

Indigo Complete Illustrated Study Material

Louis Fischer | CBSE Class 12 English Core | Flamingo



Champaran 1917 A struggle that turned fear into courage

Prepared for independent study classroom learning and board examination revision

Prepared by Paul Academy | Powered by English Mines™

Contents

Section	What you will study
1	Learning objectives and lesson orientation
2	Author context and historical background
3	Complete synopsis and plot stages
4	Section wise explanation
5	Characters themes symbols and technique
6	Vocabulary expressions and language work
7	Textbook questions with answers
8	Board style question bank
9	Complete answer key and marking guidance
10	Ready Reckoner and extension tasks
11	Illustration notes and sources

How to Use This Material

- Read the synopsis once before beginning the section-wise explanation.
- Use the chronology and method diagrams to connect events with Gandhi's principles.
- Underline textual evidence in the model answers; do not memorise wording mechanically.
- Attempt the Practice Zone before checking the answer key.
- Use the Ready Reckoner for a final 5–10 minute revision.

Source Overview

The prescribed NCERT Flamingo chapter “Indigo” is the primary source.

Learning Objectives

- explain the sequence of the Champaran episode and its historical importance;
- analyse Rajkumar Shukla's persistence and Gandhi's leadership;
- connect Gandhi's actions with satyagraha non violence civil disobedience and self reliance;
- interpret the economic injustice of the indigo sharecropping system;
- identify narrative techniques significant expressions and legal vocabulary;
- support literary answers with precise textual evidence;
- answer extract based short analytical and competency questions;
- evaluate the lesson's relevance to ethical leadership and social reform.

Before You Begin

Feature	Orientation
Genre	Biographical narrative and historical prose
Source work	An excerpt from The Life of Mahatma Gandhi
Central event	The Champaran indigo struggle of 1917
Central conflict	Exploited sharecroppers against British planters and colonial authority
Narrative focus	How fact finding moral courage negotiation and constructive service produced change
Curiosity hook	Why did Gandhi accept only a 25 per cent refund when he could have demanded more?

About Louis Fischer

Louis Fischer (1896–1970) was born in Philadelphia. He served as a volunteer in the British Army from 1918 to 1920, became a journalist, wrote for major publications and later joined the faculty of Princeton University. “Indigo” is adapted from his biography The Life of Mahatma Gandhi. Fischer presents history through concrete incidents, remembered conversations and Gandhi's own explanations.

Historical Background

Champaran lay in northern Bihar near Nepal. Much of its cultivable land belonged to British estate owners and was worked by Indian tenants. Under the long-term tinkathia arrangement, tenants had to grow indigo on three twentieths of their land—15 per cent—and surrender the entire crop as rent. When Germany developed synthetic indigo, the planters no longer needed the natural crop. They demanded compensation from tenants for releasing them from the old arrangement. Many illiterate peasants paid; when they learned the truth, they wanted their money back.

Be careful The 15 per cent was the portion of the holding forced under indigo cultivation. It was not a 15 per cent cash tax.



Rajkumar Shukla waits with the persistence that brings Gandhi to Champaran

Complete Synopsis

In 1942 Gandhi tells Louis Fischer how the Champaran episode began. At the Lucknow Congress of December 1916, the poor and illiterate sharecropper Rajkumar Shukla asks Gandhi to visit Champaran. Gandhi has other engagements, but Shukla follows him from place to place and waits for weeks until Gandhi fixes a meeting in

Calcutta. From there they travel to Patna. Because Rajendra Prasad is away, his servants mistake Gandhi for another peasant and refuse him water from the well for fear of caste pollution.

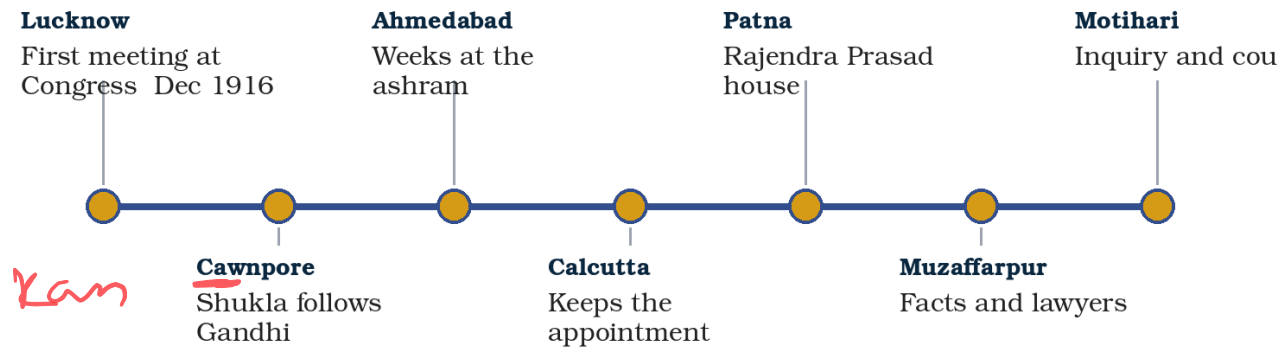
Gandhi proceeds to Muzaffarpur to gather reliable information. Professor J. B. Kripalani and his students receive him at midnight, and Professor Malkani gives him shelter despite the danger faced by a government employee. Local lawyers explain the peasants' cases. Gandhi tells them that legal proceedings cannot cure a population crushed by fear. He then enters Champaran, questions the planters' association and the British commissioner, and refuses the commissioner's order to leave.

When an official notice orders him out of Champaran, Gandhi writes that he will disobey it. Summoned to court, he pleads guilty to breaking the order but explains that conscience and humanitarian duty require him to remain. Thousands of peasants gather peacefully around the courthouse. Their presence proves that colonial authority can be challenged. Gandhi helps the officials regulate the crowd and refuses bail. The case is later withdrawn—the first successful instance of civil disobedience in modern India.

