

CONCEPTS:

Cricket grew out of the many stick and ball games played in England. By the 17th century it evolved enough to be recognisable as a distinct game. It became so popular that its fans did not mind to be fined for playing it on Sunday instead of going to church.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CRICKET AS A GAME IN INDIA

Cricket was given its unique nature by the history of England.

Peculiarities of cricket

- A match can go on for five days and still end in a draw.
- Length of the pitch is specified — 22 yards — but the size or shape of the ground is not.

Reasons:

- Cricket rules were made before the Industrial Revolution when life moved at a slow pace.
- Cricket was played on the commons. Each common had a different shape and size. There were no designed boundaries or boundary hits.

The First Written Laws of Cricket (1744)

- Principals shall choose from among the gentlemen present two umpires who shall absolutely decide all disputes.
- Stumps must be 22 inches high and bail across them six inches.
- Ball must be between 5 to 6 ounces.
- Two sets of stumps 22 yards apart.

The world's first cricket club was formed in Hambledon in 1760s. The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) was founded in 1787. In 1788 the MCC published its first revision of the laws and became the guardian of cricket's regulations. A series of changes in the game occurred in the 2nd half of the 18th century.

- It became common to pitch the ball through the air.
- Curved bats were replaced by straight ones.
- Weight of ball was limited to between 5½ to 5¾ ounces.
- Width of the bat was limited to four inches.
- A third stump became common.
- Three days had become the length of a major match.
- First six seam cricket ball was introduced.

Cricket as a game changed and matured during the early phase of the Industrial Revolution but remained true to its origins in rural England. Unlike other games, cricket has refused to remake its tools with industrial or man-made materials. Protective equipment, however, has been influenced by technological change.

The Game and English Society

The organisation of cricket in England reflected the nature of English society. The players of this game were divided into two categories.

- **Amateurs:** These were the rich who played for pleasure. They were gentlemen.
- **Players:** These were the professionals who played for money.

Rules of cricket were made to favour the gentlemen. These gentlemen did most of the batting. Their superiority over players made only the batsmen captains of teams. It was said that "the battle of

Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.”

THE SPREAD OF CRICKET

Cricket remained a colonial game. It was its colonial odness that made it difficult to be accepted by other people. It was played in colonies by the white settlers or the local elites who wanted to copy their white masters. This game became very popular in the Caribbean. Success in cricket became a measure of racial equality and political progress. Through the early history of Indian cricket, teams were not organised on geographical principles and it was not till 1932 that a national team was given the right to represent India in a test match.

Cricket, Race and Religion

The first Indian club, the Calcutta Cricket Club, was established in 1792. The first Indian community to play cricket were the Parsis. They founded the first Indian Cricket Club, the Oriental Cricket Club in Bombay in 1848. This became a precedent for other Indians who in turn established clubs based on the idea of religious community. By the 1890s there was talk of a Hindu Gymkhana and Islam Gymkhana. The colonial government encouraged communal clubs and institutions. Cricket began to be organised on communal and racial lines. This was Quadrangular tournament because it was played by 4 teams — Europeans, Parsis, Hindus and Muslims. Later it become Pentangular when a fifth team was added namely the Rest. By 1930s and 1940s many people including India's most respected political figure, Mahatma Gandhi, condemned the Pentangular for dividing India on communal lines.

THE MODERN TRANSFORMATION OF CRICKET

Modern cricket is dominated by Test and One-day internationals, played between national teams.

Decolonisation and Sport: Decolonisation was a process which led to the decline of English influence in many areas including sports. The colonial favour of world cricket during the 1950s and 1960s can be seen from the fact that England and the other white Commonwealth countries, Australia and New Zealand continued to play matches with South Africa. It was only with political pressure from countries of Asia and Africa (recently decolonised) combine with liberal feeling in Britain that forced the English cricket authorities to cancel a tour by South Africa in 1970.

