

Round Table Conference

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Round Table Conference history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

The Round Table Conferences (1930-1932): A Structured Overview



1. General Overview & Nature

- The meetings between Indian and British leaders in London (1930-1932) are commonly called the First, Second, and Third Round Table Conferences.
- **More accurately, they constitute a single conference held in three distinct sessions.**
- **Primary Purpose:** To discuss constitutional reforms for India, specifically in response to the **Simon Commission Report**.

2. Summary of Key Participation

- **Indian National Congress:**
 - Did **not** participate in the First and Third Conferences.
 - Was **only** present at the Second Conference.
- **B.R. Ambedkar:** The **only Indian leader to attend all three sessions.**
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** Attended **only** the Second Conference.

- **Jawaharlal Nehru:** Did not attend any of the conferences.

Detailed Breakdown of the Three Sessions

Session 1: First Round Table Conference

- **Date & Location:** November 1930, London (St. James's Palace).
- **Purpose:** Called to discuss the Simon Commission Report (published June 1930), which had been rejected by Indian political groups.
- **Congress Participation: None.** Its main leaders were in jail.
- **Key Attendees:**
 - Maulana Mohammad Ali, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Srinivas Shastri, Muhammad Shafi, Aga Khan, Fazlul Haq, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Homi Modi, M.R. Jaykar, B.S. Munje, **B.R. Ambedkar**, Sundar Singh Majithia.
 - **K.T. Paul** represented the Indian Christians.
- **Conduct:** Inaugurated by the British King and chaired by British Prime Minister **Ramsay MacDonald**.
- **Key Development: B.R. Ambedkar** demanded separate electorates for the Depressed Classes.

Session 2: Second Round Table Conference

- **Date & Location:** September 7 to December 1, 1931, in London.
- **Congress Participation: First and only conference attended by the Indian National Congress.** Its participation was agreed upon in the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** (March 5, 1931).
- **Key Attendees:**
 - **Mahatma Gandhi** was the sole official representative of the Congress.
 - Other delegates included Sarojini Naidu, Madan Mohan Malviya, Annie Besant, Mahadev Desai, and **B.R. Ambedkar**.
- **Gandhi's Journey:** Traveled to London aboard the ship **S.S. Rajputana** and stayed at **Kingsley Hall**.
- **Outcome:** The conference **failed** without significant results.

- **Reason for Failure:** The main point of contention was the issue of **communal representation**, specifically **Ambedkar's demand for separate electorates for the Depressed Classes vs. Gandhi's strong opposition**.
- **Result:** Gandhi returned to India **empty-handed** in December 1931.

Session 3: Third Round Table Conference

- **Date:** 1932 (specifically from November 17 to December 24).
- **Congress Participation:** The Indian National Congress did **not** take part.
- **Key Development:**
 - **Choudhary Rahmat Ali** authored and distributed the pamphlet '**Now or Never**' to the delegates. This was a key early articulation of the demand for a separate Muslim state (Pakistan).

3. Direct Outcomes & Related Events



The Poona Pact (1932)

- A direct outcome of the deadlock over minority representation from the Second Conference.
- It was an alternative to the demand for separate electorates for the Depressed Classes.
- It included special provisions for the representation of the Depressed Classes in local bodies and civil services.

4. Miscellaneous Context (Not Directly Related to Conferences)

- **Operation Rubicon:** The **code name** used by the British Government for the **imprisonment of Mahatma Gandhi** at the Aga Khan Palace in Pune (1942-1944). It is **not related** to the Round Table Conferences.

- **Government of India Act 1919:** The last election under this act was held in **1945**. This act established a diarchic system in provinces and a bicameral legislature at the center.

Know More About Round Table Conference:

- [Round Table Conference-Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Round Table Conference One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