Gandhi persuades the Bihar lawyers to risk imprisonment with him. They conduct a wide inquiry, collecting about ten thousand depositions. An official commission, with Gandhi as the peasants' representative, confirms the planters' wrongdoing. Gandhi first asks for a 50 per cent refund and accepts the planters' counter-offer of 25 per cent. The exact amount matters less than the surrender of money and prestige: peasants recognise that they have rights and defenders. British planters soon leave and indigo sharecropping disappears.

Gandhi does not stop at economic redress. Volunteers open schools, improve sanitation and provide simple medical care. He rejects the lawyers' wish to rely on the English pacifist C. F. Andrews, teaching them self-reliance. Champaran becomes a turning point because political freedom grows from service to living people, courage against fear and the ability of Indians to stand on their own feet.

Gandhi and Shukla Journey to Champaran



The journey created by Shukla's persistence and Gandhi's search for facts

Plot Stages

Stage	Key development	Meaning
Exposition	Shukla meets Gandhi at Lucknow	An anonymous peasant initiates historic action.
Rising action	Journey fact finding official hostility	Gandhi learns before acting and refuses intimidation.
Climax	Motihari court and mass peasant gathering	Civil resistance breaks the psychological hold of authority.
Resolution	Inquiry and 25 per cent refund	Planters lose prestige; peasants gain courage and rights.
Constructive close	Schools health sanitation self reliance	Freedom includes social capacity not only legal victory.

Section Wise Explanation

1 Shukla Finds Gandhi

Rajkumar Shukla approaches Gandhi at the Lucknow Congress. Though poor, thin and illiterate, he refuses to be dismissed. He follows Gandhi to Cawnpore and Ahmedabad and waits until Gandhi promises to meet him in Calcutta. His tenacity changes a private grievance into a national moral question.

Exam focus Contrast Shukla's lack of formal power with the historic consequence of his persistence.

2 Patna and the Reality of Caste

Shukla takes Gandhi to Rajendra Prasad's house. The servants see two plainly dressed peasants and will not allow Gandhi to draw water from the well because they fear he might be "untouchable." The incident reveals that social prejudice existed alongside colonial oppression.

Exam focus The episode establishes Gandhi's simplicity and exposes caste discrimination.

3 Muzaffarpur and Freedom from Fear

Gandhi reaches Muzaffarpur at midnight on 15 April 1917. Kripalani and students receive him; Professor Malkani shelters him despite being a government-school teacher. Lawyers describe cases and fees. Gandhi argues that courts do little for terrified peasants; their first need is freedom from fear.

Exam focus Gandhi redirects the lawyers from professional litigation to moral service.

4 The Indigo Injustice

British landlords force tenants to grow indigo on 15 per cent of their holdings and surrender the crop. Synthetic indigo makes natural indigo less profitable, so planters demand compensation to cancel the arrangement. The peasants later understand that they were deceived and seek refunds.

Exam focus Explain both the old rent and the new compensation demand.

5 Investigation and the Order to Leave

The planters' secretary calls Gandhi an outsider; Gandhi rejects the label because Champaran is part of his own country. The commissioner bullies him, but Gandhi goes to Motihari and investigates a report of peasant maltreatment. He receives an order to quit and writes that he will disobey.

Exam focus Gandhi remains courteous while firmly rejecting unjust authority.

6 The Motihari Trial

Gandhi prepares all night, informs leaders and the Viceroy, and faces court. Thousands of peasants gather. Gandhi regulates them peacefully, pleads guilty and explains his conflict between legal obedience and the higher law of conscience. He refuses bail and accepts possible punishment.

Exam focus This is civil disobedience: open, non-violent lawbreaking with willingness to accept consequences.

7 The Lawyers Choose Courage

The lawyers initially say they will return home if Gandhi is jailed. His question about the peasants exposes their limited commitment. Ashamed that a stranger will suffer more than local advocates, they agree to go to prison. Gandhi declares that the battle is won because Indian leadership has overcome fear.

Exam focus The victory is psychological before it is legal.

8 Inquiry and Settlement

The government drops the case. Gandhi and the lawyers record about ten thousand depositions. The Lieutenant-Governor forms a commission. Evidence compels the planters to agree to refunds. Gandhi asks for 50 per cent but accepts 25 per cent to break the deadlock.

Exam focus The surrender of prestige matters more than the size of the refund.

9 Constructive Work

Gandhi stays for months. Volunteers open primary schools in six villages. Kasturbai promotes cleanliness; a doctor provides simple treatment with castor oil, quinine and sulphur ointment. Poverty is so deep that one woman owns only the sari she is wearing.

Exam focus Gandhi's politics directly addresses education health poverty and sanitation.

10 Self Reliance and the Turning Point

Gandhi refuses to keep C. F. Andrews as an English supporter. A just cause must be won through Indian courage, not a foreign "prop." Champaran teaches peasants and professionals alike to stand on their own feet.

Exam focus Link self-reliance with national independence and help to sharecroppers.



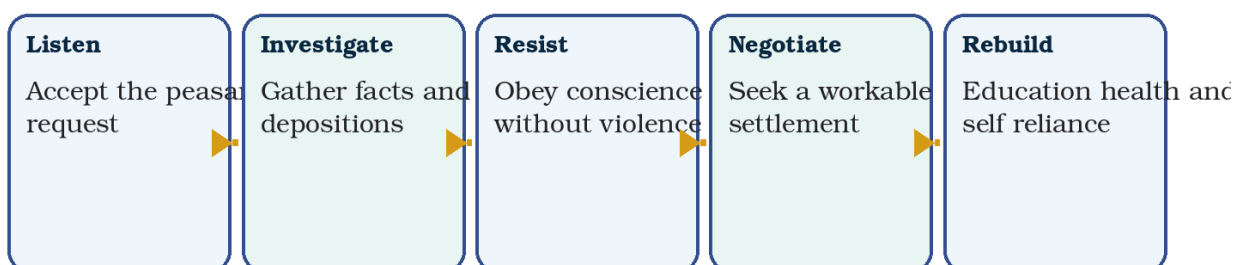
The peaceful crowd at Motihari made colonial authority confront Indian courage

Chronology of the Champaran Episode

Date or period	Event
December 1916	Shukla meets Gandhi at the Lucknow Congress.
Early 1917	Shukla follows Gandhi and secures a promise.

