

CHAPTER

2

INDIGO

—Louis Fischer

Introduction

Louis Fischer was an admirer of Gandhiji. He met Gandhiji several times and wrote his biography, 'The Life of Mahatma Gandhi'. This lesson 'Indigo' is taken from that book.

Gandhiji considered Champaran a turning point in his life. Probably, it was the turning point in the history of India. Gandhiji visited Champaran in 1917. The British government was well-trenched in India at that time. Indian masses had a deep-rooted fear of the British.

An illiterate man Rajkumar, was greatly perturbed by the injustice meted out to Indian peasants by the British landlords. The cause of the problem was indigo and the greed of the landlords.

The British landlords owned large estates in Champaran. In those days, harvesting indigo was very profitable. The British landlords, through a long-term agreement, forced Indian tenants to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire product to the landlord as rent. Harvesting indigo was an unpleasant job.

However, the things changed. Germany developed synthetic indigo.

Naturally, the prices of indigo were sure to plummet. Harvesting indigo was no longer profitable. Therefore, the landlords offered to release the peasants of the irksome job of harvesting indigo. They demanded compensation for it. Illiterate peasants, who did not know the real motive of the British landlords, gladly agreed to this while there were others who resisted.

Soon, the peasants learnt about the synthetic indigo. Then, those who had paid compensation demanded their money back. The landlords hired thugs to calm them down. The peasants engaged lawyers. At this point, Gandhiji visited Champaran. He felt it was no use going to courts. He wanted to free the peasants from the fear of the British. Gandhiji campaigned their cause and finally succeeded. He remained firm, fearless, and dedicated.

Summary

The annual convention of the Indian National Congress was held in Lucknow in December 1916. A poor illiterate peasant came there to complain against the injustice meted out to the peasants in Champaran. He met Gandhiji. Gandhiji had never heard of Champaran. He had many engagements. So, he did not give any assurance to Shukla, but Shukla was resolute. He followed Gandhiji wherever he went. At last, Gandhiji fixed a date. He told Shukla to meet him in Calcutta on that particular date.

In Calcutta, Gandhiji found Shukla waiting for him. Both of them went to Patna by train. Shukla led Gandhiji to the house of a lawyer, Rajendra Prasad, who later became the first President of India. The lawyer was out of town, but the servants knew Shukla. He had been there several times to request the lawyer to help the indigo sharecroppers. They let them stay on the grounds, as they mistook Gandhiji for another peasant and untouchable. They did not allow them to draw water from the well lest the entire water in the well should become polluted.

Gandhiji decided to break his journey to camp at Muzaffarpur, because he wanted to gather more information that Shukla had been unable to provide. He sent a telegram to Professor J. B. Kripalani whom he had met at Shanti Niketan. Kripalani came to the station with his students to receive Gandhiji. At Muzaffarpur, Gandhiji stayed in the house of Mr. Malkani, a government school teacher. In those days, Indians were afraid to harbour men like Gandhiji who were advocates of home rule, but Malkani had the courage.

The news of Gandhiji's arrival in Muzaffarpur and his mission spread quickly. Sharecroppers came to Muzaffarpur to see him. The lawyers also called on him. They briefed him about their cases. Gandhiji chided the lawyers for collecting heavy fees from poor peasants. He thought the most important thing was to free the peasants from the fear of their British landlords.

British landlords held large estates in Champaran. Indians worked as sharecroppers on their land. By a long term agreement, the sharecroppers were compelled to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire indigo produced to the landlords as rent. Harvesting indigo was an irksome business for the peasants.

Recently, the landlords had heard that Germany had developed synthetic indigo. British landlords knew that the prices of indigo would fall and planting indigo was no longer profitable. They offered to release the sharecroppers from their obligation to harvest indigo. But the Britishers demanded compensation. Many peasants agreed, while a few of them resisted. Soon, the peasants learnt about the synthetic indigo. Those who had paid compensation demanded their money back.

A dispute arose between the landlords and the sharecroppers. The landlords hired thugs. The sharecroppers engaged lawyers.

Gandhiji wanted to get the facts. He visited the Secretary of the British Landlords Association. However, the secretary refused to give any information saying that Gandhiji was an outsider. Gandhiji told him that he was not an outsider.

