Social Science (087)

CBSE Class 10 Board Examination 2027 – Practice Paper No. 1

Model Answer Paper

Time: 3 hours **Max. Marks: 80**

Model answers show one correct method; any other correct method gets full marks.

SECTION A – HISTORY History (20 marks). Q.1 to Q.4 are multiple choice questions of 1 mark each. **[4]**

Q.1 Which of the following statements about the customs union (zollverein) formed in 1834 are correct?

(a) It was formed at the initiative of Prussia and joined by most of the German states.

(b) It abolished tariff barriers.

(c) It reduced the number of currencies from over thirty to two.

(d) It elected an all-German National Assembly at Frankfurt.

(A) (a), (b) and (d) (B) (b), (c) and (d)

(C) (a), (b) and (c) (D) (a), (c) and (d)

Answer (1 mark)

(C) (a), (b) and (c)

The zollverein of 1834, formed at Prussia's initiative, abolished tariff barriers and reduced the number of currencies from over thirty to two. The Frankfurt parliament (1848) was not a part of the customs union.

Q.2 In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Rich peasant communities like the Patidars of Gujarat and the Jats of Uttar Pradesh became active supporters of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Reason (R): Being producers of commercial crops, they were very hard hit by the trade depression and falling prices, and the government refused to reduce the revenue demand.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answer (1 mark)

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

With falling prices and shrinking cash income, these rich peasants found it impossible to pay the government's revenue demand; the refusal to reduce it made them join the boycott programmes enthusiastically.

Q.3 A food historian says: 'Europe's poor began to eat better and live longer once a humble crop from America reached them, but over-dependence on it also brought disaster in the mid-1840s.' Which crop and which country's tragedy is she referring to?

(A) Maize – Spain

(B) Tomato – Italy

(C) Potato – Ireland

(D) Groundnut – Portugal

Answer (1 mark)

(C) Potato – Ireland

Ireland's poorest peasants became so dependent on potatoes that when disease destroyed the

potato crop in the mid-1840s, hundreds of thousands died of starvation.

Q.4 Arrange the following events in chronological order, from the earliest to the latest.
I. Marco Polo returned to Italy from China with knowledge of woodblock printing.
II. Buddhist missionaries from China introduced hand-printing technology into Japan.
III. Johann Gutenberg developed the first known printing press in Strasbourg.
IV. Hand printing from wooden blocks began in China.

(A) II, IV, I, III (B) IV, II, I, III
(C) IV, I, II, III (D) II, I, IV, III

Answer (1 mark)
(B) IV, II, I, III
Printing in China from about AD 594 → introduced into Japan around AD 768–770 → Marco Polo returned to Italy in 1295 → Gutenberg's press in the 1430s.

SECTION A – HISTORY (contd.) Q.5 (VSA, 2 marks), Q.6 (SA, 3 marks), Q.7 (LA, 5 marks), Q.8 (case-based, 4 marks), Q.9 (map-based, 2 marks). **[16]**

Q.5 Until well into the eighteenth century, China and India were among the world's richest countries and were pre-eminent in Asian trade. Yet by then Europe had emerged as the centre of world trade. Explain two developments that moved the centre of world trade westwards.

Answer (2 marks)
1. Rising importance of the Americas: from the sixteenth century, after European sailors crossed the western ocean, America's vast lands and abundant crops and minerals began to transform trade. Precious metals, particularly silver, from mines in present-day Peru and Mexico enhanced Europe's wealth and financed its trade with Asia.
2. China's retreat: from the fifteenth century China is said to have restricted overseas contacts and retreated into isolation. China's reduced role, together with the rising importance of the Americas, gradually moved the centre of world trade westwards, and Europe emerged as its centre.
(Also acceptable: the entry of the Europeans into the Indian Ocean trade after they found a sea route to Asia helped expand or redirect some of the flows of goods and people towards Europe.)
Marking: Wealth from the Americas (silver of Peru/Mexico financing trade with Asia) – 1 mark · China's isolation / reduced role (or European entry into Indian Ocean trade) – 1 mark
Examiner tip: Name the development and say how it helped Europe – e.g. silver from Peru and Mexico paid for Europe's trade with Asia.