Date or period	Event
15 April 1917	Gandhi arrives in Muzaffarpur at midnight.
April 1917	Gandhi reaches Motihari refuses the order to leave and appears in court.
Several days later	The Lieutenant-Governor orders the case withdrawn.
June 1917	Gandhi meets Sir Edward Gait; an official commission is appointed.
About one year	Gandhi's initial seven-month stay and later visits continue the work.
Within a few years	British planters leave; indigo sharecropping disappears.

The Gandhian Method in Champaran



Gandhi combines moral courage with disciplined practical action

Character Profiles

Mahatma Gandhi

Quality	Textual evidence and significance
Empathetic	He accepts the appeal of an unknown poor peasant and studies the peasants' distress.

Quality	Textual evidence and significance
Methodical	He gathers facts consults lawyers records depositions and informs responsible authorities.
Fearless	He refuses to leave Champaran and accepts punishment without hostility.
Courteous and disciplined	He helps officials control the crowd and remains polite even while resisting.
Practical negotiator	He accepts a 25 per cent refund because the principle and loss of planter prestige matter most.
Constructive reformer	He organises schools medical care cleanliness and sanitation.
Teacher of self reliance	He refuses dependence on Andrews and asks Indians to trust their just cause.

Rajkumar Shukla

Shukla is poor, thin and illiterate but “resolute.” He recognises that Gandhi can help, follows him across cities, waits for weeks and keeps the Calcutta appointment. His persistence gives agency to an ordinary peasant. The freedom movement, the lesson suggests, was not made only by famous leaders; anonymous Indians pushed history forward.

The Bihar Lawyers

The lawyers know the peasants’ cases but charge large fees and initially think mainly as legal advisers. Gandhi makes them examine their duty. Their decision to go to jail marks moral growth from professional assistance to courageous solidarity. They later become disciplined investigators and partners in civil disobedience.

The Peasants

At first the peasants are crushed, illiterate and fear-stricken. Their spontaneous gathering at Motihari begins their liberation from fear. After the settlement, they

understand that they possess rights and defenders. Their change from submission to courage is the deepest success of the episode.

The British Planters and Officials

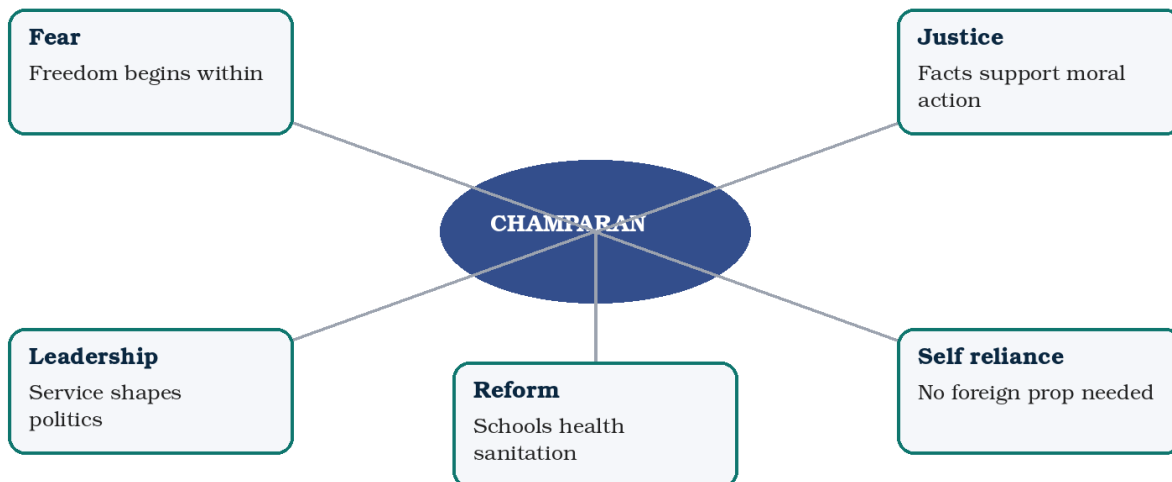
The planters exploit contracts, demand deceptive compensation, use thugs and imagine themselves above the law. Officials first bully and prosecute Gandhi. Yet disciplined resistance, evidence and public courage expose the limits of their authority. The planters' eventual refund represents a surrender of prestige as well as money.

C F Andrews

Andrews is an English pacifist and Gandhi's devoted follower. He is willing to help, but his greatest narrative function is paradoxical: Gandhi sends him away so that the Indian lawyers learn not to rely on an English supporter. His departure becomes a lesson in self-reliance.

Major Themes

The Meaning of the Champaran Episode



Champaran connects political resistance with human development

Freedom from Fear

Gandhi understands that legal victory cannot permanently help people who remain inwardly terrified. The peasants' peaceful appearance at court and their later

awareness of rights show psychological liberation. Courage makes legal and political change possible.

Leadership through Service

Gandhi does not begin with a grand nationalist performance. He responds to immediate human suffering, learns the facts, accepts personal risk and organises practical reform. His authority grows from service and example.

Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience

Gandhi disobeys an unjust order openly, explains his moral grounds, remains respectful, uses no violence and accepts the penalty. This disciplined appeal to truth differs from secret lawbreaking or angry rebellion.

Self Reliance

The peasants must overcome dependence on landlords; the lawyers must overcome dependence on Andrews; India must overcome dependence on British rule. Standing on one's own feet is both personal education and national preparation.