Then, Gandhiji called on the commissioner of Tirhut Division. He was rude to Gandhiji. He told Gandhiji to leave Tirhut immediately, but Gandhiji did not leave. Motihari was the capital of Tirhut. Gandhiji made it his headquarters. He started his investigations. A peasant was maltreated in a nearby village. Gandhiji decided to go and find the facts, but the police stopped him. He was served with a notice to leave Champaran. Gandhiji wrote back that he would not concede the notice. Consequently, Gandhiji was summoned by the court. Gandhiji sent a report to the Viceroy.

The peasants learnt that the Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Thousands of peasants gathered around the court building. This spontaneous show of their courage baffled the British authorities. They felt powerless. Gandhiji helped them to regulate the trial.

In the court, Gandhiji pleaded guilty. He asked for penalty. He read out a statement. He said he was faced with conflict of duties, he respected the lawful authority. He was not a law-breaker. However, he could not disregard the voice of his conscience to do the humanitarian and national service.

The judge said he would take several days to deliver the judgement, but he let Gandhiji go free.

Gandhiji asked his lawyer friends what they would do if he went to jail. They replied they would go home. Gandhiji asked again what would happen to the poor peasants. Then, the lawyers felt ashamed. Gandhiji, who was a stranger, was willing to go to jail for their sake. The lawyers claimed to have been serving the peasants. Going home would mean the shameful betrayal. They told Gandhiji that they too would follow him to jail. Gandhiji was pleased. He declared that the battle of Champaran was won.

He, then, divided the group into two pairs and put down the order in which each pair would court arrest.

However, the Lieutenant Governor of the province decided to drop the case against Gandhiji. This was the victory of civil disobedience.

Gandhiji and lawyers now proceeded to conduct an enquiry. They recorded the statements of thousands of peasants. In the meantime, the Lieutenant Governor summoned Gandhiji. After long interviews, the Lt. Governor constituted an official commission of enquiry to go through the indigo peasants' complaints. The commission comprised of British officials, landlords and Gandhiji as the sole representative of the sharecroppers.

The commission collected the crushing evidence against the British landlords. The landlords were nervous. They agreed in principle to refund the peasants' money that they had extorted illegally.

Gandhiji demanded 50% of it, but the landlords offered only 25%. Gandhiji agreed to it. He had won a moral victory.

Gandhiji explained that the amount of money was not important. By agreeing to refund the peasants' money, the landlords had lost their prestige. They were no longer dreaded. The peasants learnt that they had rights and there were people to defend their rights.

The landlords abandoned their estates which went back to the peasants. This was the end of indigo sharecropping in Champaran. Gandhiji was not satisfied by just winning the indigo battle. During his stay in Champaran, he saw that the people of Champaran were socially and culturally backward. He decided to remove their backwardness. Gandhiji decided to open primary schools. He appealed to teachers, two of his young disciples, their wives and several other volunteers. Gandhiji's wife Kasturba taught about personal hygiene and community cleanliness.

Gandhiji had come to Champaran casually at the entreaty of Shukla. He expected that his visit would last a few days. However, he had to stay there for seven months continuously. He kept a distant watch on the Ashram. He called for regular financial accounts. He even wrote to them that it was time to fill in the old latrine trenches and dig new ones.

Charles Freer Andrews was a devoted follower of Gandhiji. He came to Champaran. Gandhiji's lawyer friends wanted Charles to stay on to help them. But Gandhiji opposed the idea. He said they should not seek an Englishman's help in their fight. They must fight their battle themselves. For Gandhiji, self-reliance, India's independence and helping the sharecroppers were all bound together.

✓ (A) OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1 Mark Each



Stand Alone MCQs

1. The big planters thought Gandhi would demand:

- (A) repayment in full.
- (B) double the amount.
- (C) fifty percent of the amount.
- (D) no payment, just an apology.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: They thought Gandhi would demand repayment in full amount that they had extorted from the sharecroppers.

2. Who were ready to follow Gandhi into jail?

- (A) Peasants
- (B) Lawyers
- (C) Shukla
- (D) J.B. Kriplani

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: The lawyers thought that Gandhi was totally a stranger to the peasants, yet he was willing to help them and was even ready to go to jail for them. If they go home leaving Gandhi and the peasants in such a situation, it would be a matter of great shame for them. So they declared to follow him to the jail.

3. How did Gandhi act with the officials outside the court?

- (A) Showed his power.
- (B) He was firm and stubborn.
- (C) He said that he would disobey the order.
- (D) He cooperated with them.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: On the day of trial, a large crowd gathered near the court. It became impossible to handle them. Gandhi helped the officers to control the crowd.