Q.6 (A) 'In the areas conquered by Napoleon, the reactions of the local populations to French rule were mixed.' Explain the statement with three points.
OR
(B) The 1830s were years of great economic hardship in Europe. Explain any three reasons for this hardship, which led to popular revolts in the 1840s.

Answer (3 marks)
(A)
1. Initial welcome: in many places such as Holland and Switzerland, and in cities like Brussels, Mainz, Milan and Warsaw, the French armies were at first welcomed as harbingers of liberty. Napoleon simplified administrative divisions, abolished the feudal system, freed peasants from serfdom and manorial dues, and removed guild restrictions in towns.
2. Benefits for businessmen: transport and communication systems were improved.

Businessmen and small-scale producers of goods began to realise that uniform laws, standardised weights and measures, and a common national currency would facilitate the movement and exchange of goods and capital from one region to another.
3. Enthusiasm turned to hostility: it soon became clear that the new administrative arrangements did not go hand in hand with political freedom. Increased taxation, censorship and forced conscription into the French armies required to conquer the rest of Europe seemed to outweigh the advantages of the administrative changes.

OR

(B)
1. Population growth: there was an enormous increase in population all over Europe. In most countries there were more seekers of jobs than employment. Population from rural areas migrated to the cities to live in overcrowded slums.
2. Competition from England: small producers in towns were often faced with stiff competition from imports of cheap machine-made goods from England, where industrialisation was more advanced, especially in textile production.
3. Burden on peasants: in regions where the aristocracy still enjoyed power, peasants struggled under the burden of feudal dues and obligations.
(Also acceptable: the rise of food prices or a year of bad harvest led to widespread pauperism in town and country.)

Marking: Any three correct points with explanation – 1 mark each (3 marks)

Examiner tip: In (A), a 'mixed' reaction needs both sides – what was welcomed and why it later turned to hostility. In (B), give causes of hardship, not the events of the 1848 revolution.

Q.7 (A) A museum is setting up a gallery on how Indians came to imagine themselves as one nation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Examine four cultural means, with an example of each, through which nationalists created a sense of collective belonging among Indians. Also explain one problem that these efforts created. (4 + 1)

OR

(B) Examine the developments from 1928 to 1930 that led Mahatma Gandhi to launch the Civil Disobedience Movement with the Salt March.

Answer (5 marks)

(A)
1. Image of Bharat Mata: the identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of Bharat Mata, first created by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, who wrote 'Vande Mataram' in the 1870s as a hymn to the motherland (later included in his novel Anandamath and widely sung during the Swadeshi movement). Abanindranath Tagore painted Bharat Mata as a calm, composed, divine and spiritual ascetic figure. Devotion to this mother figure came to be seen as evidence of one's nationalism.
2. Revival of Indian folklore: nationalists recorded folk tales sung by bards and toured villages to gather folk songs and legends, believing they gave a true picture of traditional culture and restored pride in the past. In Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore collected ballads, nursery rhymes and myths; in Madras, Natesa Sastri published a four-volume collection of Tamil folk tales, The Folklore of Southern India.
3. Icons and symbols – flags: during the Swadeshi movement in Bengal a tricolour flag (red, green and yellow) was designed with eight lotuses representing eight provinces of British India and a crescent moon representing Hindus and Muslims. By 1921 Gandhiji had designed the Swaraj flag – a tricolour (red, green and white) with a spinning wheel in the centre, representing

the Gandhian ideal of self-help. Carrying the flag during marches became a symbol of defiance.
4. Reinterpretation of history: the British saw Indians as backward and primitive, incapable of governing themselves. In response, Indians wrote about the glorious developments in ancient times – in art and architecture, science and mathematics, religion and culture, law and philosophy, crafts and trade – and urged readers to take pride in India's great achievements and to struggle to change the miserable conditions of life under British rule.
Problem: these efforts to unify people were not without problems. When the past being glorified was Hindu, and when the images celebrated were drawn from Hindu iconography, people of other communities felt left out – so the sense of belonging did not reach all communities equally.