COMMERCE, MEDIA AND CRICKET TODAY

The 1970s were the decade in which cricket was transformed. 1971 saw the first one-day international being played between England and Australia in Melbourne. In 1977 the game was changed forever by an Australian television tycoon, Kerry Packer. He saw cricket as a money-making televised sport. He signed up 51 of the world's leading cricketers and for almost two years staged unofficial tests and One-day Internationals under the name of World Series Cricket. Packer drove home the point that cricket was a marketable game which could generate huge revenue. Continuous television coverage made cricketers celebrities. Television coverage also expanded the audience and children became cricket fans. Multinational companies created a global market for cricket. This has shifted the balance of power in cricket. India has the largest viewership for the game and hence the game's centre of gravity shifted to South Asia. This shift was symbolised by the shifting of the ICC headquarters from London to tax-free Dubai. The innovations in cricket have come from the practice of sub-continental teams in countries like

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — *doosra* and the reverse swing are Pakistani innovations.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS [1 MARK]

Q1 There were revision of laws by MCC between 1770s and 1780s. They were:

- (a) The weight of the ball and the width of the bat were specified
- (b) The first leg-before law was published in 1774
- (c) The third stump became common, and the first six seam cricket ball was created
- (d) All the above

Q.2. The West Indies win in Test Series against England in 1950, had two ironical features. They were:

- (a) The victory was considered a national achievement, a way of demonstrating that West Indians were equals of white Englishmen
- (b) The captain of the winning West Indies team was a white Englishman
- (c) West Indies cricket team represented not one nation but several dominions which became independent countries later
- (d) both (b) and (c)

Q3.. There was a quarrel between the Bombay Gymkhana (a Whites only club) and the Parsi Club, because :

- (a) The Parsis complained that the public park was left unfit for cricket because the polo fields of the Gymkhana Club dug up the surface
- (b) The colonial authorities were prejudiced in favour of their own White compatriots
- (c) The White cricket elite in India offered no help to the enthusiastic Parsis
- (d) All the above

Q4. When were the first written "Laws of Cricket" drawn up? (CBSE 2010)

- (A) 1703
- (b) 1744
- (c) 1750
- (d) 1760

Q.5. When was the Marylebone Cricket Club founded?

- (a) 1760
- (b) 1787
- (c) 1788
- (d) 1895

Q.6 Which of these features for cricket were laid down in the 1770s and 1780s?

- (a) First leg-before law was published
- (b) A third stump became common
- (c) Creation of first six-seam cricket ball
- (d) All the above

Q.7. The reason that cricket has originated from the villages is/are

- (a) Cricket matches had no time limit
- (b) Vagueness of the size of the cricket ground
- (c) Cricket's most important tools are all made of pre-industrial materials
- (d) All the above

Q.8. What were the rich who played cricket for pleasure called?

- (a) Amateurs
- (b) Professionals
- (c) Commons
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Q.9. The poor who played cricket for a living were called

- (a) needy
- (b) entertainers
- (c) professionals
- (d) commons

Q.10. Who wrote a novel titled 'Tom Brown's School Days' which became popular in 1857?

- (a) Thomas Arnold
- (b) Kim Hughes
- (c) Thomas Hughes
- (d) John Middleton

Q.11. In which of these countries was cricket established as a popular sport?

- (a) South Africa, Zimbabwe
- (b) Australia, New Zealand

(c) West Indies, Kenya (d) All the above

Q.12. When and where was the first non-White club established?

(a) End of 18th century, India (b) End of 19th century, West Indies
(c) Mid-19th century, South Africa (d) Beginning of 19th century, Zimbabwe

Q.13. What was the term 'tournament' called initially?

(a) Triangular (b) Quadrangular (c) Angular (d) Pentangular

Q.14. Who was Kerry Packer?

(a) British tycoon (b) Australian television tycoon (c) Sri Lankan rebel (d) None of these

Q.15. How did the cricket boards become rich?

(a) By organising large number of matches (b) Through patronage from rich industrialists
(c) By selling television rights to television companies (d) None of the above

Q.16. The ICC headquarters shifted from London to

(a) Sydney (b) India (c) Dubai (d) Singapore

Q.17. When was the first World Cup successfully staged? (CBSE 2010)

(a) 1972 (b) 1973 (c) 1974 (d) 1975

Q.18. Polo was a game invented by the _____

(a) French (b) Dutch (c) Colonial officials in India (d) Germans

Q.19. The first hockey club in India was started in

(a) Bombay (b) Madras (c) Bangalore (d) Calcutta

Q.20. How many times has India won the Olympic gold medals in hockey?

(a) Five (b) Six (c) Eight (d) Nine

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS [3 MARKS]

Q.1. How did the National Movement affect cricket in India?

Ans.

1. A scheduled tour of MCC in 1930 was cancelled due to Gandhi's *Dandi March* and the Civil Disobedience.
2. The first Indian team toured England in 1932. Due to World War II in 1939, various tournaments were affected. By now Congress and Muslim League had taken opposite stands. Communal feelings had crept into sports.
3. In 1940, a Pentangular was played in Brabourne stadium, Bombay. Seats were allotted on communal basis, 2000 to Hindus, 1250 each to Muslim and Parsis.