4. When Gandhi visited the secretary of British landlord's association, the secretary:

- (A) proceeded to bully him.
- (B) advised him to leave Tirhut.
- (C) said that they could not give any information to an outsider.
- (D) was very helpful and cooperative.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: Gandhi wanted to help the sharecroppers. So he visited the British landlord association, but he was not given any information because he was an outsider.

5. Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from Rajendra Prasad's well because:

- (A) the servant thought Gandhi was another peasant.
- (B) Rajendra Prasad was not at home.
- (C) Gandhi looked like a vagabond.
- (D) Gandhi was a Harijan.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: They didn't allow Gandhi to draw water from their well as they took him to be an untouchable and didn't want to pollute the entire water source.

6. Champaran episode was considered as a turning point in the history because:

- (A) its voice spread far and wide.
- (B) it became famous.
- (C) the British were scared.
- (D) it was conducted to protest the courts' order to postpone the trial.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The Champaran event had solved various problems faced by the poor peasants. They were relieved from the torture they had to face at the hands of the landlords. Thousands of people supported him. This was considered as a turning point in the life of Gandhi. He once said that what he did was an ordinary thing as he didn't want the Britishers to order him in his own country.

7. Gandhi helped peasants of Champaran by:

- (A) fighting and securing justice for them. (B) hiring lawyers for them.
(C) educating them. (D) teaching them cleanliness.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The British planters had to leave their property within the next few years. These properties were returned back to the peasants. Indigo sharecropping soon came to an end.

8. In the light of the following statement, pick the option that lists characteristics of Gandhi.

"Gandhi never contented himself with large political or economic solutions. He saw the cultural and social backwardness in the Champaran villages and wanted to do something about it immediately."

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Pragmatic | 2. Obedient |
| 3. Compassionate | 4. Philanthropic |
| 5. Patient | 6. Dramatic (CBSE QB, 2021) |
| (A) 1, 3, 6 | (B) 2, 4, 5 |
| (C) 1, 3, 4 | (D) 2, 5, 6 |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

9. Complete the statement about the form of the chapter, 'Indigo'.

The chapter 'Indigo' is _____ a Louis Fischer book. (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) a preface to (B) the blurb for
(C) the foreword of (D) an excerpt from

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

10. Gandhi's protest in Champaran is most appropriately a great model of: (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) power. (B) leadership.
(C) charity. (D) sponsorship.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.



Extract Based MCQs

I. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow: (1 × 4 = 4 marks)

They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 per cent. "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent and to his amazement, Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock." This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. (CBSE QB, 2021)

1. Gandhi knew that he would not get an agreement on the demand for 50% repayment. Choose the option that offers the correct justification for the assumption made above.

- (A) He had anticipated the negotiating tactics of the planter's representative.
(B) He had been informed about the depleting funds of the planters.
(C) He had taken the advice of the Reverend on board.
(D) He had evaluated the commission's attitude towards Indians.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Given below are four real-life situations. Choose the option that perfectly describes a deadlock.

Situation 1	Situation 2	Situation 3	Situation 4
Tariq is unable to manage the front-end and the backend forums at his company without any support.	Sunita cannot get a job because she has no experience and she can't have any experience because she has no job.	The bank employees started protesting against their receding annual salary and other incentives.	Harpreet was stuck between deciding whether to go to the USA or the UK for higher studies.

(A) Situation 1

(B) Situation 2

(C) Situation 3

(D) Situation 4

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. Based on the given context, choose the option that exemplifies a deceitful extortion, out of the examples given below.

- The artisans demonstrated for their rights, peacefully, on the streets.
- The head of the artisan union pretended to address all the problems faced by them.
- The head of the artisan union came with goons and took all the assets of the poor artisans.
- The artisans in Hafrgunj decided to sell their wares directly to the government outlets.

(A) Option 1

(B) Option 2

(C) Option 3

(D) Option 4

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. The deadlock broke because :

- Gandhi's settlement offer was worth considering.
- All commission members agreed to adopt the representative's offer.
- Reverend J. Z. Hodge's intervention brought both parties together.
- The sharecroppers refused to be convinced by the commission.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

- II. But Champaran did not begin as an act of defiance. It grew out of an attempt to alleviate the distress of large numbers of poor peasants. This was the typical Gandhi pattern — his politics were intertwined with the practical, day-to-day problems of the millions. His was not a loyalty to abstractions; it was a loyalty to living human beings. In everything Gandhi did, moreover, he tried to mould a new free Indian who could stand on his own feet and thus, make India free. (CBSE QB, 2021)

1. Choose the option listing the sentence that is the most appropriate example of an 'act of defiance', from the following:

She picked up the telephone terrified of what was about to come. She could hear nobody on the other side. Meanwhile, there was a thud at the door loud enough to scare her. Curious as she was, she wanted to open it as soon as possible. Her mother tried to stop her several times, but she went ahead, nevertheless.