OR

(B)
1. Simon Commission (1928): the Tory government in Britain constituted a Statutory Commission under Sir John Simon to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India. It did not have a single Indian member. When it arrived in 1928 it was greeted with the slogan 'Go back, Simon'.
2. Irwin's vague offer (October 1929): Lord Irwin announced a vague offer of 'dominion status' for India in an unspecified future and a Round Table Conference to discuss a future constitution. This did not satisfy the Congress leaders.
3. Purna Swaraj (December 1929): the radicals within the Congress, led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose, became more assertive. Under Nehru's presidency the Lahore Congress formalised the demand of 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence, and 26 January 1930 was celebrated as Independence Day.
4. Salt as a unifying symbol: Gandhiji found in salt a powerful symbol – it was consumed by the rich and the poor alike and was one of the most essential items of food. The tax on salt and the government monopoly over its production revealed the most oppressive face of British rule.
5. Letter to Irwin (31 January 1930): Gandhiji sent eleven demands to Viceroy Irwin, including the demand to abolish the salt tax, and warned that if they were not fulfilled by 11 March, the Congress would launch a civil disobedience campaign. Irwin was unwilling to negotiate, so Gandhiji started the Salt March from Sabarmati to Dandi (240 miles) with 78 volunteers and broke the salt law on 6 April 1930 – the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Marking: (A) Four cultural means, each with an example – 1 mark each (4 marks); one problem (Hindu past/imagery made other communities feel left out) – 1 mark · (B) Five relevant points with explanation – 1 mark each (5 marks)

Examiner tip: In (A), give a specific example with each means (Bankim/Abanindranath, Tagore/Natesa Sastri, Swaraj flag, nationalist histories) and do not miss the fifth mark for the problem. In (B), write events in correct time order with dates.

Q.8 Read the following source and answer the questions that follow.

Debates in Print

From the early nineteenth century, printed tracts and newspapers in India did not only spread new ideas – they also became the ground on which people argued with one another. Social and religious reformers and the Hindu orthodoxy carried on intense controversies in print over matters like widow immolation, monotheism, Brahmanical priesthood and idolatry. In Bengal, Rammohun Roy published the Sambad Kaumudi from 1821, and the Hindu orthodoxy commissioned the Samachar Chandrika to oppose his opinions. Because these papers were printed in the everyday, spoken language of ordinary people, the debates reached a wider public. Among Muslims, the Deoband Seminary, founded in 1867, published thousands upon thousands of fatwas telling Muslim readers how to conduct themselves in their everyday lives.
(Source: based on 'India and the Contemporary World – II', NCERT, Class X, Chapter 5)

8.1 Name the newspaper published by Rammohun Roy from 1821. (1)
8.2 Why did the Hindu orthodoxy commission the Samachar Chandrika? (1)
8.3 Compare the way Rammohun Roy and the Deoband Seminary used print, as described in the source. Give one similarity and one difference. (2)

Answer (4 marks)
8.1 Sambad Kaumudi.
8.2 To oppose the reformist opinions of Rammohun Roy (for example, his views against widow immolation and idolatry) and to defend existing customs.
8.3 Similarity: both used cheap printed material (newspapers, tracts, fatwas) to reach a wide public of ordinary readers in a language they could read, instead of addressing only a small learned group.
Difference: Rammohun Roy used print to criticise existing practices and campaign for reform, and his paper was answered by the orthodoxy in print – it was part of a public debate; the Deoband Seminary used print to guide Muslim readers on how to conduct themselves in their everyday lives and to explain Islamic doctrines, i.e. to strengthen and preserve the faith of its followers.
Marking: 8.1 correct name – 1 mark · 8.2 correct reason – 1 mark · 8.3 one similarity – 1 mark; one difference – 1 mark
Examiner tip: In 8.3 write the similarity and the difference as two clearly labelled points; the difference is about purpose – reform and debate versus guidance on everyday conduct.

Q.9 **MAP SKILL-BASED QUESTION – text-only version (as set for Visually Impaired candidates in lieu of the outline map of India).**
Answer the following:
(a) Name the place where the Indian National Congress session of December 1920 was held, at which the programme of Non-Cooperation was adopted. (1)
(b) Name the district in Gujarat where Mahatma Gandhi organised a satyagraha in 1918 to support peasants affected by crop failure and a plague epidemic, who could not pay the revenue. (1)

Answer (2 marks)
(a) Nagpur (Maharashtra).
(b) Kheda (Gujarat).
Marking: (a) Nagpur – 1 mark · (b) Kheda – 1 mark
Examiner tip: Do not confuse the September 1920 special session at Calcutta with the December 1920 session at Nagpur, where Non-Cooperation was adopted.