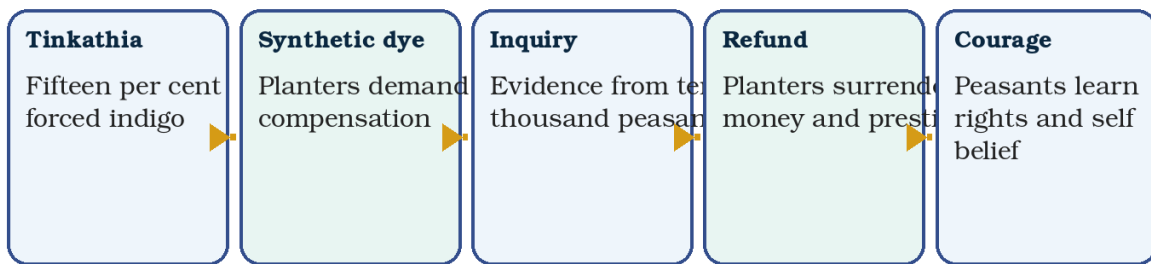
Justice through Negotiation

The 25 per cent settlement demonstrates that a moral victory need not demand maximum financial punishment. Once planters are compelled to repay anything, their claim to unchecked authority collapses. Gandhi chooses a settlement that establishes principle and begins lasting change.

Constructive Freedom

Schools, sanitation and medical work show that political independence without human development is incomplete. Gandhi's loyalty is to living people and their daily problems, not to abstract slogans.

From Exploitation to Empowerment



Economic exploitation leads through inquiry and settlement to peasant courage

Title Setting Conflict and Narrative Technique

Element	Analysis
Title	"Indigo" names the crop at the centre of exploitation, but the chapter ultimately turns a commercial plant into a symbol of resistance and human dignity.
Setting	Champanan's estates villages courthouse and schools make politics concrete and local.
External conflict	Peasants and Gandhi oppose exploitative planters and colonial orders.
Internal conflict	Gandhi weighs legal obedience against conscience; lawyers choose comfort or sacrifice.
Narrative viewpoint	Fischer's third-person biographical narration includes Gandhi's first-person recollections and eyewitness comments.
Direct speech	Quotations create immediacy credibility character and drama.

Element	Analysis
Irony	The supposedly powerful government becomes dependent on Gandhi to manage a peaceful crowd.
Contrast	Poor Shukla has little status but great resolve; educated lawyers know the law but first lack courage.
Structure	The narrative moves from individual appeal to mass awakening and then to constructive reform.

Motifs and Symbols

Motif or symbol	Meaning
Indigo	Economic exploitation under colonial agriculture.
The courthouse crowd	Collective courage and liberation from fear.
The well at Patna	Caste prejudice and social inequality within Indian society.
The 25 per cent refund	The breaking of planter prestige and recognition of peasant rights.
The prop	Dependence on foreign help; Gandhi rejects it in favour of self-confidence.
Schools and sanitation	Freedom built through education dignity and practical service.

Important Expressions and Contextual Meanings

Expression	Meaning in the lesson
urge the departure	press strongly for the British to leave India

Expression	Meaning in the lesson
harbour a man like me	give shelter to a nationalist whom government employees feared supporting
conflict of duties	a clash between obeying an official order and serving suffering people
seek a prop	depend on outside support instead of one's own strength
sitting on his haunches	waiting in a squatting position
home rule	self-government rather than foreign rule
freedom from fear	release from psychological submission to authority
crushing mountain of evidence	an overwhelming quantity of proof
break the deadlock	end a situation in which neither side will move
stand on his own feet	act independently and confidently

Vocabulary and Usage

Word	Contextual meaning	Usage example
emaciated	abnormally thin and weak	The famine left many villagers emaciated.
resolute	firmly determined	Shukla remained resolute despite delay.
tenacity	persistence	Her tenacity helped her finish the research.
yeoman	a small landholding farmer	The servants saw Shukla as a poor yeoman.
impart	communicate	The witness could not impart every detail.
advent	arrival	News of Gandhi's advent spread quickly.

Word	Contextual meaning	Usage example
chide	scold gently or rebuke	Gandhi chided the lawyers for high fees.
irksome	annoying and burdensome	The indigo arrangement was irksome.
forthwith	immediately	The official ordered him to leave forthwith.
baffled	confused	The authorities were baffled by his calm refusal.
humanitarian	concerned with human welfare	He described his work as humanitarian service.
desertion	abandonment of duty	The lawyers feared shameful desertion.
deposition	formal recorded testimony	Investigators wrote down each deposition.
vehement	forceful and passionate	The landlords made vehement protests.
protracted	lasting a long time	Four protracted interviews were held.
adamant	refusing to change	He seemed adamant about fifty per cent.
extort	obtain by force or pressure	The money had been illegally extorted.
plight	difficult condition	The episode changed the peasants' plight.
alleviate	make suffering less severe	Gandhi tried to alleviate their distress.
intertwined	closely connected	His politics was intertwined with daily problems.

Significant Textual Moments

Short cue	Why it matters
"The real relief ... is to be free from fear."	Defines psychological courage as the basis of justice.

Short cue	Why it matters
"I would disobey the order."	Shows open principled civil disobedience.
"the voice of conscience"	Places moral duty above an unjust administrative command.
"The battle of Champaran is won."	The lawyers' change proves fear has already been defeated.
"He learned courage."	Identifies empowerment as the settlement's true result.
"loyalty to living human beings"	Explains Gandhi's practical human-centred politics.
"You should not seek a prop"	Condenses the lesson in self-reliance.

Be careful Quote only the minimum words needed. Then explain the mechanism and effect; a quotation without analysis earns limited credit.

Textbook Questions with Answers

Think as You Read

1a Strike out what is not true about Shukla He was not a politician and not a landlord. He was a poor, illiterate sharecropper and attended the Congress as a delegate or visitor seeking help.

1b Why is Shukla called resolute He followed Gandhi from Lucknow to Cawnpore and Ahmedabad, stayed near him for weeks, insisted that he fix a date and later waited in Calcutta. His persistence overcame every delay.