- She picked up the telephone terrified of what was about to come.
- Meanwhile, there was a thud at the door loud enough to scare her.
- Curious as she was, she wanted to open it as soon as possible.
- Her mother tried to stop her several times but she went ahead nevertheless.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

2. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: His was not a loyalty to abstractions; it was a loyalty to living, human beings.

Statement 2: Gandhi was a humanitarian at heart.

- Statement 1 is the cause of Statement 2.
- Statement 2 is the effect of Statement 1.

- (C) Statement 2 can be inferred from Statement 1.
 (D) Statement 1 and Statement 2 are independent of each other.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

3. The given extract DOES NOT talk about :

- (A) details of the daily problems faced by human beings.
 (B) efforts to relieve suffering of the common people.
 (C) the reason for the occurrence of Champaran.
 (D) Gandhi's principles in the field of politics.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. Which option showcases an example of action (A) -result (R), from the passage?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| (1) A = defiance | R = poor peasants |
| (2) A = free Indians | R = free India |
| (3) A = free India | R = defiance |
| (4) A = defiance | R = free Indians |
| (A) Option 1 | (B) Option 2 |
| (C) Option 3 | (D) Option 4 |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

PII III.

They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's co-operation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

[CBSE SQP, 2020–21]

1. The officials felt powerless because:

- (A) of Gandhi's refusal to co-operate with them.
 (B) of Gandhi's polite and friendly behaviour.
 (C) the crowd was listening only to Gandhi.
 (D) the crowd was getting violent.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. The demonstration proved that the:

- (A) policies of the British had failed.
 (B) dread instilled in the hearts of Indians had begun to lessen.
 (C) dealings with the Indian citizens had been unsuccessful.
 (D) might of the British had not been understood by Indians.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. Which style, from those given below, is being used by the author, when he says, "Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors."?

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (A) Humourous | (B) Dramatic |
| (c) Sarcastic | (D) Persuasive |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. Gandhiji's behaviour towards the British prior to the proposal of postponement of the trial was that of:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) indifference. | (B) calm acceptance. |
| (C) ignorance of consequences. | (D) polite helpfulness. |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

IV. 'I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran and I want you to come to my district!'

1. Who was Rajkumar Shukla?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| (A) Advocate | (B) Zamindar |
| (C) Peasant | (D) British official |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Whom was he speaking to?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Mahatma Gandhi | (B) Rabindranath Tagore |
| (C) Kasturba Gandhi | (D) Kriplani |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. Why did he request the addressee to come to his district?

- (A) To sort the problems of the local advocates.
(B) To convince others to start growing Indigo.
(C) To sort the problems of the sharecroppers.
(D) To start India's struggle for Independence.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. Where does the district 'Champaran' lie?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| (A) Foothills of Himalayas | (B) Gangetic Plains |
| (c) Western Ghats | (D) Thar Desert |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

PI V. He was illiterate but resolute. He had come to the Congress Session to complain about the injustice of the landlord system in Bihar.

1. Who is 'he' in the above extract?

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (A) William Douglas | (B) Saheb |
| (C) Mukesh | (D) Rajkumar Shukla |

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

2. Why is 'he' described as being 'resolute'?

- (A) He had followed Gandhiji wherever he went.
(B) He had pledged to learn swimming.
(C) He was determined to master the art of bangle making.
(D) He was ready to plant new crops after three years of drought.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. Which city had 'he' come to where the Congress Session was going on?

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (A) Kanpur | (B) Lucknow |
| (C) Gandhinagar | (D) New Delhi |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Why had 'he' come to the Congress Session?

- (A) To complain about the injustice of the landlords in Bihar.
(B) To complain about the young boy who had tossed him in water.
(C) To complain about the problems of bangle makers.
(D) To complain about the problems of rag-pickers.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

VI. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled.

1. Who is 'He' in the above lines?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) Rajendra Prasad | (B) Jawahar Lal Nehru |
| (C) Mahatma Gandhi | (D) Kriplani |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Who are 'them'?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) British Officials | (B) Landlords of Bihar |
| (C) Advocate Unions | (D) Peasants Association |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. How did 'he' prove that Indians were no longer dreaded?