SECTION B – GEOGRAPHY Geography (20 marks). Q.10 to Q.15 are multiple choice questions of 1 mark each. **[6]**

Q.10 A soil scientist describes a soil as follows: 'It develops under a tropical and subtropical climate with alternate wet and dry seasons and is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain. It is acidic and generally deficient in plant nutrients. After adopting soil conservation techniques in the hilly areas of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it is very useful for growing tea and coffee.' Identify the soil.

(A) Black soil
(B) Alluvial soil
(C) Arid soil
(D) Laterite soil

Answer (1 mark)
(D) Laterite soil
Laterite (from the Latin 'later', meaning brick) is the result of intense leaching due to heavy rain; it is acidic and deficient in plant nutrients, but with soil conservation it is used for tea and coffee in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu (red laterite soils also suit cashew nut).

Q.11 Read the statements given below and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme involves local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests.
Statement II: The first resolution for Joint Forest Management was passed by the state of Odisha in 1988.

(A) Statement I is correct and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

Answer (1 mark)
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
JFM has been in formal existence since 1988, when Odisha passed the first resolution; it depends on village institutions that undertake protection activities, mostly on degraded forest land managed by the forest department.

Q.12 Families in a dry village near Barmer still store rainwater from their rooftops in large underground tanks built inside the house or courtyard, and use it for drinking when all other sources dry up. What are these structures called?

(A) Guls or kuls
(B) Tankas
(C) Khadins
(D) Bamboo drip pipes

Answer (1 mark)
(B) Tankas
In the semi-arid and arid regions of Rajasthan (Bikaner, Phalodi, Barmer), houses traditionally had underground tanks or tankas for storing drinking water, fed by rooftop rainwater harvesting.

Q.13 An agricultural officer in Maharashtra tells a farmer: 'Your field has black soil in a dry part of the plateau, and you can irrigate it. Since you get plenty of sunshine and more than 200 days without frost, sow this kharif crop – but be ready to wait more than half a year for the harvest.' Which crop is the officer recommending?

(A) Jute
(B) Cotton
(C) Rice
(D) Tea

Answer (1 mark)
(B) Cotton
Cotton grows well in the drier parts of the black cotton soil of the Deccan plateau; it needs high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210 frost-free days and bright sunshine, is a kharif crop and takes 6 to 8 months to mature. Jute needs well-drained fertile flood-plain soils, rice needs rainfall above 100 cm, and tea is a plantation crop of hill slopes.

Q.14 In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Mica is one of the most indispensable minerals used in the electric and electronic industries.
Reason (R): Mica has excellent di-electric strength, a low power loss factor, insulating properties and resistance to high voltage.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answer (1 mark)
(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
These properties of mica are exactly why it is indispensable in the electric and electronic industries.

Q.15 On the basis of ownership, which of the following pairs of industry and example is correctly matched?

(A) Public sector – Bajaj Auto Ltd.
(B) Private sector – Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)
(C) Joint sector – Oil India Ltd. (OIL)
(D) Cooperative sector – Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)

Answer (1 mark)
(C) Joint sector – Oil India Ltd. (OIL)
OIL is jointly owned by the public and private sectors. BHEL and SAIL are public sector undertakings; Bajaj Auto Ltd. is a private sector company; cooperative examples are the sugar industry in Maharashtra and the coir industry in Kerala.

SECTION B – GEOGRAPHY (contd.) Q.16 (VSA, 2 marks), Q.17 (LA, 5 marks), Q.18 (case-based, 4 marks), Q.19 (map-based, 3 marks). **[14]**

Q.16 In a mining district of Jharkhand, abandoned mining sites and heaps of waste are spreading over what was once forest and farmland, and effluents from nearby factories flow into the fields. Suggest two measures to reduce land degradation in this district.

Answer (2 marks)
1. Control of mining activities and proper management of waste lands: mining sites should not simply be abandoned after excavation; the land should be reclaimed and afforested so that deep scars and traces of over-burden do not remain.
2. Proper discharge and disposal of industrial effluents and wastes after treatment, which reduces land and water degradation in industrial and suburban areas.
(Also acceptable: afforestation; proper management of grazing.)
Marking: Each suitable measure with a short explanation – 1 mark × 2
Examiner tip: Choose measures that fit a mining and industrial area; shelter belts and thorny bushes are measures for arid areas.