Q.2. 'The MCC's revision of the laws brought in a series of changes in the game that occurred in the second half of the eighteenth century.' Discuss the revision of the laws.

Ans.

1. The MCC's revisions of the laws have brought in a series of changes in the game that occurred in the second half of the eighteenth century.
2. During the 1760s and 1770s it became common to pitch the ball through the air, rather than roll it along the ground.
3. This change gave the bowlers the options of length, deception through the air, plus increased pace. It also opened new possibilities for spin and swing. In response, the batsmen had to master timing

and shot selection.

Q.3. Why did cricket remain a colonial game till the 1930s?

Ans.

1. Cricket remained a colonial game. The reason was that it had a pre-industrial oddness which made it very difficult to export.
2. It was played only in countries that the British conquered and ruled. Though the game was brought into the colonies by the masters, they did nothing to make it popular.
3. The Afro-Caribbean population was discouraged from participating in organised club cricket.

Q.4. How did television coverage change cricket?

Ans.

1. Television coverage made the players celebrities. It expanded the audience for the game by bringing cricket into small towns and villages.
2. Children became great fans. People could now watch and learn how to play cricket by imitating their heroes.

Q.5. Which changes were introduced in the game of cricket during the 19th century?

Ans. Many important changes occurred during the nineteenth century:

- (i) The rule about wide balls was applied.
- (ii) The exact circumference of the ball was specified.
- (iii) Protective equipment like pads and gloves became available.
- (iv) Boundaries were introduced where previously all shots had to be run.
- (v) Overarm bowling became legal.

Q.6. Why did Mahatma Gandhi condemn the pentangular tournament?

Ans. The pentangular tournament was based on religious communities. The five teams were: the Europeans, the Parsis, the Hindus, the Muslims and the Rest. India's most popular and respected politician, Mahatma Gandhi, condemned the pentangular tournament as a communally divisive competition. This was out of place in a time when nationalists were trying to unite India's diverse population. This tournament would have negative effect on the national movement.

Q.7. How the centre of gravity in cricket has shifted from the old Anglo-Australian axis?

Explain.

Ans.

1. The technology of satellite television and the worldwide reach of multi-national television companies created a global market for cricket.
2. This simple fact was brought to its logical conclusion by globalisation. Since India had the largest viewership for the game among the cricket-playing nations and the largest market in the cricketing world, the game's centre of gravity shifted to South Asia.
3. This shift was symbolised by the shifting of the ICC headquarters from London to tax-free Dubai.

Q.16. Describe three main differences between amateurs and professionals

Ans.

- (i) The rich who could afford to play cricket for pleasure were called Amateurs and the poor who played it for a living were called Professionals.

(ii) The wages of Professionals were paid by **patronage** or **subscription** or gate money. The Amateurs were not paid at all.

(iii) Amateurs were called Gentlemen while Professionals were described as players.

(iv) Amateurs tended to be batsmen whereas Professionals tended to be bowlers.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q.1. What role did religion and politics play in the development of cricket in India?

Ans.

1. The origin of Indian cricket is to be found in Bombay and the first community to start playing it were the Zoroastrians, the Parsis. Other religious communities soon followed.
2. By the 1890s, Hindus and Muslims were busy raising funds for a Hindu and a Muslim gymkhana. The British did not consider colonial India as a nation. They saw it as a collection of castes, races and religions.
3. The history of gymkhana cricket led to first-class cricket being organised on communal and racial lines.
4. These teams did not represent **regions** (as teams in today's Ranji Trophy do) but religious communities.
5. The tournament was initially called the Quadrangular because it was played by four teams: the Europeans, the Parsis, the Hindus and the Muslims. Later it became **Pentangular** when a fifth team "The Rest" was added. It comprised all the communities leftover such as the Indian Christians.

Q.2. What part does nationalism play in the present-day cricket?

Ans.

1. The teams that play cricket at national and International level today do not represent religions and races but regions and nationalities like in today's Ranji Trophy the Pentangular in colonial India was replaced by a rival tournament, the 'National Cricket Championship' later named the
2. Ranji Trophy. Cricket fans know that watching a match involves taking sides. In a Ranji Trophy match when Delhi plays Mumbai, the loyalty of spectators watching the match depends on which city they came from or support.
3. Earlier teams were not organised on geographical principles. It was not till 1932 that a national team was given the right to represent India in Test match.

