

Name: _____ Date: _____

Colonialism and the City

Q1. Why did the British choose to hold a grand Durbar in Delhi although it was not the capital?

Ans. _____

Q2. What were the conditions of the city drains of Shahjanabad at the end of the nineteenth century?

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Q3. Write a short note on havelis.

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Q1. Why did the British choose to hold a grand Durbar in Delhi although it was not the capital?

Ans. During the Revolt, the British had realised that the Mughal emperor was still important to the people and they saw him as their leader. It was therefore important to celebrate British power with pomp and show in the city the Mughal emperors had earlier ruled, and the place which had turned into a rebel stronghold in 1857.

Q2. What were the conditions of the city drains of Shahjanabad at the end of the nineteenth century?

Ans. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Shahjahani drains were closed and a new system of open surface drains was introduced. This system too was soon overburdened, and many of the wealthier inhabitants complained about the stench from roadside privies and overflowing open drains. The Delhi Municipal Committee was unwilling to spend money on a good drainage system.

Q3. Write a short note on havelis.

Ans. The Mughal aristocracy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries lived in grand mansions called havelis. A haveli housed many families. On entering the haveli through a beautiful gateway, you reached an open courtyard, surrounded by public rooms meant for visitors and business, used exclusively by males. The inner courtyard with its pavilions and rooms was meant for the women of the household. Rooms in the havelis had multiple uses, and very little by way of furniture.