1c Why did the servants mistake Gandhi for a peasant Gandhi travelled with the plainly dressed Shukla and himself dressed simply. The servants judged by appearance and assumed that both men were poor peasants.

2 Gandhi's route before Champaran After Lucknow, Gandhi went to Cawnpore and other places, returned to his Ahmedabad ashram, met Shukla in Calcutta, travelled to Patna and then to Muzaffarpur before reaching Champaran and Motihari.

3 What did peasants pay and what did landlords then want The peasants had to cultivate indigo on 15 per cent of their land and surrender the crop as rent. After

synthetic indigo appeared, landlords demanded cash compensation to release them. Synthetic dye would reduce demand and price for natural indigo.

4 Instances of Gandhi's method He investigated facts, met both officials and peasants, refused an unjust order without violence, accepted legal consequences, kept the crowd peaceful, prepared colleagues for arrest, gathered evidence and negotiated a settlement. These actions join truth, non-violence, discipline and willingness to suffer.

5 Why did Gandhi accept a 25 per cent refund The exact amount was less important than compelling landlords to return money. Even a partial refund destroyed their claim to be above the law, reduced their prestige and taught peasants that they possessed rights.

6 How did the episode change the peasants' plight The peasants overcame fear, found defenders, recovered part of the money, gained recognition of their rights and eventually regained the estates when planters left. Indigo sharecropping disappeared.

Understanding the Text

1 Why was Champaran a turning point Gandhi proved that British authority could be challenged peacefully in India. He won the first modern civil-disobedience victory, freed peasants from fear, tied national politics to daily suffering and developed a pattern of inquiry, resistance, negotiation and constructive work.

2 How did Gandhi influence the lawyers He rebuked their high fees and questioned what they would do if he went to jail. His readiness to suffer for strangers shamed them into accepting imprisonment. He later organised their inquiry and rejected dependence on Andrews, teaching discipline and self-reliance.

3 Attitude in smaller localities toward home-rule advocates People were generally afraid to show sympathy because government displeasure could threaten employment and safety. Professor Malkani's decision to shelter Gandhi was therefore considered extraordinary.

4 How did ordinary people contribute Shukla's persistence brought Gandhi to Champaran; thousands of peasants gathered peacefully at the court and gave depositions; villagers participated in schools and sanitation work; volunteers came from several places. The movement depended on unnamed people as well as leaders.

Working with Words and Language

Legal vocabulary in the chapter includes court, case, lawyer, notice, summons, prosecutor, judge, trial, plead guilty, penalty, bail, judgment, arrest, evidence, document, deposition, inquiry, commission and settlement.

Why Fischer Uses Direct Speech

Direct quotations make past events immediate, distinguish voices and reveal character. Gandhi's words display calm reasoning; the lawyers' reply exposes hesitation; the poor woman's statement makes poverty concrete. Quotation also gives biographical narration the authority of remembered testimony.

Comma after an Opening Subordinate Clause

Pattern	Example	Rule
Subordinate clause first	When the court reconvened, the judge delayed judgment.	Use a comma after the opening subordinate clause.
Main clause first	The messenger overtook Gandhi when he had not gone far.	A comma is usually unnecessary when the subordinate clause follows.
Very short integrated clause	He waited till Gandhi was free.	No comma is needed because the time clause completes the meaning closely.

Practice Zone

A Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why does Shukla succeed in taking Gandhi to Champaran?
A. Wealth B. Political office C. Persistent determination D. Legal knowledge
2. Why does Gandhi go to Muzaffarpur first?
A. To hold a rally B. To obtain fuller information C. To meet the Viceroy D. To hire lawyers
3. Professor Malkani's action is extraordinary because he
A. is a British planter B. is a government-school teacher sheltering a nationalist C. pays peasant compensation D. travels from Fiji
4. Gandhi considers courts inadequate mainly because the peasants
A. lack documents B. are too poor to travel C. remain crushed by fear D. dislike lawyers
5. Synthetic indigo causes the landlords to
A. increase natural indigo cultivation B. seek compensation to release tenants C. return all rent immediately D. open schools
6. Gandhi's written response to the notice shows
A. secret rebellion B. impulsive anger C. transparent civil disobedience D. legal confusion
7. The Motihari crowd first demonstrates the peasants'
A. wish for violence B. release from fear C. demand for full refund D. distrust of Gandhi
8. Gandhi refuses bail because he
A. denies the court exists B. is prepared to accept the consequences C. cannot afford it D. expects Andrews to pay
9. "The battle of Champaran is won" refers first to
A. a military victory B. the lawyers' moral commitment C. the planters leaving India D. the opening of schools
10. About how many peasant depositions were recorded?

A. 1,000 B. 2,301 C. 10,000 D. 20,000

11. Gandhi accepts 25 per cent because

A. evidence is weak B. the principle of planter surrender matters more than amount
C. peasants reject money D. the court orders it

12. Which activity best represents constructive freedom?

A. Hiring thugs B. Opening village schools C. Collecting large fees D. Leaving
Motihari

13. Gandhi rejects Andrews's help chiefly to teach

A. legal procedure B. foreign diplomacy C. self-reliance D. agricultural science

14. The narrative technique most visible in Gandhi's remembered words is

A. dramatic monologue only B. direct speech within biography C. stream of
consciousness D. fantasy

15. The title "Indigo" finally points beyond a crop to

A. artistic colour theory B. colonial exploitation and resistance C. European fashion
D. scientific discovery

B Short Answer Questions

- 1. How does the Patna well incident deepen the social context of the chapter?
- 2. Why does Gandhi call himself no outsider in Champaran?
- 3. How does Gandhi turn the courthouse crowd into moral evidence?
- 4. What is the "conflict of duties" in Gandhi's statement?
- 5. Why is the lawyers' decision more important than legal advice?
- 6. How does the inquiry combine truth with organised action?
- 7. Explain the symbolic importance of the 25 per cent refund.
- 8. What does the poor woman's single sari reveal?
- 9. Why is Andrews called a possible "prop"?
- 10. How does the ending unite self-reliance and independence?

