

Case study based questions
10th Social Studies

Print Culture and the Modern World

Passage - 1

4 Marks

The Reading Mania

The ideas of scientists and philosophers now became more accessible to the common people. Ancient and medieval scientific texts were compiled and published, and maps and scientific diagrams were widely printed. When scientists like Isaac Newton began to publish their discoveries, they could influence a much wider circle of scientifically minded readers. The writings of thinkers such as Thomas Paine, Voltaire and Jean Jacques Rousseau were also widely printed and read. Thus their ideas about science, reason and rationality found their way into popular literature.

Q1. (2) Newspapers, journals, chapbooks, and other medium popularised the scientific ideas of scientists and philosophers like Isaac Newton, Thomas Paine, Voltaire and Jean Jacques Rousseau.

Q2. (2) The ideas of scientists and philosophers now became more accessible to the common people.

Q3. (2) The ideas of scientists and philosophers now became more accessible to the common people.

Q4. (1) Ancient and medieval scientific texts were compiled and published, and maps and scientific diagrams were widely printed.

Passage - 2

4 Marks

Print Culture and the French Revolution

Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers. Collectively, their writings provided a critical commentary on tradition, superstition and despotism. They argued for the rule of reason rather than custom, and demanded that everything be judged through the application of reason and rationality. They attacked the sacred authority of the Church and the despotic power of the state, thus eroding the legitimacy of a social order based on tradition. The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were read widely, and those who read these books saw the world through new eyes. Eyes that were questioning critical and rational.

Q1. (1) Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers., All values, norms and institutions were reevaluated and discussed., It led to the growth of hostile sentiments against the French monarchy.

Q2. (1) Print Culture and the French Revolution Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers.

Q3. (4) Print Culture and the French Revolution Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers.

Q4. (2) The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were read widely, and those who read these books.

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Passage - 1

4 Marks

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. Then, in 1295, Marco Polo, a great explorer, returned to Italy after many years of exploration in China. As you read above, China already had the technology of woodblock printing. Marco Polo brought this knowledge back with him. Now Italians began producing books with woodblocks, and soon the technology spread to other parts of Europe. Luxury editions were still handwritten on very expensive vellum, meant for aristocratic circles and rich monastic libraries which scoffed at printed books as cheap vulgarities. Merchants and students in the university towns bought the cheaper printed copies.

As the demand for books increased, booksellers all over Europe began exporting books to many different countries. Book fairs were held at different places. Production of handwritten manuscripts was also organised in new ways to meet the expanded demand. Scribes or skilled handwriters were no longer solely employed by wealthy or influential patrons but increasingly by booksellers as well. More than 50 scribes often worked for one bookseller.

But the production of handwritten manuscripts could not satisfy the ever-increasing demand for books. 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. By the early fifteenth century, woodblocks were being widely used in Europe to print textiles, playing cards, and religious pictures with simple, brief texts.

There was clearly a great need for even quicker and cheaper reproduction of texts. This could only be with the invention of a new print technology. The breakthrough occurred at Strasbourg, Germany, where Johann Gutenberg developed the first

known printing press in the 1430s.

Q1. (1) In 1295, Marco Polo a great explorer, returned to Italy with the knowledge of the technology of woodblock printing from China.

Q2. (2) The luxury editions were still handwritten on very expensive vellum, meant for aristocratic circles and rich monastic libraries which scoffed at printed books as cheap vulgarities.

Q3. (1) Johann Gutenberg developed the first-known printing press in the 1430s in Strasbourg Germany.

Q4. (1) Manuscripts were fragile, awkward to handle, and could not be carried around or read easily.

Passage - 2

4 Marks

Print Comes to India

The printing press first came to Goa with Portuguese missionaries in the mid-sixteenth century. Jesuit priests learnt Konkani and printed several tracts. By 1674, about 50 books had been printed in the Konkani and in Kanara languages. Catholic priests printed the first Tamil book in 1579 at Cochin, and in 1713 the first Malayalam book was printed by them. By 1710, Dutch Protestant missionaries had printed 32 Tamil texts, many of them translations of older works.

Q1. (1) The Portuguese missionaries made initial efforts to introduce printing press in India in the mid-16 century.

Q2. (1) The printing press first came to Goa with Portuguese missionaries in the mid-sixteenth century.

Answer Key 5.4

Marks - 8

Q3. (3) By 1710, Dutch Protestant missionaries had printed 32 Tamil texts, many of them translations of older works.

Q4. (3) By 1710, Dutch Protestant missionaries had printed 32 Tamil texts, many of them translations of older works.
