religious side have become the bone of contention for the Stuarts.

**James- I** did not take the side of Puritans instead he favored Anglican Church and believed in the doctrine of the rule of the king over the bishops. His stand was clearly stated in the Hampton Court Conference. The Millenary petition did not impact the king. However, he brought out the Authorized Version of the Bible.

The belief in the divine right of the king did not make James any powerful instead it led to hostility with the parliament.

The Parliament in the time of James was not meek but started asserting its power. The theory of divine rights was questioned.

Charles I's ascendance to the crown did not make the monarchy powerful. His belief in the divine rights theory had become irrelevant as the time had changed. He did not have any option other than accepting the dictates of the parliament. He was forced to accept the demands in the Petition of Rights. Later he dissolved the Parliament but Scottish political situation forced him to launch the Long Parliament. Once again, the Parliament emerged supreme.

The enmity between the king and parliament worsened and Civil War broke out and the king was vanquished in the war. Then Charles was charged and executed bringing a temporary halt to the reign of the Stuarts. Then after the death of Oliver Cromwell the seed was sown for the restoration of Monarchy. Charles II became the king. A decay in the morals ensued. All baser forms of play and fun have engulfed the lives of the people. The Puritans were persecuted. The acts of the Queen did not go well with the parliament and her religious affiliation had led to the resentment of the public.

James II did not make any impact on the English life. He was ingloriously dethroned in the Glorious Revolution. Then Mary and William III jointly ruled England. Bill of Rights was passed and the Bank of England was founded. The rivalries of the monarchy against Puritans and Parliament came to an end.

## **Chapter 6: Puritanism**

### **Discuss the Characteristics of the Puritan Age that Prevailed in England.**

The impact of Puritanism was great in the social history of England. The Puritans left their mark on England forever. It is not only a religious movement but also it has left its mark on the political state of England. Puritanism is a spiritual, religious, social and a moral movement.

Puritanism was a religious movement began in England in the 1500s and 1600s a century after Reformation. Puritans were the group of Protestants who wished to purify the Church.

Puritans followed the teaching of John Wycliffe and John Calvin. They believed in the Bible. They were against the rule of bishops. They favoured the rule of the group of elders. They were against Church being reduced to a political body. Thomas Cartwright said the bishops must be unlorded.

Thomas Cartright, Robert Browne and Henry Barrow were prominent Puritan leaders. Elizabeth aimed at controlling Puritans. She appointed Grindal as the Archbishop of Canterbury for that purpose. But Grindal went against the Queen. So, he was replaced by John Whitgift. He persecuted the Puritans.

The Stuarts were against Puritans. James I's anti-Puritan measures forced some Puritans to settle in America. They went to America in a ship named Mayflower. Those who settled in America were called Pilgrim Fathers.

The result of the Civil War made Puritans powerful. In the Civil War the Parliamentary forces won with the help of New Model Army. Puritans emerged powerful when Rump Parliament ruled and at the time of Protectorate under the headship of Oliver Cromwell.

The Puritans were morally strong. They enforced moral codes. They stressed on grace, devotion, prayer and self-examination. Austerity was the keynote of their lives. They disliked ornaments and grand dresses.

During the rule of the Puritans moral codes were strictly imposed. Officials were appointed to enforce them strictly. Theatres were closed. Duelling, horse racing, cock fighting and bear baiting were banned. Sabbath was observed strictly. Individual liberty and the right to free speech were threatened.

The contribution of Puritanism to literature is great. John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* are noteworthy.

The death of Oliver Cromwell led to the decline of Puritan rule. The restoration led to the persecution of Puritans. The Puritan restriction gave way to the licentiousness in the Restoration period.

## **Chapter 7: Colonial Expansion**

### **Give an account of the expansion of colonies by England.**

England became the 'Queen of Seas' owing to its unusual maritime activities. As a result, England succeeded in colonial expansion almost conquering the entire globe. The Tudors played a major role in the overseas expansion of England.

Henry VII contributed greatly to build up a merchant navy. He ordered several fine ships to be built which could be used in war or trade. Henry VII thus laid the foundation for England's colonial expansion. Henry VIII continued his father's work. He inherited seven ships from his father and he increased the number by 53 by the end of his reign. Henry VIII is known as the father of the Royal Navy.

The expansion of overseas enterprise led to colonial expansion. Richard Hakluyt's work inspired many adventurous young men, scholars, statesmen and merchants to invest in overseas trade.