Q.17 (A) A state government wants to reduce its dependence on coal and petroleum. Explain any five non-conventional sources of energy it could develop. For any three of them, name a place in India where it is being used or where conditions are ideal for it.

OR

(B) Read about three farmers and answer.

Farmer X, in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, clears a patch of forest, grows food crops for the family with a hoe, dao and digging stick, and shifts to a fresh patch when the soil loses its fertility.

Farmer Y, in a densely populated village, uses high doses of biochemical inputs and irrigation to get the maximum output from a very small plot of land.

Farmer Z, in Punjab, grows rice with HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides, mainly for sale in the market.

(a) Identify each farmer's type of farming and state one main feature of each type. (3)

(b) Distinguish between the farming of Farmer Y and that of Farmer Z on any two points. (2)

Answer (5 marks)

(A)

1. Solar energy: India is a tropical country with enormous possibilities of tapping solar energy. Photovoltaic technology converts sunlight directly into electricity. Solar energy is fast becoming popular in rural and remote areas; big solar power plants being established in different parts of India will minimise the dependence of rural households on firewood and dung cakes, contributing to environmental conservation and adequate supply of manure in agriculture.
2. Wind power: India has great potential. The largest wind farm cluster is located in Tamil Nadu from Nagarcoil to Madurai. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra and Lakshadweep also have important wind farms; Nagarcoil and Jaisalmer are well known for effective use of wind energy.
3. Biogas: shrubs, farm waste, animal and human waste are used to produce biogas for domestic consumption in rural areas. 'Gobar gas plants' using cattle dung provide energy to farmers and improved quality manure, and prevent loss of trees and manure due to burning of fuel wood and cow dung cakes.
4. Tidal energy: oceanic tides can be used to generate electricity by building floodgate dams across inlets. In India, the Gulf of Khambhat, the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat on the western coast and the Gangetic delta in the Sunderban region of West Bengal provide ideal conditions.
5. Geothermal energy: heat and electricity produced by using the heat from the interior of the earth. Two experimental projects have been set up – one in the Parvati valley near Manikaran in Himachal Pradesh and the other in the Puga valley, Ladakh.

(Nuclear/atomic energy may also be credited as a non-conventional source, e.g. Tarapur, Kalpakkam, Narora.)

OR

(B)

(a) Farmer X – primitive subsistence farming ('slash and burn' agriculture; called 'Dipa' in Bastar district). Feature: practised on small patches of land with primitive tools like hoe, dao and digging sticks and family/community labour; it depends on the monsoon and the natural fertility of the soil, and the farmer shifts to a fresh patch when fertility decreases, so land productivity is low.

Farmer Y – intensive subsistence farming. Feature: practised in areas of high population pressure on land; it is labour-intensive, and high doses of biochemical inputs and irrigation are used to obtain higher production from small holdings (the 'right of inheritance' has divided

land into uneconomical holdings).
Farmer Z – commercial farming. Feature: higher doses of modern inputs – HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides – are used to obtain higher productivity, and the produce is grown mainly for sale in the market.
(b) Any two:
1. Purpose of production: Farmer Y grows crops mainly to sustain the family, as there is no alternative source of livelihood; Farmer Z grows crops mainly for the market.
2. Main basis of higher output: Farmer Y relies on heavy use of family labour on a very small plot under high population pressure; Farmer Z relies on modern inputs such as HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides to raise productivity.
3. Degree of commercialisation: Farmer Z's farming is highly commercialised (rice is a commercial crop in Punjab, while in Odisha it is a subsistence crop); Farmer Y's produce is mostly consumed by the family itself.

Marking: (A) Each of five sources correctly explained – 1 mark (5 marks); for three of them, ½ of that mark is for a correct place · (B)(a) For each farmer: correct type ½ + one correct feature ½ = 1 mark × 3 (3 marks); (b) two points of distinction – 1 mark each (2 marks)

Examiner tip: In (A), give places for at least three sources (e.g. Nagarcoil–Madurai, Gulf of Khambhat, Manikaran) – they carry marks. In (B)(b), compare Y and Z on the same point (e.g. family use versus market) – a feature of only one type does not earn the mark.

