

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How, When and Where

Q1. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q2. Historians divide Indian history into ancient, medieval and modern. But this division too has its problems. What are these problems?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## How, When and Where

Q1. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian history that James Mill offers?

Ans. James Mill divided Indian history into three periods—Hindu, Muslim and British. This periodisation has its own problem.

i. It is not correct to refer to any period of history as 'Hindu' or 'Muslim' because a variety of faiths existed simultaneously in these periods.

ii. It is also not justified to characterise an age through the religion of the rulers of the time. To do so is to suggest that the lives and practices of the others do not really matter.

iii. It is worth-mentioning that even rulers in ancient India did not all share the same faith.

Q2. Historians divide Indian history into ancient, medieval and modern. But this division too has its problems. What are these problems?

Ans. Moving away from British classification, historians have usually divided Indian history into 'ancient', 'medieval' and 'modern'. This division too has its problems.

i. It is a periodisation that is borrowed from the West where the modern period was associated with the growth of all the forces of modernity – science, reason, democracy, liberty and equality. Medieval was a term used to describe a society where these features of modern society did not exist.

ii. It is difficult to accept this characterisation of the modern period because under British rule people did not have equality, freedom or liberty. Nor it was the period one of economic growth and progress. Many historians therefore refer to this period as 'colonial'.