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Q93

The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War (a) India should be granted complete independence (b) India should be partitioned into two before granting independence (c) India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth (d) India should be given Dominion status Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Complete independence (purna swaraj) was Congress's Lahore (1929) demand, not what Cripps offered. Cripps promised Dominion status after the war, with a right to secede later, not immediate complete independence. This option is not the key.

(b)

Partition into two before independence was not the Cripps design. Provinces could later opt out of the Union, which hinted at Pakistan, but the plan did not enact partition first. This option is wrong.

(c)

A republic obliged to join the Commonwealth was not the Cripps formula. Dominion status inside the British Commonwealth was the offer; republican status came with the 1950 Constitution. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

The Cripps Mission (1942) envisaged that after the Second World War India would be given Dominion status, with a constitution-making body and a British Indian Union that provinces could join or leave. That Dominion-status promise is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) India should be given Dominion status. Stafford Cripps brought the War Cabinet's draft: post-war Dominion status, a constituent assembly, and protection for provinces that stayed out. Congress rejected it over an immediate national government and the viceroy's veto; the League wanted a clearer Pakistan. The offer was not purna swaraj, not prior partition, and not a republic-with-Commonwealth condition in those terms.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Year

March-April 1942, after Japan's advance in Asia

Quit India

August 1942; followed the failure of Cripps

Dominion status

Self-government within the British Commonwealth, as in the 1931 Statute of Westminster model

Constituent assembly in the plan

To be elected after the war by provincial legislatures

Cabinet Mission, 1946

Later British plan; three-tier grouping, still not the 1942 Cripps text

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