Q.18 Read the given text and answer the questions that follow.

The Steel Belt of Eastern India

A visitor travelling from Jamshedpur to Bokaro passes through one of the busiest industrial regions of India. Huge steel plants stand within reach of iron ore mines, coal fields and limestone quarries. Steel produced here goes to factories all over the country, which make machinery, tools, vehicles and construction material from it. Engineers say that it is not an accident that so many plants are found in this part of the country: the region offers low-cost raw materials, cheap labour and vast growth potential in the home market. They also remind visitors that the production and consumption of steel is often regarded as an index of a country's development.

18.1 Why is the iron and steel industry called a heavy industry? (1)
18.2 Explain two reasons for the concentration of iron and steel plants in the Chhotanagpur plateau region. (2)
18.3 Name any one raw material, other than iron ore, needed in the manufacture of steel. (1)

Answer (4 marks)
18.1 Because all the raw materials as well as the finished goods are heavy and bulky, entailing heavy transportation costs.
18.2 (i) Low cost of iron ore and high-grade raw materials in proximity – since the raw materials are heavy and bulky, locating plants close to them saves transport costs.
(ii) Cheap labour and vast growth potential in the home market.
18.3 Coking coal / limestone / manganese (any one). (Iron ore, coking coal and limestone are required in the ratio of approximately 4 : 2 : 1.)

Marking: 18.1 – 1 mark · 18.2 two reasons – 1 mark each · 18.3 – 1 mark

Examiner tip: In 18.2 write reasons specific to the Chhotanagpur region (low-cost, high-grade raw materials close by, cheap labour, home market), not general features of the industry.

Q.19 MAP SKILL-BASED QUESTION – text-only version (as set for Visually Impaired candidates in lieu of the outline map of India).

Answer **any three** of the following:

(i) Name the dam built on the river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir.

(ii) Name the nuclear power plant located in Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Name the iron ore mine located in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

(iv) Name the major sea port of Gujarat, developed after Independence to ease the volume of trade on the Mumbai port.

Answer (3 marks)

(i) Salal dam.

(ii) Narora.

(iii) Bailadila.

(iv) Kandla (Deendayal Port).

(Any three – 1 mark each.)

Marking: Any three correct answers – 1 mark each (3 marks)

Examiner tip: Read the state carefully: Narora is in Uttar Pradesh, Kakrapara and Tarapur are in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

SECTION C – POLITICAL SCIENCE Political Science (20 marks). Q.20 to Q.23 are multiple choice questions of 1 mark each. **[4]**

Q.20 In a democracy, the legislature makes laws, the executive implements them and the judiciary can check both. This arrangement, in which different organs of government placed at the same level exercise different powers, is called –

(A) vertical division of power

(B) horizontal distribution of power

(C) community government

(D) coalition government

Answer (1 mark)

(B) horizontal distribution of power

Power shared among organs of government at the same level (legislature, executive, judiciary) is horizontal distribution; it creates a system of checks and balances.

Q.21 In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Subjects like defence, foreign affairs, banking and currency are included in the Union List.

Reason (R): These are subjects of national importance which need a uniform policy throughout the country.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answer (1 mark)

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

The Union List has subjects of national importance which need a uniform policy, so only the Union Government can make laws on them.

Q.22 In many families, women do all the work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes and looking after children, while men do all the work outside the home. This system is known as –

(A) feminist movement
(B) sexual division of labour
(C) patriarchy of law
(D) political mobilisation

Answer (1 mark)
(B) sexual division of labour
It is a system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through domestic helpers. It is based not on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes.

Q.23 A party secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four States and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha. The Election Commission will recognise it as a –

(A) State party
(B) Regional alliance
(C) National party
(D) Ruling party

Answer (1 mark)
(C) National party
This is the Election Commission's condition for recognition as a national party.

SECTION C – POLITICAL SCIENCE (contd.) Q.24 and Q.25 (VSA, 2 marks each), Q.26 (SA, 3 marks), Q.27 (LA, 5 marks), Q.28 (case-based, 4 marks). **[16]**

Q.24 'It is not easy to make changes to the power-sharing arrangement between the Union Government and the State Governments in India.' Explain the statement with two points.

