Name: _____

Date: _____

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)

4*a* What is ***one*** way Sir Reginald Coupland believes the British Raj improved life for the Indians? [1]

_____

_____

Score ☐

b Based on this excerpt, what is Sir Reginald Coupland's view of Indian people? [1]

_____

_____

Score ☐

Word Bank:

despotism - absolute power, usually abusive
predicessors - came before
Mogul Empire - the empire of the Mongols in India
menace - likely to cause harm; a threat or danger
hostile - unfriendly
arbitrary - random
civil liberty - rights protected by laws
codified - put into law by government
accordance - in agreement
indisputable - without question
principle - core belief
consulted - asked for advice
prestige - widespread respect

Document 6

> . . .And why do I regard the British rule as a curse?
>
> 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.
>
> 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

6 According to Gandhi, what is ***one*** problem created by British rule? [1]

_____

_____

Score

Word Bank:

impoverished - poor
progressive - to go forward/make progress
exploitation - to use for one side's benefit
ruinously - destructive
serfdom - live as a peasant / poor farmer
sapped - gradually weaken or destroy
disarmament - take away your ability to defend or attack
degraded - to make less than before