C Long Answer Questions

- 1. Gandhi's leadership in Champaran is moral practical and educational. Discuss in 120–150 words.
- 2. Trace the peasants' movement from fear to courage in 120–150 words.

- 3. Rajkumar Shukla is an ordinary man with extraordinary historical impact. Evaluate in 120–150 words.
- 4. Explain why the 25 per cent settlement was a larger victory than its amount suggests in 120–150 words.
- 5. How does “Indigo” connect political freedom with social reform in 120–150 words?
- 6. Compare the initial attitude of the lawyers with their later commitment in 120–150 words.

D Extract Based Questions

Set 1

“The real relief for them is to be free from fear.”

- a. Who are “them”?
- b. Why are law courts insufficient?
- c. What change later proves this claim?
- d. Name the central theme expressed.

Set 2

“I disregarded the order ... in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience.”

- a. Which order is meant?
- b. Why does Gandhi plead guilty?
- c. How is this different from lawless rebellion?
- d. What principle does the line illustrate?

Set 3

“The battle of Champaran is won.”

- a. What has just happened?
- b. Why does Gandhi call it a victory before the official result?
- c. What quality has changed in the lawyers?
- d. How does the remark advance the theme?

Set 4

"You should not seek a prop in Mr. Andrews because he happens to be an Englishman."

- a. Who is addressed?
- b. Why do they want Andrews to stay?
- c. What weakness does Gandhi identify?
- d. State the lesson he teaches.

E Competency and HOTS Questions

1. A community is legally protected but too frightened to report abuse. What would Gandhi's Champaran method address first, and why?
2. Was Gandhi's acceptance of 25 per cent a compromise of justice or a strategic fulfilment of justice? Defend one view.
3. Compare Shukla's leadership with Gandhi's leadership. How are both necessary?
4. If Gandhi had allowed Andrews to remain, what message might the lawyers and peasants have learned?
5. Design a five-step non-violent response to an unfair school rule using the Champaran method.
6. Which was more decisive in Champaran: evidence, public courage or negotiation? Make a reasoned judgment.

F Vocabulary and Language Practice

1. Use resolute, deposition, alleviate, adamant and self-reliance in original sentences.
2. Replace the underlined idea with a lesson expression: depend on support; end the stalemate; firmly request British withdrawal; struggle between responsibilities.
3. Insert commas where needed: When the evidence was complete the commission met. The commission met when the evidence was complete.
4. Change to reported speech: Gandhi said, "I will disobey the order."
5. List eight legal-procedure words from the lesson and explain any four.

Complete Answer Key and Marking Guidance

A Multiple Choice Answers

Q	Answer	Explanation
1	C	Shukla's persistence overcomes Gandhi's full schedule.
2	B	Gandhi wants reliable facts before action.
3	B	Government employees feared association with home-rule advocates.
4	C	Fear prevents peasants from using legal rights effectively.
5	B	Synthetic dye reduces the need for natural indigo.
6	C	He announces disobedience and accepts consequences.
7	B	Their peaceful presence begins liberation from fear.
8	B	He accepts responsibility rather than seeking release through bail.
9	B	The lawyers choose sacrifice and solidarity.
10	C	About ten thousand depositions are recorded.
11	B	Return of money breaks planter prestige and establishes rights.
12	B	Education builds long-term capacity.
13	C	Indians must rely on their just cause and themselves.
14	B	Fischer embeds remembered direct quotation in biography.
15	B	The crop becomes the focus of exploitation and resistance.

B Short Answer Models

1. The servants' refusal to let Gandhi draw water reveals caste discrimination within Indian society. It widens the chapter beyond colonial injustice and shows that freedom also requires social reform.
2. Gandhi rejects the planters' claim that he is an outsider because Champaran belongs to his own country and its people's suffering concerns him morally and nationally.
3. Gandhi keeps thousands of peasants peaceful and helps officials regulate them. Their disciplined courage proves that feared authority depends on submission and can be challenged without violence.
4. He must choose between obeying a legal order and fulfilling humanitarian and national service. He respects lawful authority but obeys conscience when the order prevents moral duty.
5. Their promise to face jail shows solidarity and courage. It converts professional advisers into participants who will accept personal risk for the peasants.
6. Investigators record about ten thousand depositions, collect documents and note other evidence. Truth becomes publicly verifiable and strong enough to force an official commission and negotiation.
7. The refund proves that planters are not above the law. Their surrender of even part of the money weakens prestige and helps peasants recognise their rights.
8. Her only sari reveals extreme poverty behind the apparent problem of dirty clothing. It warns reformers to understand material conditions before judging people.
9. The lawyers see Andrews's English identity as protection in an unequal struggle. Gandhi calls this a prop because dependence would weaken their courage and confidence in a just cause.
10. The episode teaches peasants rights, lawyers courage and communities practical capacity. Such self-reliant people can resist exploitation and contribute to national independence.

Suggested marking 2 marks each: one mark for the central point and one for relevant explanation or textual support. Accept equivalent wording.

C Long Answer Models

1. Leadership

Gandhi's leadership in Champaran rests on moral courage, practical intelligence and education. He first listens to Shukla and gathers facts instead of beginning with slogans. When ordered to leave, he disobeys openly, remains courteous and accepts punishment. This example frees peasants and lawyers from fear. He then organises ten thousand depositions and negotiates through an official commission. Accepting a 25 per cent refund establishes the principle that planters are accountable and breaks their prestige. Gandhi also looks beyond money. He brings teachers and a doctor, opens schools and promotes sanitation. Finally, he refuses dependence on C. F. Andrews, teaching the lawyers self-reliance. Thus his leadership serves immediate suffering while developing people capable of freedom.