- (A) Gandhiji did not appear in the Court.
- (B) The judge was threatened to give verdict in his favour.
- (C) The courtroom was flocked by peasants in thousands.
- (D) None of these

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. Which is the word which has the similar meaning as 'till now'?

- (A) Concrete
- (B) Hitherto
- (C) Dreaded
- (D) Baffled

Ans. Option (B) is correct.



(B) SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS



Short Answer Type Questions

(2 Marks Each)

(Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each)

1. The peasants were themselves the most crucial agents in the success of the Champaran Civil Disobedience. Expand. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Ans. The peasants were the most crucial agents in the success of the Champaran Civil Disobedience. This is because if they had not withstood Gandhiji and not placed trust in him, then the movement will have been a great disaster. Gandhiji alone could not have achieved success of Champaran, the peasants were the supporters that made the movement a success.

2. Gandhi makes it clear that money and finance are a secondary aspect of the struggle in Champaran. Comment on aspect that you think was most important for Gandhi. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Ans. Gandhiji's persistent efforts, firm determination, and resolution led to his success in Champaran. He went to Champaran at the request of an illiterate peasant and there he listened to the grievances of the sharecroppers and started the Civil Disobedience Movement. He became victorious and the landlords withdrew their claims over their estates and were reverted back to the farmers. They learnt courage and realised that they too, can defend. The landlords obliged to surrender part of their money and prestige. Thus, Gandhiji broke the deadlock between farmers and landlords.

3. Gandhi was a lawyer himself. Examine how his professional expertise helped in Champaran. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Ans. Terror-stricken peasants had no voice to raise and no relief in the courts against the unfair dealings of the landlords. When Gandhiji came on scene, he viewed the entire situation and declared that there was no point in getting into litigations, as law courts would hardly be able to do justice to the peasants. He felt that it was necessary to teach these downtrodden farmers how to be courageous. Until and unless, they got over the terror of the Britishers, they would never experience any sense of relief, he realized. Therefore, he gave priority to empowering and emboldening the peasants rather than waging legal battles for them.

4. Explain the possible reasons for Gandhi's quick popularity among the peasants of Champaran. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Ans. Gandhiji didn't leave Champaran after his victory. During his stay there, he had realized that the people of Champaran were culturally and socially backward, so he decided to work on this front also. He decided to open primary schools and taught about personal hygiene, community cleanliness etc. to the people of Champaran. Gandhiji's wife Kasturba joined him in this movement. Gandhiji's appeal among the peasants was enhanced by his ascetic lifestyle, and by his use of the dhoti and the charkha. Thus, with his firm determination and persistent efforts, he was able to bring changes in the ordinary man's life.

5. Why has Raj Kumar Shukla been described as being resolute? [Outside Delhi Set-I, 2020] 2

Ans. Rajkumar Shukla, the Champaran sharecropper, requested Gandhiji at a Congress Session in Lucknow, to fix a date to visit Champaran where the sharecroppers were being subjected to injustice. Until Gandhiji fixed a date to go with him, Shukla did not leave him, rather he accompanied him wherever he went. Gandhiji was impressed by his tenacity and determination and finally agreed to go there from Calcutta.

6. Why do you think Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life?

[Delhi Set-I, 2019] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- freed the sharecroppers from injustice and exploitation using Civil disobedience, first success of Civil Disobedience in India
- beginning of liberation from fear of the British

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer: Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life because it was during this struggle that he decided to urge the departure of the Britishers. He had made the peasants learn courage and realise that they too had rights and can defend themselves. He made them get rid of their fear also. Apart from this, he also taught the Indians a lesson of self-reliance. In this way, Champaran episode was, in fact, a turning point in Gandhiji's life.

7. What did Gandhiji do about the social and cultural upliftment of the Champaran villages?

[Delhi Set-II, 2019] 2

OR

What steps did Gandhiji take to remove the cultural and social backwardness in the rural areas of Champaran?

[Outside Delhi Set-III, 2019]

Ans. Value Points :

- primary school was opened/got volunteer teachers
- doctors volunteered service/medicines were made available
- Kasturba taught ashram rules for cleanliness and community sanitation

(any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer: Gandhiji decided to open primary schools so he appealed for teachers. A couple of his disciples volunteered themselves as teachers. Gandhiji also took help of a doctor. Some basic ailments of the villagers were treated. Not only this, Gandhiji's wife Kasturba also joined him in this movement and also taught the rules of personal cleanliness and community sanitation to the women.

Thus, with his firm determination and persistent efforts, Gandhiji was able to bring changes in the ordinary man's life.

