The English are people who overthrow all religious. You should understand well the object of destroying the religions of Hindustan: they have for a long time been causing books to be written and circulated throughout the country by the hands of their priests, and, exercising their authority, have brought out numbers of preachers to spread their own tenets: this has been learned from one of their own trusted agents. . . . [The English] ordered the Brahmans and others of their army to bite cartridges, in the making up of which fat had been used. The Mussulman [Muslim] soldiers perceived that by this expedient the religion of the Brahmans and Hindus only was in danger, but nevertheless they also refused to bite them. On this the English now resolved on ruining the faith of both. . . . It is now my firm conviction that if these English continue in Hindustan they will kill every one in the country, and will utterly overthrow our religions. . . . Under these circumstances, I would ask, what course have you decided on to protect your lives and faith? Were your views and mine the same, we might destroy them entirely with a very little trouble; and if we do so, we shall protect our religions and save the country. . . . All you Hindus are hereby solemnly adjured, by your faith in Ganges, Tulsi, and Saligram; and all you Mussulmans, by your belief in God and the Koran, as these English are the common enemy of both, to unite in considering their slaughter extremely expedient, for by this alone will the lives and faith of both be saved. It is expedient, then, that you should coalesce and slay them. The slaughter of kine [cows] is regarded by the Hindus as a great insult to their religion. To prevent this a solemn compact and agreement has been entered into by all the Mahomedan chiefs of Hindustan, binding themselves, that if the Hindus will come forward to slay the English, the Mahomedans will from that very day put a stop to the slaughter of cows, . . . but if the Hindus will not
Letter Opposing the English  
By Moulavy Syad Kutb Shah Sahib

1. According to the letter, what is the author’s premise regarding the English?
   a. The English will agree to give up killing cows out of respect for the Hindu religion
   b. The English are working to put the Mussulmans in political control of India
   c. The English will work to overthrow the religions of Hindustan
   d. The English will protect the Hindus and Mussulmans with their armies and should therefore be trusted

2. According to this letter, why were the English a threat to the Indians? Cite 2 examples from the text to support your answer.


3. Read the sentence from the text: 
   "All you Hindus are hereby solemnly adjured, by your faith in Ganges, Tulsi, and Saligram; and all you Mussulmans, by your belief in God and the Koran, as these English are the common enemy of both, to unite in considering their slaughter extremely expedient…"

Based on its use in the text, what is the best definition of the word adjured?
   a. committed
   b. excused
   c. silenced
   d. requested

4. What course of action did Moulavy Syad Shah believe Indians should take against the English?
   a. slaughter the English
   b. work with the English
   c. ignore the English
   d. expel the English from India
5. What is the main obstacle for the Hindus and Mussulmans in achieving Moulavy Syad Shah's goal/course of action?


6. Identify ALL of the words used to describe the author's feelings toward the English:

   a. fearful
   b. sympathetic
   c. distrustful
   d. compliant
   e. deceitful
   f. ambivalent
   g. treacherous
   h. self-serving

7. What outcome may result from this letter? What obstacles may the Indians face?