2. Fear to courage

At the beginning, Champaran's peasants are crushed by landlords and frightened of authority. They accept the tinkathia arrangement and deceptive compensation because they lack knowledge and confidence. Gandhi therefore says that freedom from fear is more important than court cases. His refusal to leave Champaran gives them a visible example of courage. Thousands gather peacefully around the Motihari courthouse when he is summoned. Their disciplined presence makes officials feel powerless and begins their psychological liberation. The later inquiry records their testimony and turns private suffering into public evidence. When planters return 25 per cent, peasants see that the supposed masters are answerable and that tenants possess rights and defenders. Their new courage outlasts the refund; within a few years the planters leave and indigo sharecropping disappears.

3. Shukla

Rajkumar Shukla has none of the usual signs of power. He is poor, thin and illiterate, yet he recognises the injustice of Champaran and acts with remarkable tenacity. At the Lucknow Congress he approaches Gandhi directly. Gandhi has several commitments, but Shukla follows him to Cawnpore, other places and the Ahmedabad ashram. He waits for weeks, asks Gandhi to fix a date and then appears punctually in Calcutta after months. His determination brings Gandhi to Bihar and begins an episode that becomes a turning point in the freedom struggle. Shukla cannot provide all the detailed information Gandhi needs, but he performs the indispensable first

act: he connects suffering peasants with a leader willing to serve. The chapter thereby honours the contribution of anonymous Indians.

4. Settlement

The 25 per cent refund appears financially modest, especially because Gandhi first asks for 50 per cent and the planters had obtained money illegally. Yet Gandhi understands the struggle psychologically and politically. The planters had behaved like masters above the law. Once they are compelled to return any amount, they admit accountability and surrender part of their prestige. The settlement also breaks a deadlock and gains unanimous acceptance by the commission. For the peasants, the crucial discovery is that they possess rights and defenders; as Gandhi says, they learn courage. Events justify his judgment. Within a few years, British planters abandon the estates, the land returns to peasants and indigo sharecropping disappears. The partial refund therefore produces a complete change in the relationship of power.

5. Political and social freedom

“Indigo” shows that Gandhi does not separate politics from ordinary human needs. His civil disobedience challenges the British right to order an Indian out of his own country, but the movement begins with the distress of poor sharecroppers rather than an abstract declaration. After the inquiry and settlement, Gandhi remains in Champaran. Volunteers open primary schools in six villages; Kasturbai teaches cleanliness and community sanitation; a doctor gives simple medical treatment. The episode of the woman who owns only one sari reveals his attention to the material roots of social problems. He also teaches the lawyers self-reliance by refusing Andrews’s protective presence. For Gandhi, a free India requires courageous, educated and self-supporting people. Political independence and constructive village reform are therefore parts of the same programme.

6. Lawyers

The Bihar lawyers initially assist peasants through court cases, but their service is limited. They charge large fees and assume that legal advice is their chief contribution. Gandhi argues that courts cannot help people paralysed by fear. Their deeper test comes when he asks what they will do if he is imprisoned. At first they say they will return home because no one will remain to advise. Reflection makes them ashamed: Gandhi is a stranger willing to suffer for peasants, while they are local men who claim to serve them. They return and promise to follow him to jail.

This change leads Gandhi to declare the battle won. They then help record depositions and organise the inquiry. Later, his refusal to rely on Andrews completes their education in courage and self-reliance.

Suggested marking for a 5-mark answer Content and textual support 3 marks; organisation 1 mark; language accuracy 1 mark. Award partial credit for valid relevant points. Do not require identical wording.

D Extract Based Answers

Set 1

- a. The oppressed Champaran sharecroppers.
- b. Fear prevents them from asserting rights; legal cases alone cannot remove submission.
- c. Thousands gather peacefully at Motihari and later recognise their rights after the settlement.
- d. Freedom from fear or empowerment.

Set 2

- a. The official notice ordering Gandhi to quit Champaran.
- b. He admits the act openly because civil disobedience accepts legal consequences.
- c. He remains non-violent and respectful, explains moral grounds and accepts punishment.
- d. Satyagraha guided by conscience.

Set 3

- a. The local lawyers have agreed to follow Gandhi to jail.
- b. Their fear and limited self-interest have changed before any official judgment.
- c. Moral courage and solidarity.
- d. It shows that inner liberation precedes political victory.

Set 4

- a. Gandhi's Bihar lawyer friends.
- b. They believe an English supporter will strengthen them against British planters and officials.
- c. Dependence and lack of confidence in themselves and their just cause.
- d. Indians must develop self-reliance to win freedom.

Suggested marking 1 mark per subpart. Accept accurately supported alternatives.

E Competency and HOTS Suggested Responses

- 1.** The first task is to remove fear through trustworthy presence, collective support and a safe way to record facts. Legal protection becomes usable only when people believe they can speak without standing alone.
- 2.** It is strategic fulfilment of justice. The refund establishes accountability, breaks prestige and changes power. Gandhi measures success by lasting courage and rights rather than the largest immediate payment.
- 3.** Shukla identifies suffering and persists until it is heard; Gandhi investigates, organises, resists and negotiates. Grass-roots initiative begins the movement, while disciplined leadership converts it into change.
- 4.** They might have learned that even a just Indian cause requires English protection. Sending Andrews away forces them to trust evidence, courage and their own capacity.
- 5.** Listen to affected students; verify facts and rules; present evidence respectfully; refuse an unjust requirement openly without disruption while accepting procedure; negotiate a fair revision and help implement it.
- 6.** A reasoned answer may choose any of the three if it shows their connection. Evidence gives truth public force, courage makes witnesses act and negotiation converts pressure into settlement. In the chapter, courage is foundational because without freedom from fear neither evidence nor negotiation can work fully.

F Vocabulary and Language Answers

- 1. Sample: The resolute witness gave a deposition; the committee tried to alleviate hardship; the chair remained adamant; self-reliance guided the group. Accept correct original sentences.
- 2. seek a prop; break the deadlock; urge the departure; conflict of duties.
- 3. When the evidence was complete, the commission met. The commission met when the evidence was complete.
- 4. Gandhi said that he would disobey the order.
- 5. Any eight accurate terms from the legal vocabulary list; meanings must fit legal procedure.

