



## CLASS NOTES-ANSWERS

Let's recall.

1. State whether true or false:

(a) James Mill divided Indian history into three periods – Hindu, Muslim, Christian. **False**

(b) Official documents help us understand what the people of the country think. **False**

(c) The British thought surveys were important for effective administration.

**True**

Let's discuss

2. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?

**Answer.** James Mill divided Indian history into three periods – Hindu, Muslim and British. This periodisation has its own problem. It is difficult to refer to any period of history as 'Hindu' or 'Muslim' because a variety of faiths existed simultaneously in these periods. It is also not justified to characterise an age through the religion of the rulers of the time. What it suggests is that the lives and practices of others do not really matter. It is worth-mentioning that even rulers in ancient India did not all share the same faith.



3. Why did the British preserve official documents?

**Answer:** The British preserved documents because of the following reasons:

- Any information or proof of any decision can be read/used from the preserved documents.
- The preserved documents reveal the progress made by country in the past.
- One can study the notes and reports which were prepared in the past
- Their copies may be made and used in modern times.
- Documents were helpful in understanding social, economic and history of those times.

4. How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police reports?

**Answer:** The information printed in newspaper are usually affected by the views and opinions of the reporters, news editors etc. But what historians find in police reports are usually true and realistic.

**Let's do**

5. Can you think of examples of surveys in your world today? Think about how toy companies get information about what young people enjoy



playing with or how the government finds out about the number of young people in school. What can a historian derive from such surveys?

**Answer:** Surveys are done by government and private companies.

- on demographic changes, employment, incomes, tastes, interests, possessions, etc.
  - Manually or with use of technology.
  - At different places like home, schools, institution, malls, etc.
- Historians may get information about preferences, life style, demographic changes, political, social, economic life, etc.

