PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Name: _____

Date: _____ Due Date: Will be posted online

Historical Context:

During the rule of the British Crown known as the Raj (1857–1947), the British took many actions to strengthen and maintain their rule over the Indian subcontinent. The impact of British rule on the people and the region can be viewed from a variety of perspectives.

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Document 1

> . . .The Indian Mutiny [1857] had come as a nasty shock, especially since British rule in India had appeared so secure. In order to prevent such an outbreak again, the authority for governing British India was removed from John Company [the British East India Company] and placed in the hands of the Crown. Queen Victoria became Empress of India, and her personal representative in the country was to be the Viceroy, who replaced the Governor-General, the administration of India being controlled by the India Office in London. The British Army presence in the country, as opposed to what was now called the Indian Army, was increased to 65,000 men, and as a general principle every garrison was now to contain at least one British regiment. . . .

Source: Charles Messenger, *British Army*, Bramley Books, 1997

According to Charles Messenger, what is ***one*** way the British attempted to strengthen their control over the Indian subcontinent after the Indian Mutiny?

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What are the ***historical circumstances that led to*** the Indian Mutiny in 1857?

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What is the **Point-of-View** regarding the Indian Mutiny in 1857 in the document above?

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What is the **bias** regarding the Indian Mutiny in 1857 in the document above?

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Document 2

> . . .How the Raj treated the famines of the 1870s and 1890s says much about its character. Original prognoses [predictions] about railway and canal expansion were probably correct, although there is no exact method of calculating precisely the numbers saved by food distributed by rail. Many more would have died if there had been no extension of the rail network; of this we can be certain. Likewise, as [British Viceroy] Curzon appreciated in 1903 when he initiated a new, ambitious policy of digging more canals, artificial irrigation saved lives. But humanitarianism was always balanced by pragmatism [practicality] and the Raj never lost sight of the need to pay its way. Technical improvements which made Indians less vulnerable to the wayward forces of nature were also contrived [planned] to enrich them [Indians] and, through taxation, the government. The waterways which rendered hitherto arid regions of the Sind and the Punjab fruitful added to the government's revenue. A Punjabi district which had been assessed at £15,000 annually before irrigation was rated at £24,000 afterwards. . . .

Source: Lawrence James, *Raj*: *The Making and Unmaking of British India*, St. Martin's Griffin, 1997 (adapted)

According to Lawrence James, what is ***one*** action taken by the Raj that aided the Indian people and strengthened British rule?

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What are the ***historical circumstances that led to*** the Raj?

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What is the **purpose** of explaining rule of the Raj?

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Document 3

> . . .New schools were started by the British, by princely governments, by missionaries, and by private enterprise. These schools were at all levels, including universities. The English language was used in all schools of higher education. Though only a tiny minority of Indians attended these schools, those who did received a fine English education (facility [fluency] in English became the badge of an educated man). They studied English ideas about democracy and nationalism, and became the eventual leaders of the movement for Indian independence. . . .

Source: Milton Jay Belasco, *India-Pakistan: History, Culture, People,* Cambridge Book Company, 1968

According to Milton Jay Belasco, what is ***one*** way the British and others influenced Indian culture?

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What is the **point-of-view** of of Milton Jay Belasco?

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Document 4

. . .If the bureaucracy of the British Raj was a kind of despotism, it was a very different kind from that which the Indian people had experienced before the British came.

In the first place, the British Raj was stronger than any of its predecessors, stronger even than the Mogul Empire, and this enabled it to keep India, as never before, safe from attack without and united and at peace within. The old menace of invasion was dispelled [eliminated]. No hostile army crossed the frontier till 1942. The countryside was no longer swept from time to time by warring and rapacious [aggressive] hosts. The main highways were no longer infested by bands of brigands [bandits]. Villagers could sleep of nights: their lives and property were safer now than they had ever been.

Secondly, the British Raj replaced arbitrary despotism by the rule of law. By becoming British subjects many millions of Indians acquired 'a government of laws, not of men', and therewith as full a protection of their personal rights by impersonal justice and as wide a measure of civil liberty as any people in the world enjoyed. As to the content of the law, the existing laws were consolidated and codified in accordance with 'the indisputable principle', as a British parliamentary committee put it, 'that the interests of the Native subjects are to be consulted in preference to those of Europeans whenever the two come into competition, and that therefore the laws ought to be adapted rather to the feelings and habits of the Natives than to those of Europeans'. The adoption of English judicial procedure, it is sometimes argued, was unwise, since it was ill suited to the backward conditions of Indian country life. But otherwise the creation of the new courts of justice was an almost unqualified gain. They obtained, wrote an experienced Indian nationalist, 'a prestige and authority unknown in Asia' outside the areas of European rule. They planted in the Indian mind a new respect for law as something to which even the strongest Government must bow. The value of this gift has yet to be put to its final proof; for it is on allegiance to a sovereign law that the peace and stability of the free India of the future must mainly depend. . . .