Q.3. Give your own reasons for the popularity of cricket in the world and specially India.

Ans.

1. Television coverage changed cricket. It expanded the audience for the game by beaming cricket into small towns and villages. It also broadened the cricket's social base
2. The technology of satellite television and the worldwide reach of multinational television companies created a global market for cricket.
3. India has the largest viewership among the cricket-playing nations and the largest market in the cricketing world. The game's centre of gravity has shifted to South Asia, symbolised by shifting of ICC headquarters from London to tax-free Dubai.
4. Innovations in cricket technique in recent years have mainly come from sub continental teams in

countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Pakistan pioneered two great advances in bowling: the doosra, and the "reverse swing".

Q.4. 'It's often said that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.' Explain

Ans.

1. This saying is based on the argument that the values taught to schoolboys in its public schools resulted in Britain's military success. Eton was the most famous of these schools.
2. These schools trained English boys for careers in the Military, the Civil Service and the Church – the three great institutions of Imperial England.
3. In actual fact the Napoleonic wars were won because of the economic contribution of the iron works of Scotland and Wales, the mills of Lancashire and the financial houses of the city of London.

Q.5. 'Despite the exclusiveness of the White cricket elite in the West Indies, the game became hugely popular in the Caribbean.' Explain how and why?

Ans.

1. Despite the exclusiveness of the White cricket elite in the West Indies, the game became hugely popular in the Caribbean. Success at cricket became a measure of racial equality and political progress.
2. At the time of their independence, many of the political leaders of Caribbean countries like Forbes Burnham and Eric Williams saw in the game a chance for self-respect and international standing.
3. When the West Indies won its first Test series against England in 1950, it was celebrated as a national achievement, as a way of demonstrating that West Indians were the equals of white Englishmen.

HOTS:

Q.1. How is cricket played in our subcontinent, West Indies and Africa, different from the way it is played in England?

Ans.

1. The cricket played in our subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh), West Indies and South Africa is hugely different from the way it is played in England.
2. All these countries were colonies of England and cricket was spread by our colonial masters. The game is very popular and is played with a lot of passion and enthusiasm not seen anywhere in the world.
3. Cricket in these countries is synonymous with nationalism and patriotism. As these countries were under colonialism, there is a passion to show national supremacy via the game of cricket.
4. The aggressiveness shown in these countries is not to be seen in English game which exhibits professionalism and indifference.

Q.2. Describe how cricket's connection with a rural past can be seen in the length of a Test match and vagueness about the size of a cricket ground.

Ans.

1. Crickets- connection with a rural past can be seen in the length of a Test match. Originally, cricket matches had no time limit.

2. The game went on for as long as it took to bowl out a side twice. The rhythm of village life was slower and cricket's rules were made before the Industrial Revolution.
3. In the same way, vagueness about the size of a cricket ground is a result of its village origin. Cricket was originally played on country commons, unfenced land that was public property.
4. The size of the commons varied from one village to another, so there were no designated boundaries or boundary hits. When the ball went into the crowd, the crowd cleared a way for the fieldsman to retrieve it.

Q.3. 'It's often said that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.' Explain

Ans.

1. This saying is based on the argument that the values taught to schoolboys in its public schools resulted in Britain's military success.
2. Eton was the most famous of these schools. These schools trained English boys for careers in the Military, the Civil Service and the Church — the three great institutions of Imperial England.
3. In actual fact the Napoleonic wars were won because of the economic contribution of the iron works of Scotland and Wales, the mills of Lancashire and the financial houses of the city of London.
4. It was the English lead in trade and industry that made Britain the world's greatest power.

VALUE BASED QUESTION:

Q.3. How did the National Movement affect cricket in India?

Q.5. Throw light on the curious peculiarities or characteristics of cricket.

Q.2. What part does nationalism play in the present-day cricket?

KEY TO MCQ:

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|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Q1 Ans. (d) | Q.2. Ans. (d) | Q3.Ans. (d) | Q4. Ans. (b) | Q.5. Ans. (b) |
| Q.6 Ans.(d) | Q.7. Ans. (d) | Q.8.Ans.(a) | Q.9.Ans. (c) | Q.10. Ans (c) |
| Q.11Ans. (d) | Q.12. Ans. (b) | Q.13. Ans.(b) | Q.14.Ans.(b) | Q.15.Ans. (c) |
| Q.16.Ans.(c) | Q.17. Ans.(d) | Q.18 Ans. (c) | Q.19. Ans. (d) | Q.20. Ans. (c) |