During Elizabeth's reign three famous men were connected with colonization. They were Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Richard Grenville. They made efforts to set colonies in America. The formation of East India Company in 1600 paved the way for colonial expansion in India.

Trade connections with Africa paved the way for the establishment of British power in South Africa. In 1606 two companies were founded in Plymouth and in London to establish colonies in North America. Colonies were established in West Indies. The reign of Charles II saw the colonial expansion in America. The American colonies include North and South Carolina, New Amsterdam and Pennsylvania to name a few.

The causes for colonial expansion can be categorized under three heads—economic, social and religious. With the development of trade new desire arose to exploit the wealth of unknown lands. England was becoming overpopulated. The availability of more resources at the lower cost in the colonies and the possibility of becoming landlord by mere fencing off as much one desired. Persecution in the name of religion led to the fleeing of people to the new found lands.

There might have been numerous reasons for colonial expansion but it made England emerge a superpower in Europe for the next 200 years.

## **Chapter 8: Restoration England**

### **Give an account of Restoration in England.**

In 1660 the monarchy was restored with **Charles II** crowned as king. It was not only the restoration of monarchy but also the restoration of Church of England, the restoration of old social hierarchy and customs.

Restoration politically restored the king, the Parliament and its laws. Ecclesiastically, it restored the position of the bishop, the Prayer Book and the Anglican Church. Socially, it restored the nobles and the gentry to their hereditary place as the acknowledged leaders of local and national life.

### **Monarchy and Parliament**

The Restoration brought about many changes in the powers of the Crown and the Parliament. Monarchy's powers were curtailed and the Parliament started gaining more power. The king was entirely dependent on the Parliament for money. Charles II granted a general pardon to all the old Roundheads, except those who had actually taken part in the execution of Charles I. The Ironside army or Cromwell's cavalry was paid off and dismissed. The political parties were formed. Charles I's supporters in the English Civil War developed into the Tory Party. The supporters of Parliament formed the Whig Party. Lord Danby founded Tory Party. Antony Ashley-Cooper, of Shaftesbury founded the Whig Party.

### **Persecution of Puritans and Dissenters**

In 1661 the **Cavalier** Parliament assembled and passed the persecuting acts known as Clarendon Code which included the Corporation Act, the Act of Uniformity. It is ironical that the act was passed under the name Clarendon who was for mild persecution in line with Charles II. The main objective of the Cavalier Parliament is to restore the Anglican Church. The Corporation Act placed the government of town corporations in the hands of Anglicans. The Act of Uniformity made the Prayer Book compulsory. The Parliament also passed the Quaker Act. Puritans and dissenters were harassed harshly.

### **Sport and Entertainment**

The English turned to all outdoor activities forbidden earlier which included hunting, trapping, snaring and shooting. Gambling and other sports attracted people. Drunkenness and public



brawls were very common. The theatres were opened. The plays were vulgar and far below the literary standards.

### **Scientific Spirit**

The Royal Society was founded in 1662 to encourage physics and mathematics. Issac Newton developed infinitesimal calculus. William Harvey discovered circulation of blood. Robert Boyle gave Boyle's Law. Newton gave laws of motion and gravitation. Edmond Halley studied the movements of comets.

### **Two Great Calamities**

In the spring of 1665, the plague appeared in London destroying 68000 people. The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed London. It destroyed 13,200 houses, 400 streets and 88 churches.

## **Chapter 9: The Age of Queen Anne**

### **Discuss the social life in England in the time of Queen Anne.**

The reign of Queen Anne was a prosperous period. In Queen Anne's time a number of religious societies were formed to strengthen religious life and practice. There was a lot of healthy rivalry between the Anglican Church and the dissenters. There was fierce rivalry between the Tories and Whigs. The Parliament proceedings were forbidden from reporting and there were no public meetings. The pamphlets of literary men brought about the views of the parties which influenced the country.

The important political event that took place during the reign of Queen Anne was the political and economical union of Scotland with England by the Union Act of 1707.

Agriculture expanded greatly. Wheat, barley, rye and oats were cultivated. Corn was exported. Rivers were a popular means of transport. The roads were not in good condition.

Coal mining and cloth trade were two important industries during Anne's time. The cloth merchants found a ready market in American colonies.

The society had three levels, the duke occupied the top, and the squire occupied the middle level and yeoman the lowest level. The dukes lived a life of luxury. The squires had to pay heavy land taxes and force to lead a hand and mouth existence. The yeomen consisted of freeholders and tenant farmers. The freeholders enjoyed the benefit of voting for the Parliament. The tenant farmer neither had the freedom nor the vote.

