Section 1: Answer each question in about 500 words.

1. Explain the measures taken by the British state towards modernization.

Ans: Several steps were taken by the British which had a positive impact on the development of India:
   i. The British introduced modern and Western education in India.
   ii. The introduction of modern transport system such as the railway.
   iii. The British took steps to unify India politically, administratively and economically, though to serve their interests but it benefited India as well.
   iv. In the criminal procedure code, civil procedure code and Indian penal code, etc. brought uniformity to the legal system of India.
   v. The historical researches by the Europeans scholars were one of the factors behind the emergence of the reform movements.

An in-depth analysis of these steps of the British indicates to the fact that they were taken to fulfill their colonial motive and safeguard their economic interests.

British introduced education with the objective of Recruiting Indians to lower clerical jobs;
   i. To create a class of Indians who would be Indians in colour but British in taste in order to create a wider market for British goods
   ii. Behind the introduction of railways lay the British objective of:
      i. Reaching the interiors of India to enable the creation of a wider market for British goods.
      ii. Ensuring the transport of raw materials from India to the ports for export to feed the British industries.

After 1813, the Indian market was kept open for the British goods as the Britishers were given the right to buy land, invest in plantation sector, etc. This explains the real motive behind British concerns for unifying India administratively and legally.

The British efforts in India prove that the steps were taken to serve imperial objectives and consequent positive development or modernization was an undesired by-product, and not the real intention of the British administration.

Or

Write a brief note on Liberalism.

Ans: Liberalism is a political and moral philosophy based on liberty and equality. Liberals espouse a wide array of views depending on their understanding of these principles, but they generally support civil rights, democracy, secularism, gender and race equality, internationalism and the freedoms of speech, the press, religion and markets.

Liberalism became a distinct movement in the Age of Enlightenment, when it became popular among Western philosophers and economists. Liberalism sought to replace the norms of hereditary privilege, state religion, absolute monarchy, the divine right of kings and traditional conservatism with representative democracy and the rule of law. Liberals also ended mercantilist policies, royal monopolies and other barriers to trade, instead promoting free markets. Philosopher John Locke is often credited with founding liberalism as a distinct tradition, arguing that each man has a natural right to life, liberty and property, adding that governments must not violate these rights based on the social contract. While the British liberal tradition has emphasised expanding democracy, French liberalism has emphasised rejecting authoritarianism and is linked to nation-building.

2. Define the idea of nationalism and nation-state. ‘Nationalism can support both movements of unification and separation.’

Explain this with reference to the nationalist mobilizations in Europe.

Ans: Most geographers believe that for a geopolitical region to function as a Nation State, it must have definable, defensible borders, and it must, to one degree or another, encompass a human population that generally holds a few foundational values, attitudes, and beliefs in common. For example, it seems apparent that the majority of Americans hold at least a few basic values in common. For the most part, we believe in freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and the right to elect our representatives (thus, Russian interference in American elections is not an insignificant issue). Americans also favor a strong system of checks and balances (proven by the American proclivity to elect a President from one political party while at the same time or soon thereafter, making sure that he must work with a Congress controlled by the opposition party). Clearly, some Americans are intolerant of the rights of those who disagree with them.

In regions where boundaries are unclear and where the diversity of opinion on nearly every aspect of life makes it impossible to find agreement on almost anything, it is unlikely that a nation state can long endure (even under the leadership of a powerful dictator). That is why nation building is an incredibly difficult task in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Not only are borders contested, but the people who live within these geographic expressions (nations) tend to disagree with each other at extremely fundamental levels. The Kurdish, Sunni, and Shiite factions of Iraq provide a good example of the complications associated with nation building in a place where there are basic differences in attitudes, values, and beliefs. The same is true of the various ethnic groups who live within Afghanistan. Even so, in the long run, the fact that these are Islamic states, may lead their people to become part of a greater and growing Islamic Civilization.

The most common definition of nationalism is that it is a sense of belonging to a nation. Additionally, it is important that this sense of belonging is tied to a given area of the earth’s surface. In reality, however, Professor Don Mitchell suggests nationalism is not inherently anything (it is not a natural phenomenon). Instead, it is chameleon-like because it is able to accommodate great diversity (dictatorships, Marxist regimes, capitalism, fascism, etc.). In this, he is referring to people such as the Russians who have been able to modify the nature of their nationalism to accommodate the Tatars, the Romanoff Tsars, the Marxists, and now the current Russian Federation.