Ready Reckoner

Lesson in One Minute

An illiterate sharecropper, Rajkumar Shukla, persistently brings Gandhi to Champaran. Gandhi investigates indigo exploitation, refuses an unjust order to leave and accepts legal consequences. Peasants gather peacefully; lawyers learn courage; the case is dropped. About ten thousand depositions lead to an official commission. Gandhi accepts a 25 per cent refund because it breaks planter prestige and teaches peasants their rights. He then supports schools, health, sanitation and self-reliance. Champaran becomes a model of freedom rooted in service and fearlessness.

Must remember	Fast fact
Author	Louis Fischer
Source	The Life of Mahatma Gandhi
Year of Champaran action	1917
Shukla	Poor illiterate resolute sharecropper
Forced indigo share	Three twentieths or 15 per cent
Muzaffarpur arrival	Midnight 15 April 1917
Depositions	About 10,000
Refund accepted	25 per cent
Schools	Six villages
Core result	Peasants learned courage and rights
Final lesson	Self-reliance links individual reform and national freedom

Gandhian Method Memory Chain

Listen → Learn the facts → Resist unjust authority → Accept consequences → Organise people → Negotiate principle → Rebuild community.

High Value Exam Terms

tinkathia arrangement; freedom from fear; civil disobedience; voice of conscience; humanitarian service; psychological liberation; planter prestige; constructive programme; self-reliance; leadership through example.

Common Traps

- Do not say the peasants paid 15 per cent cash rent; they grew indigo on 15 per cent of the land and surrendered the crop.
- Do not describe the Motihari gathering as violent. Gandhi helped keep it orderly.
- Do not say Gandhi wanted only 25 per cent from the start; he asked for 50 per cent and accepted the counter-offer.
- Do not treat the settlement as merely financial; its moral and psychological effect is central.
- Do not end the chapter at the refund; education health sanitation and self-reliance complete its meaning.

Last Minute Checklist

- Can I explain why Shukla is “resolute”?
- Can I trace the route from Lucknow to Motihari?
- Can I explain synthetic indigo and the compensation demand?
- Can I define Gandhi’s conflict of duties?
- Can I show how the peasants and lawyers overcame fear?
- Can I explain why 25 per cent was sufficient?
- Can I connect schools and sanitation with freedom?
- Can I explain why Gandhi rejected Andrews’s help?

Five Things You Must Not Forget

- Freedom from fear comes before effective legal justice.
- Gandhi investigates before he resists.
- Civil disobedience is open non-violent and accepts punishment.
- The settlement breaks prestige and awakens rights.
- Self-reliance joins Champaran’s peasants with Indian independence.

Answer Writing Tips

- Begin with a direct answer to the wording of the question.
- Use one or two precise incidents as evidence.
- Explain why each incident matters; do not merely retell the plot.
- For 120–150 words, organise the answer into a clear opening, evidence-rich middle and focused conclusion.
- Use terms such as moral courage, psychological liberation, constructive work and self-reliance accurately.

Extension and Reflection

- Leadership audit: identify where Gandhi listens, investigates, risks, negotiates and builds. Which stage is hardest for a modern leader?
- Ethical settlement: write 100 words on when accepting less money can still secure greater justice.
- Local inquiry: select a school or community problem. Separate verified facts, stakeholder views, fear barriers and a workable non-violent settlement.

- Cross-curricular link: connect synthetic indigo with technology-driven economic disruption. Who gains and who bears the transition cost?
- Creative response: write Rajkumar Shukla's diary entry on the night Gandhi finally agrees to meet him in Calcutta.



Constructive work in Champaran Education health and sanitation made freedom practical

Illustration Notes

Placement	Purpose	Ratio	Caption	Alt text
Cover	Symbolise Gandhi's arrival among sharecroppers	16:9	Champaran 1917 A struggle that turned fear into courage	Symbolic freedom worker walking with indigo sharecroppers through a village at sunrise.
Historical background	Show Shukla's persistence	3:2	Rajkumar Shukla waits with the persistence that brings Gandhi to Champaran	Determined Champaran peasant waiting outside a Congress gathering.

Placement	Purpose	Ratio	Caption	Alt text
Synopsis	Map the journey accurately	Wide diagram	The journey created by Shukla's persistence and Gandhi's search for facts	Route timeline from Lucknow to Motihari.
Section explanation	Visualise mass courage at court	3:2	The peaceful crowd at Motihari made colonial authority confront Indian courage	Large peaceful peasant gathering outside a colonial courthouse.
Chronology	Teach the action sequence	Wide diagram	Gandhi combines moral courage with disciplined practical action	Five-stage method flowchart.
Themes	Connect central ideas	Wide diagram	Champaran connects political resistance with human development	Theme web around Champaran.
Analysis	Clarify cause and effect	Wide diagram	Economic exploitation leads through inquiry and settlement to courage	Flowchart from tinkathia to empowerment.
Extension	Show constructive programme	3:2	Constructive work in Champaran Education health and sanitation made freedom practical	Village education and sanitation activities.

Generation Prompt Summary

The historical illustrations were generated as realistic painterly scenes with documentary credibility, natural proportions, period-appropriate 1916–1917 North Indian settings, culturally respectful clothing and no modern objects, logos, watermarks or embedded text. Recognisable likenesses of real public figures were avoided; the cover uses a symbolic freedom worker seen from behind. The diagrams were constructed from the chapter's verified sequence and concepts so their labels remain exact.

Sources Consulted

- NCERT Flamingo chapter 5 “Indigo” by Louis Fischer,

Editorial Note

This resource paraphrases the prescribed chapter for teaching and revision. Short quotations are used only where necessary for textual analysis. Interpretations are supported by the chapter; students should consult their current prescribed textbook and school instructions for the exact examination format.

PAUL ACADEMY | Powered by ENGLISH MINES™