

**CBSE Class–VIII Social Science**

**NCERT Solution**

**History Chapter 1**

**When and where our past**

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**1. State whether true or false:**

**a) James Mill divided Indian History into three periods- Hindu, Muslim, and Christian**

**Ans.** False

**Explanation:** James Mill divided the Indian history into three periods-Hindu,Muslim and British.

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

**Ans.** False

**Explanation:** Official records tell us what the officials thought,what they were interested in and what they wished to preserve for prosperity.

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

**Ans.** True

**Explanation:** The British believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be effectively administered.

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

**Ans.** James Mill divided his book into three period, namely: Hindu Muslims and British.

According to his prejudiced version of Indian history, the British rule represents all the forces of progress and civilisation, while the period before British rule represents darkness, ignorance, despotism, religious intolerance, caste taboos, superstitious practices, etc.

The view of Mill has several problems which is not acceptable due to reasons:

- i. A variety of faiths existed simultaneously in these periods.
  - ii. All rulers in ancient India did not share the same faith.So naturally there wouldn't be religious tolerance.This will be a hindrance to the progress, enlightenment and happiness of the nation.
  - iii. So we cannot characterise an age only through the religion of the rulers of the time.
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Thus the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers is that the subjective account of a historian distorts the facts.

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### **3. Why did the British preserve official documents?**

**Ans.** The British preserved the important official documents and letters because these served as records of what the officials thought, what they were interested in and what they wished for. According to the British, writing was more important than speaking as the documents in archives and museums could be utilized for reference at a much later period whenever required for studying or debating. These can also serve as an information or proof of any decision or action taken earlier on some matter.

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

**Ans.** Information is essential for writing history of a time which can be gathered from various sources. Apart from official documents in the archives, historians gather information also from old newspapers, diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims, autobiographies of important personalities and booklets etc.

News papers provide accounts of the movements in different parts of the country.

Information found in newspapers is varied, based on incidents that have happened across the country. They may be showcasing incidents based on the views and thinking of the correspondents, news editors etc.

Whereas, the police reports are true, pragmatic, limited and localized. Because of this fact, sometimes the information historians get from the old newspapers, are not as useful as it is from that found in police reports. However, for any incidence the newspaper may not quote all the reasons behind it and it would be biased as per the thinking of reporter while in police records we could find some evidences for an incident and unbiased reports.