

Name: _____ Date: _____

Civilising the "Native", Educating the Nation

Q1. Why many British officials criticized the Orientalists?

Ans. _____

Q2. What measures were taken by the English Education Act of 1835?

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Q3. Why did Mahatma Gandhi think that English education had enslaved Indians?

Ans. _____

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Q1. Why many British officials criticized the Orientalists?

Ans. From the early nineteenth century many British officials began to criticise the Orientalist vision of learning. They said that knowledge of the East was full of errors and unscientific thought; Eastern literature was non-serious and light-hearted. So they argued that it was wrong on the part of the British to spend so much effort in encouraging the study of Arabic and Sanskrit language and literature.

Q2. What measures were taken by the English Education Act of 1835?

Ans. Measures taken by the English Education Act of 1835 were:

- i. English was made the medium of instruction for higher education.
- ii. Promotion of Oriental institutions like the Calcutta Madrasa and Benaras Sanskrit College was stopped. These institutions were seen as "temples of darkness that were falling of themselves into decay".
- iii. English textbooks began to be produced for schools.

Q3. Why did Mahatma Gandhi think that English education had enslaved Indians?

Ans. Mahatma Gandhi thought that English education had enslaved Indians because:

- i. Colonial education created a sense of inferiority in the minds of Indians.
- ii. It made them see Western civilisation as superior, and destroyed the pride they had in their own culture.
- iii. Indians educated in these institutions began admiring British rule.