

Name: _____ Date: _____

Civilising the "Native", Educating the Nation

Q1. Why did James Mill and think that European education was essential in India?

Ans. _____

Q2. Why did many company officials in India want to promote Indian rather than western learning?

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Q1. Why did James Mill and think that European education was essential in India?

Ans. James Mill and Thomas Macaulay criticized the Orientalists.

According to James mill, the aim of education ought to be to teach what was useful and practical. So Indians should be made familiar with the scientific and technical advances that the West had made, rather than with the poetry and sacred literature of the Orient.

Thomas Macaulay felt that knowledge of English would allow Indians to read some of the finest literature the world had produced; it would make them aware of the developments in Western science and philosophy. Teaching of English could thus be a way of civilising people, changing their tastes, values and culture.

Q2. Why did many company officials in India want to promote Indian rather than western learning?

Ans. Many Company officials argued that the British ought to promote Indian rather than Western learning. This so because:

i. They felt that institutions should be set up to encourage the study of ancient Indian texts and teach Sanskrit and Persian literature and poetry.

ii. The officials also thought that Hindus and Muslims ought to be taught what they were already familiar with, and what they valued and treasured, not subjects that were alien to them.

iii. Only then, they believed, could the British hope to win a place in the hearts of the "natives"; only then could the alien rulers expect to be respected by their subjects.