Answer (2 marks)
1. The Parliament cannot on its own change this arrangement. Any change has to be first passed by both the Houses of Parliament with at least two-thirds majority, and then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total States – so the fundamental provisions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.
2. The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures. In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision – the highest court acts as an umpire.
Marking: Amendment procedure (two-thirds majority + ratification by half the States) – 1 mark · Role of judiciary as umpire – 1 mark
Examiner tip: State both conditions of the amendment procedure – two-thirds majority in both Houses AND ratification by at least half of the State legislatures.

Q.25 Non-democratic rulers can take decisions very quickly, while democracy involves deliberation and negotiation. Give two arguments to show why the democratic way of taking decisions is still considered better.

Answer (2 marks)
1. Acceptability and effectiveness: a government that takes decisions very fast may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may therefore face problems. A democratic government takes more time to follow procedures, but because it has followed procedures its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective – so the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.
2. Transparency: democracy ensures that decision-making is based on norms and procedures. A citizen who wants to know whether a decision was taken through the correct procedures has

the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government.

Marking: Each argument with explanation – 1 mark × 2

Examiner tip: Use the term 'transparency' and explain it as the citizen's right and means to examine how a decision was taken.

Q.26 It is often said that caste affects politics, but politics also affects caste. Explain three ways in which caste gets politicised when it enters politics.

Answer (3 marks)

1. Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it.
2. Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.
3. New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena, like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.

Thus, caste plays different kinds of roles in politics; it is not politics that gets caste-ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised.

Marking: Three correct ways – 1 mark each

Examiner tip: Do not write how caste influences elections (that is 'caste in politics'); the question asks the reverse – 'politics in caste'.

Q.27 (A) A newly formed country has three linguistic communities, one of which is a majority in the country but a minority in the capital city. Drawing lessons from the Belgian model, suggest five power-sharing arrangements its constitution should include to keep the country united.

OR

(B) 'Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting the dignity and freedom of the individual.' Examine the statement with five arguments.

Answer (5 marks)

(A)

1. Equal share at the centre: the number of ministers from each linguistic community in the central government should be equal, and some special laws should require the support of the majority of members from each linguistic group, so that no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
2. Powers to regional governments: many powers of the central government should be given to state governments of the regions; state governments should not be subordinate to the central government.
3. Separate government for the capital: the capital city should have a separate government in which all communities have equal representation (as in Brussels, where the French-speaking community, a majority in that city, accepted equal representation because the Dutch-speaking community had accepted equal representation in the Central Government).
4. Community government: a third kind of government, elected by people belonging to one language community, should have power over cultural, educational and language-related issues.
5. Spirit of accommodation: the arrangement should recognise the existence and the rights of all communities, avoiding majoritarianism of the kind seen in Sri Lanka, where the 1956 Act recognising Sinhala as the only official language and other preferential policies led to alienation of the Sri Lankan Tamils and civil war. Power sharing is prudent (it reduces conflict) and moral (it is the very spirit of democracy).

OR

(B)
1. Respect and equal treatment: every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings; democracy is based on the recognition of the dignity and freedom of every individual, and conflicts often arise when people feel they are not treated with due respect.
2. Dignity of women: most societies were male-dominated. Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. Once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally.
3. Caste inequalities: democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. Instances of caste-based inequalities and atrocities still occur, but they lack the moral and legal foundations.
4. Legal and moral force of equality: in a democracy, discrimination against women or disadvantaged castes is unacceptable legally and morally. In a non-democratic set-up this unacceptability would not have a legal basis, because the principle of individual freedom and dignity would not have the legal and moral force there. It is this recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights.
5. Rising expectations as a sign of success: as people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more. The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy – it shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and look critically at power holders; it transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.

Marking: Five relevant points with explanation – 1 mark each (5 marks)

Examiner tip: In (A), relate each arrangement to the situation given (majority group, minority in the capital); in (B), give examples – women and caste – not just general praise of democracy.

Q.28 Read the given text and answer the questions that follow.

Power at the Village Level

At a gram sabha meeting in a village of Ahilyanagar district, villagers questioned the sarpanch about delays in the new drinking-water pipeline and approved the list of beneficiaries for a housing scheme. The gram panchayat secretary read out the annual budget. A woman member of the panchayat, elected from a seat reserved for women, explained why a new school toilet block was the panchayat's priority. Similar meetings are held across the country because the Constitution was amended in 1992 to make this third tier of democracy more powerful and effective. Yet, in many places, gram sabhas are not held regularly and state governments have not transferred significant powers and adequate resources to local governments.