8. Why did Gandhiji not accept C. F. Andrews' help during the Champaran Movement?

[Delhi Set-III, 2019] 2

OR

Why did Gandhiji oppose to C. F. Andrews helping him in Champaran?

[Delhi Set-I, 2016]

Ans. Value Points :

- he felt if the cause was just, the lawyers must be self-reliant to win the battle/not seek a prop in C.F Andrews because he was an Englishman
- in the unequal fight, support of Englishmen would show weakness of heart.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer: Mr. Charles Freer Andrews was an Englishman and Gandhiji did not want his help. He did not believe in seeking help from him. Since, the cause was good, he believed that their victory was certain. He wanted that the lawyers must not take any help from an Englishman as their fight was against the English. That's why Gandhiji wanted the lawyers to be self-reliant.

9. When Gandhi got the whole hearted support of the lawyers, he said, 'The battle of Champaran is won'. What was the essence behind his statement?

[SQP, 2018-19] 2

Ans. Suggested Value Points:

- Gandhiji made lawyers realize their duty towards the peasants.
- it would be shameful desertion on their part if they left the peasants and Gandhiji was arrested.
- lawyers understood, approached Gandhiji and said they would accompany him to jail.
- getting support of educated Indians like lawyers, Gandhiji gained confidence that now they would win against the British.

2

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-19]

Detailed Answer: When Gandhi asked the lawyers what they would do if he went to jail, one of the senior lawyers replied that they would go back home. Gandhi then scolded the lawyers asking their obligation towards the poor peasants. He said that it would be shameful desertion on their part if they deserted the peasants in absence of Gandhi. So lawyers realised their mistake that if an outsider, Gandhi, was supporting the cause of the peasants, they had social duty towards them. Hence they said that they would accompany Gandhi to jail. Finally, getting support of educated Indians like lawyers, Gandhi gained confidence that now they would win against the British.

10. Though the sharecroppers of Champaran received only one-fourth of the compensation, how can the Champaran struggle still be termed a huge success and victory? [Delhi/Outside Delhi, 2018] 2

Ans. Value Points : Landlords obliged to surrender part of money and part of prestige; peasants saw they had rights; they can defend; learnt courage; broke the deadlock between landlords and farmers. **2**

Detailed Answer : Gandhiji's persistent efforts, firm determination, and resolution led to his success in Champaran. He went to Champaran at the request of an illiterate peasant and there he listened to the grievances of the sharecroppers and started the Civil Disobedience Movement. He became victorious and the landlords withdrew their claims over their estates and were reverted back to the farmers.

They learnt courage and realised that they too, can be defenders. The landlords obliged to surrender part of their money and prestige. Thus, Gandhiji broke the deadlock between farmers and landlords.

11. Why did Gandhiji agree to a settlement of mere 25 percent? [Delhi Set-I, 2016] (NCERT)

Ans. Value Points:

- amount less important than the fact that landlords had to surrender money and part off with prestige.
- breaking deadlock was more important than amount of money.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] **2**

Detailed Answer : Gandhiji agreed to a settlement of mere 25 percent compensation from the British because he wanted them to part not only from money but also from their prestige. For him, breaking deadlock was more important than the amount of money.

f> Mahatma Gandhi believed that making people independent was far more important than just helping them with any legal case. Gandhi had agreed to only 25% of compensation because according to him their real victory wasn't that they had won the case but the fact that this incident had actually instilled confidence in the hearts of people of Champaran. They had become capable of fighting any battle against Britishers. The Champaran struggle was a huge success and victory as the Britishers had to bow down before them, accept their mistakes and give them their equal rights.

(Topper's Answer, 2018)



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 Marks Each)

(Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words)

1. Imagine Gandhi were to deliver a speech to students in present day India showing them the path to become responsible world leaders. Based on your understanding of Gandhi's own leadership skills, write a speech, as Gandhi, addressing the students about the qualities that every leader and politician should nurture.

Dear students, you are all leaders of social change. I see many bright and enthusiastic faces that assure me that our future is in good hands. I have learnt from my own experience.

(CBSE QB, 2021) **5**

Ans. Dear students, you are all leaders of social change. I see many bright and enthusiastic faces that assure me that our future is in good hands. I have learnt from my own experience that sweeping away prejudices gives new values for living. I stress the importance of Truth and Non-violence and called you to "Be Fearless". I understand the feeling and sympathy of youth and called you as instruments of social change. I believe that only spiritual and ethical values can bring in changes to the social order. I want modern youth and students to become the means to form idealistic thoughts. I encourage young minds about self-reliance as a crucial necessity to success. I am open-minded and want all the young people to be the same. I insist on being tolerant of all religions. I emphasize on simplicity, kindness, truth, and non-violence as life's mantra. These are the essential things that you as students have to learn and follow. Moreover, I want the youth of today to follow moral values. I wish Indian youth to follow my ideals to lead a peaceful India.