Education was rooted deeply in the study of classics and classical languages. Women's education was not considered to be important.

During Queen Anne's time marriages were arranged by parents. There were also several runaway marriages. Divorce was rare.

The gentlemen and ladies of Queen Anne's age led a life of luxury and leisure. Playing cards, gambling, drinking, smoking, taking snuff were common. Duelling was common among gentlemen. Cock fighting, horse racing, horse riding, fishing, shooting and snaring birds is very popular. Cricket was a new game that emerged during Queen Anne's time. An important feature of Queen Anne's reign was the establishment of coffee houses.

It was a rich period in literature. Defoe, Dryden, Pope, Swift, Addison, Steele, Wycherly, Congreve dominated the various forms of literature.

## **Chapter 10: Hanoverian England**

### **Give an account of Hanoverian England**

The House of Hanover ruled over England for almost two centuries. The Hanoverian rulers include King Georges I –IV, King William IV and Queen Victoria.

The first two Georges were completely German. They did not understand the English ways. However, the English people accepted them as they were Protestants. The Whigs were responsible for bringing the House of Hanover to England. So, the Georges I and II showed them favour. Almost for a period of fifty years Tories were kept at bay. The Whigs controlled the Crown and House of Commons.

Things turned different for the Whigs with George III's coronation. George III attacked Whigs and brought their reign to an end. George III had been brought up like an English gentleman. He truly loved England. He was affectionately called 'Farmer George'. An event of great historical importance that occurred during the reign of George III was the American War of Independence. England lost its American colonies. It made George III unpopular.

### **The City of London**

London was different from other places of England with its busy roads, magnificent buildings, street lamps and shops. It was the seat of fashion and society. Literature, drama and music flourished in London. Gambling, drinking and snatching were rampant in the society. Most of the writers of the day lived in London and knew each other well due to the coffee house meetings.

### **Literature**

Two important literary developments of the century were the growth of periodical essay and the growth of the novel. The literateurs include, Joseph Addison, Alexander Pope, Congreve,

Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, Laurence Sterne and Fanny Burney. Samuel Johnson became a prominent figure in the literary world with the appearance of **Dictionary** in **1755**. The Literary Club founded in **1760** included Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, Edmund Burke, Adam Smith, Richard Sheridan, Oliver Goldsmith and Sir Walter Scott. Charles Lamb and William Hazlitt were the prominent essayists of that period.

## **SHORT NOTES:**

### **1. THE CAVALIERS AND THE ROUNDHEADS:**

The great Civil War which began in 1642 lasted for more than four years. Englishmen more or less equally divided between king and parliament. Those who fought for the king were called Royalists or Cavaliers that is, horsemen or gentlemen. Those who fought for parliament were nicknamed Roundheads because they were all puritans who cut their hair so short that their heads looked round.

### **2. BLACK DEATH:**

The name is now commonly given to the great plague which devastated most countries of Europe near the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It caused such great mortality in England that it was believed that one man in three died of it. The worst outbreak of this plague was in 1349. The epithet 'black' is of uncertain origin.

### **3. THE CORN LAWS:**

From the fifteenth century attempts were made to protect English farmers by regulating the price at which corn was imported and exported. A new Corn Law Act was passed in 1815 prohibiting the import of corn under eight shillings a quarter. In 1828 a new sliding scale of import duties was imposed. But even then, the interests of the poor were subordinated to those of the farmers. In order to mitigate the sufferings of the poor people some of the champions of the poor like Richard Cobden and John Bright formed the Anti-Corn- Law League in 1839. The failure of the potato crops in 1845 precipitated the matter. During the reign of Queen Victoria Prime Minister Robert Peel repealed the Corn Law in 1846.

### **4. THE WHIGS AND THE TORIES:**

In 1679 a bill called "Exclusion Bill" was introduced in the British parliament. The aim of the bill was to exclude James, brother of Charles II, from becoming the King of England; because he was a Roman Catholic. Those who supported the bill were called 'Whigs' and those who opposed the time Gladstone the 'Whig Party' changed its name to 'Liberal'. In 1870 Disraeli reconstituted the 'Troy Party' under the name 'Conservative'.

## 5. THE ENGLISH COFFEE-HOUSE

The Coffee-Houses were centres of social life. They were first introduced in London in the time of 'Commonwealth' and were much frequented in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, for political and literary discussion and circulation of news. There were different coffee-houses for different classes of people.