

Development of Education in Modern India

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Development of Education in Modern India 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.

Development of Education in Modern India (British Period)

Foundational Policies & Theories

- **Downward Filtration Theory**
 - **Proposed by:** Lord Macaulay.
 - **Concept:** Education should first be imparted to the elite upper classes, who would then "filter" this Western knowledge down to the masses.
 - **Motive:** To create a class of educated Indians for minor administrative posts to reduce the cost of administration.
- **Charter Act of 1813**
 - First official allocation of funds (Rs. 1 Lakh) by the British government for the education of Indians.
 - Allowed Christian missionaries to propagate English and their religion.
- **Orientalist-Anglicist Controversy (1823-1835)**
 - A 12-year debate on the medium and content of education.

- **Orientalists:** Promoted Oriental learning in classical Indian languages (Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit).
- **Anglicists:** Promoted Western sciences in English.
- **Resolution:** Lord Macaulay's Minute of 1835 resolved the debate in favor of the Anglicists.
- **Introduction of English Education**
 - **Macaulay's Minute (1835):** Foundation of the modern educational system. Recommended English as the medium of instruction for higher education and a focus on Western sciences.
 - **Implemented by:** Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General of India.
- **Wood's Despatch (1854)**
 - Known as the "**Magna Carta of English Education in India**".
 - **Key Recommendations:**
 - Create a structured education system (Primary -> High School -> University).
 - Establish Universities in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay (founded in 1857).
 - Introduce a **Grants-in-Aid** system to fund private schools.
 - Promote vernacular languages at the primary level.
 - Promote women's education.
 - **It did NOT recommend English as the medium of instruction at all levels.**

Key Commissions

- **Hunter Commission (1882)**
 - First Indian Education Commission.
 - Appointed by Lord Ripon, chaired by Sir William Hunter.
 - Laid special emphasis on the development of **Primary Education**.
- **Sadler University Commission (1917)**
 - Appointed to review the problems of Calcutta University.

- **Conclusion:** Improvement of **secondary education** was essential for improving university education.
- Its recommendations were applicable to other universities in India.

Early Orientalist Institutions (Focus on Indian Languages & Culture)

Institution	Year	Founder/Location	Key Purpose & Facts
Calcutta Madrassa	1780	Warren Hastings (Calcutta)	Teach Arabic, Persian, and Muslim laws. Graduates served as translators. First head was Mulla Mujjuddin.
Asiatic Society of Bengal	1784	Sir William Jones (Calcutta)	Research on Oriental education and culture. Taught British civilians Indian languages, laws, and customs.
Sanskrit College, Benaras	1791	Jonathan Duncan (Varanasi)	Promote the study of Hindu laws and philosophy.
Fort William College	1800	Lord Wellesley (Calcutta)	Train British civilians in Indian languages and administrative skills. Not established to revive oriental learning.

Major Educational Institutions

- **Colleges:**

- **Hindu College, Calcutta:** Established first in **1817** by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in collaboration with David Hare and Alexander Duff.
- **Delhi College:** Founded in **1824**.

- **Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College (MAO College):** Founded in **Aligarh in 1875** (later became Aligarh Muslim University).
- **Mayo College, Ajmer:** Also established in **1875**.
- **Universities:**
 - The first three universities were established in **1857** in **Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay** (as a result of Wood's Despatch).
 - **Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi:**
 - Established in **1916** by Madan Mohan Malviya.
 - **First to be declared a Central University.**
 - The foundation stone was laid by Viceroy Lord Hardinge on **February 4, 1916**.
 - **First Women's University (SNDT University):** Founded in **Mumbai in 1916** by D.K. Karve.
- **Societies:**
 - **Deccan Education Society:** Formed in **1884** by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, and others.

Key Personalities & Their Contributions

Personality	Role & Contribution
Sir William Jones	Founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal (1784). First to translate Kalidasa's 'Shakuntala' into English.
Charles Wilkins	First to translate the Bhagavad Gita into English (with support from Warren Hastings).
Lord Macaulay	Chairman of the General Committee of Public Instruction. His Minute (1835) led to English becoming the official medium of instruction. Key propounder of the Downward Filtration Theory.
Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Pioneer in promoting modern Western education. Collaborated to establish the Hindu College in Calcutta (1817).

D.K. Karve	Social reformer who advocated for widow remarriage and women's education. Founded the first Women's University in Mumbai (1916). Awarded the Bharat Ratna (1958).
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Key founder of the Deccan Education Society (1884).
Madan Mohan Malviya	Vigorously advocated for religious education. Founder of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU, 1916) and its Vice-Chancellor (1919-1938).
Michael Madhusudan Dutta	The Bengali poet was offered membership in the Royal Asiatic Society of Paris.

Nationalist Response

- **National Council of Education (NCE)**
 - Established on **15th August 1906**.
 - **Purpose:** To provide literary, scientific, and technical education "**under national control**" and free from government influence.
 - It established the **Bengal National College and School**.

Know More About the Development of Education in Modern India:

- [Development of Education in Modern India – Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Development of Education in Modern India One Liner Questions & Answers](#)