Thank you

[AI] 2. How did the court scene at Motihari change the course of India's struggle for freedom?

[Delhi Set-I, 2020] 5

Ans. In Champaran, the peasants were greatly in fear of the British government. The cause of the problem was indigo and the greed of the landlords. They had forced the tenants to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire produce to the landlords. When synthetic indigo came, the landlords were ready to release the above condition. They demanded compensation, the repercussions of which the peasants did not know and agreed to it.

Later, when the peasants came to know about synthetic indigo, they asked for their money back. The British hired thugs to oppose them. Gandhiji realized that there was no need for lawyers. He realized that it was necessary to release them of their fear which was difficult to achieve as they were uneducated.

However, with his determination, he championed their cause. Soon, he led a movement of non-violence and Satyagraha. Many farmers demonstrated around the courtroom where Gandhiji was summoned. This made the British feel challenged. Sharecroppers from Champaran came barefooted to see Gandhiji. Muzzaffarpur lawyers too called on him. He explained what he had done was an ordinary thing. He had simply told the Britishers that they could not order him in his own country. Gandhiji tried to mould new free Indians who could stand on their own feet.

This new realization gave him a direction to lead the freedom struggle and thus, proved to be a turning point in the course of India's struggle for freedom. This was the first time Gandhiji realised that India was capable of mass movements and it was after this episode that he started the national struggle for freedom across the country.

[AI] 3. How did Civil Disobedience triumph at Motihari?

[Delhi Set-III, 2020] 5

Ans. Gandhiji began his efforts at Champaran by trying to get the facts. For this purpose, he visited the secretary of the British Landlord's Association, but he refused to give any information to an outsider. Next, he called upon the British official commissioner of the Tirhut division in which Champaran district lay. The commissioner bullied him and advised him to leave Tirhut but he stayed there. This shows that Gandhiji was a staunch seeker and believer of truth.

Gandhiji consulted the lawyers and chided them for collecting fee from the sharecroppers,

However, Gandhiji disobeyed the court's order and rather proceeded to Motihari, the capital of Champaran. He mobilized the support of the lawyers and peasants. He got an official notice to quit Champaran immediately. However, he disobeyed the order and was summoned to court. The spontaneous demonstration of thousands of farmers was their liberation from the fear of the British. Gandhiji just wanted the civil disobedience movement or Satyagraha in a non-violent manner. Later on, Satyagraha and non-violence became the main pillars of strength for India's freedom struggle.

[AI] 4. How did Gandhiji use satyagraha and non-violence at Champaran to achieve his goal?

[Outside Delhi Set-II, 2020] 5

Ans. The peasants of Champaran were in great fear of the British government because they were forced to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire produce to the landlords. When synthetic indigo came, the landlords released them from this condition after demanding compensation from them. The innocent peasants agreed without realising what they were doing. When Raj Kumar Shukla told Gandhiji about it, Gandhiji visited Champaran and realized that the peasants were greatly in fear of the British. He realized that it was necessary to rid them of their fear. He started the Civil Disobedience Movement. That is why the Champaran episode is considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for independence as everyone realized that they could stand against the British, and they could not order them around in their own country. The farmers learnt courage and realised that they too had rights just like the defenders. Thus, the Champaran episode was a landmark and is considered to be the beginning of Indian struggle for independence.

Q 5. How did Gandhiji succeed in getting justice for the indigo sharecroppers?

[CBSE SQP, 2019-20] 5

OR

Give an account of Gandhiji's efforts to secure justice for the poor indigo sharecroppers of Champaran?