Source: Sir Reginald Coupland, *India: A Re-Statement*, Oxford University Press, 1945 (adapted)

What is ***one*** way Sir Reginald Coupland believes the British Raj improved life for the Indians?

Based on this excerpt, what is Sir Reginald Coupland's **point-of-view** of Indian people?

Who was the **audience** for Sir Reginal Coupland's statement of Indian people?

Document 5

> . . .The roots of Hindu-Muslim animosities [hatred] can be traced in part to British policy. The British rulers, in an effort to maintain authority over the vast lands of India, encouraged Indians to direct discontent against other Indians rather than against the British rule. As the desire for independence grew, the British undermined the Muslims' trust in the Indian National Congress. Muslims feared the Congress spoke only for Hindu interests. Generally, the Muslim political party—the Muslim League—cooperated with the British in return for safeguards and concessions. When the British established elections for the central legislative council [1909], they made the Muslims into a separate electoral group. "Divide and rule" was the British policy. It was in the British interest to foster Muslim separatism. . . .

Source: Donald J. Johnson, et al., "Why Hindus and Muslims Speak Hate," *Through Indian Eyes*, CITE Books

Based on this excerpt from *Through Indian Eyes*, what is ***one*** example of the British fostering Hindu and Muslim animosities?

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Based on this excerpt from *Through Indian Eyes*, what is an action taken by the Muslim League because it feared a Hindu majority?

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What is the **purpose** of Donald J. Johnson writing in "Why Hindus and Muslims Speak Hate," ?

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Document 6

> . . .And why do I regard the British rule as a curse?
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> It has impoverished the dumb millions by a system of progressive exploitation and by a ruinously expensive military and civil administration which the country can never afford.
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> It has reduced us politically to serfdom. It has sapped the foundations of our culture. And, by the policy of disarmament, it has degraded us spiritually. Lacking the inward strength, we have been reduced, by all but universal disarmament, to a State bordering on cowardly helplessness. . . .

Source: Letter from M.K. Gandhi, Esq. to the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, March 2, 1930

According to Gandhi, what is ***one*** problem created by British rule?

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What was Gandhi's **purpose** in writing this letter to the Viceroy, Lord Irwin in 1930?

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Document 7

> . . .The India Act of 1935 had two parts, each of which became amendments to the Constitution. The first part, put into effect in 1937, gave the provincial assemblies and administrations full autonomy in government. The Viceroy retained the right to overrule them, however. The Act's second part attempted to establish a federal union combining the British-held territories with the more than 560 Princely States. The British-held territories by this time included Bengal, Assam, Punjab, Sind, Bihar, Orissa, Madras, North-West Frontier Provinces, Central Provinces, United Provinces, and Bombay. . . .

Source: Warshaw and Bromwell with A.J. Tudisco,
India Emerges: A Concise History of India from Its Origin to the Present, Benziger, 1975

Based on this excerpt from *India Emerges*, what is ***one*** way the British government maintained control in India under the India Act of 1935?

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Identify a cause-and-effect relationship between the British government's actions according to the document.

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Document 8

British Rule in India (1946)

> . . .Thus India had to bear [support] the cost of her own conquest, and then of her transfer (or sale) from the East India Company to the British crown, and for the extension of the British empire to Burma and elsewhere, and expeditions to Africa, Persia, etc., and for her defense against Indians themselves. She was not only used as a base for imperial purposes, without any reimbursement for this, but she had further to pay for the training of part of the British Army in England—"capitation" charges these were called. Indeed India was charged for all manner of other expenses incurred [contracted] by Britain, such as the maintenance of British diplomatic and consular establishments in China and Persia, the entire cost of the telegraph line from England to India, part of the expenses of the British Mediterranean fleet, and even the receptions given to the sultan of Turkey in London. . . .

Source: Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India*, The John Day Company, 1946

According to Nehru, what is ***one*** way India had to support the costs of the British Empire?

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What was Nehru's **point-of-view** in explaining why India had to support the costs of the British Empire?

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What was Nehru's **bias** in explaining why India had to support the costs of the British Empire?

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Document 9

> . . .During World War II, Britain made its last demands on India as its colony. It took stringent [harsh] police measures to preserve the Raj against increasing Indian nationalism while England used India as both a supply and operations base. Many Indians served in the British military forces, and Indian industry was expanded to supply the war effort. While some parts of India benefited from the increased industrial production, war-related factors combined with lack of rain led to food shortages that resulted in 2 million deaths by starvation in Bengal between 1942 and 1944. . . .

Source: William Goodwin, *India*, Lucent Books

According to William Goodwin, what are ***two*** ways India was asked to support Great Britain in the 1940s?

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What was William Goodwin's **point-of-view** in explaining why India had to support Great Britain in the 1940s?

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Using the documents, create a timeline of events from 1800-1947 for India. Use a date(s) and description of what event(s) each document is explaining. You should have nine (9) events, one (1) for each of the documents, in addition to the two already given to you.