Ans. Value Points :

- studied the problems and got the facts
- visited the Secretary of the British Landlords' Association
- met the British Official Commissioner of Tirhut Division
- consulted the lawyers and chided them for collecting fee from the sharecroppers
- disobeyed the court order and listened to the voice of conscience
- inspired the peasants to overcome fear and be self-reliant
- was prepared to go to prison for the sake of peasants
- agreed to 25% refund to make the poor farmers realize their rights
- inspired the lawyers to go to jail with him
- four protracted interviews with the Lieutenant Governor
- ensured the triumph of civil disobedience

(Any six) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012]

Detailed Answer: Gandhiji stayed at Muzaffarpur where he met the lawyers and concluded that fighting through courts was not going to solve the problem of the poor sharecroppers of Champaran. He declared that the real relief for them was to be free from fear. With this intention, he arrived in Champaran and contacted the Secretary of the British Landlord's Association. The Secretary refused to provide him any information. After this, Gandhiji met the Commissioner of the Tirhut Division who served a notice on him to immediately leave Tirhut. Gandhiji accepted the notice by signing it and wrote on it that he would not obey the order. He was even willing to court arrest for the cause of the peasants. After four rounds of talks with the Governor, an official commission of inquiry was appointed in which Gandhiji was made the sole representative of the peasants. Through this commission, Gandhiji succeeded in getting 25% of the compensation award for the poor sharecroppers from the British landowners. The peasants realised that they had rights and defenders. They learnt courage.

Commonly Made Error

- Though the students know the answer but fail to focus on the problems faced. Rather, the entire chain of events of Champaran is narrated.

Answering Tip

- The answer must focus on the problems. The related incidents need to be covered but not as highlighted in the answer as the problem.

6. Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?

[HOTS]

[Outside Delhi Set-I, 2019] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- The first mass movement in India.
- Injustice was thwarted.
- The movement grew out of Gandhi's attempt to remove distress
- Though the amount of refund was meagre, it was a great moral victory.
- Liberation from fear of the British
- Successful Civil Disobedience Movement

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 5

Detailed Answer: The Champaran episode was a landmark in Gandhian style of fighting against the British. It grew out of an attempt to make the sufferings of poor peasants less severe. The peasants of Champaran were in great fear of the British government because they were forced to plant 15% of their holdings with Indigo and surrender the entire produce to the landlord. When synthetic indigo came, the landlords released them after demanding compensation from them. The innocent peasants agreed without realising what they were doing. When Raj Kumar Shukla told Gandhiji about it, Gandhiji visited Champaran and realized that the peasants

were greatly in fear of the British. He realized that it was necessary to liberate them of their fear of British. After the Civil Disobedience Movement, the farmers also got encouraged and realised that they too had rights and defenders as well. It was a spontaneous demonstration around the courthouse which made everyone realise that it was the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence. Everyone also realized that they could stand against the British, and they could not order them around in their own country. That is why the Champaran episode is considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence.

7. Why did Rajkumar Shukla invite Gandhiji to Champaran? How did Gandhiji solve the problem of the indigo farmers? **5**

Ans. Rajkumar Shukla invited Gandhiji to Champaran to fight against the injustice meted out to the peasants in Champaran.

Gandhiji scolded the lawyers for collecting high fees from the sharecroppers. He telegraphed Dr. Rajendra Prasad to come from Bihar with his friends who conferred with Gandhiji, and advised Dr. Prasad and his friends what they would do if he was sentenced to prison. The senior lawyers replied that they had come to advise and help him. Being a stranger, Gandhiji was prepared to go to prison for the sake of the peasants. They also agreed to follow Gandhiji to jail.

Gandhiji and the lawyers had written down depositions by about ten thousand peasants and prepared notes based on other evidence. Gandhiji was served summons, but he remained firm. Then, he received a written communication from the magistrate that the Lt. Governor of the province had ordered the case to be dropped. Gandhiji agreed to a settlement of 25% refund to the farmers.

8. Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran? **[CBSE SQP, 2015-16] (TBQ) 5**

Ans. The ruthless exploitation of the poor farmers by the landlords of Champaran prompted the farmers to fight endless legal battle against the landlords with the help of eminent lawyers. However, the battles were inconclusive. Terror-stricken peasants had no voice to raise and no relief in the courts against the unfair dealings of the landlords. When Gandhiji came on scene, he viewed the entire situation and declared that there was no point in getting into litigations as law courts would hardly be able to do justice to the peasants. He felt that it was necessary to teach these down-trodden farmers how to be courageous. Until and unless, they got over the terror of the Britishers, they would never experience any sense of relief, he realized. Therefore, he gave priority to empowering and emboldening the peasants rather than waging legal battles for them. After that, Gandhiji decided to accept a settlement of 25% of the compensation money as what mattered more to him was the moral victory of the farmers and making the landlords realise their own dishonesty and surrender the money as well as their prestige. Thus, Champaran episode marked the beginning of a total transformation of the poor and exploited peasants. Within a few years, the British planters abandoned their estates, which reverted to the peasants.