28.1 What is meant by decentralisation? (1)
28.2 The passage mentions some difficulties in the working of local government. Explain any two of them. (2)
28.3 Who are the members of the gram sabha? (1)

Answer (4 marks)
28.1 When power is taken away from the Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation.
28.2 (i) Gram sabhas are not held regularly, so the villagers' power to approve the budget and review the gram panchayat's performance is weakened.
(ii) Most state governments have not transferred significant powers to the local governments, nor have they given adequate resources – so we are still a long way from realising the ideal of

self-government.

28.3 All the voters in the village (the gram sabha consists of all the voters of the village or group of villages covered by the gram panchayat).

Marking: 28.1 – 1 mark · 28.2 two difficulties – 1 mark each · 28.3 – 1 mark

Examiner tip: In 28.1 say clearly from whom power is taken (Central and State governments) and to whom it is given (local government).

SECTION D – ECONOMICS Economics (20 marks). Q.29 to Q.34 are multiple choice questions of 1 mark each. **[6]**

Q.29 Study the data and choose the correct option.

Country	Total income (₹ crore)	Population (crore)
Country P	6,000	2
Country Q	9,000	4

(A) Q is richer, because its total income is higher.

(B) P is richer, because its per capita income is ₹ 3,000 against ₹ 2,250 for Q.

(C) Both are equally rich, because their total incomes differ by only ₹ 3,000 crore.

(D) Q is richer, because its per capita income is ₹ 2,250 against ₹ 1,500 for P.

Answer (1 mark)

(B) P is richer, because its per capita income is ₹ 3,000 against ₹ 2,250 for Q.

Per capita income = total income ÷ population: P = 6,000 ÷ 2 = ₹ 3,000; Q = 9,000 ÷ 4 = ₹ 2,250.

Countries are compared by average (per capita) income, not total income.

Q.30 Which of the following correctly defines the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)?

(A) The number of children born per 1,000 people in a year

(B) The number of children who die before the age of one year as a proportion of 1,000 live children born in that particular year

(C) The number of children below five years who are underweight per 1,000 children

(D) The number of children aged 6–10 attending school per 100 children of that age group

Answer (1 mark)

(B) The number of children who die before the age of one year as a proportion of 1,000 live children born in that particular year.

Q.31 Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA 2005), which was replaced in 2025 by Viksit Bharat-G RAM G 2025, all those who were able to, and in need of, work in rural areas were guaranteed –

(A) 100 days of employment in a year

(B) 150 days of employment in a year

(C) a permanent job in the public sector

(D) unemployment allowance for 100 days, without work

Answer (1 mark)

(A) 100 days of employment in a year

If the government failed in its duty to provide employment, it would give unemployment allowances to the people – hence the Act was called a 'Right to Work'.

Q.32 Meera, a shopkeeper in Nashik, pays her wholesaler ₹ 15,000 by writing a cheque against the deposit in her bank account. Which of the following correctly describes the cheque?

(A) A currency note issued by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Central Government

(B) A paper instructing the bank to pay a specific amount from Meera's account to the person in whose name the cheque has been issued

(C) A loan given by the bank to Meera against her collateral

(D) A receipt showing that the wholesaler has deposited cash in Meera's account

Answer (1 mark)
(B) A paper instructing the bank to pay a specific amount from Meera's account to the person in whose name the cheque has been issued
Deposits that can be withdrawn on demand are demand deposits; the facility of cheques against them makes it possible to settle payments without the use of cash, which is why demand deposits are accepted as money in the modern economy.

Q.33 In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Credit from the formal sector is generally cheaper for borrowers than credit from moneylenders.
Reason (R): The activities of informal lenders such as moneylenders are supervised by the Reserve Bank of India.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answer (1 mark)
(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
The RBI supervises the formal sources of loans (banks and cooperatives). There is no organisation which supervises the credit activities of lenders in the informal sector, so they can charge very high interest.

Q.34 Which of the following technological changes reduced port handling costs and increased the speed with which exports can reach markets?

(A) The use of containers that can be loaded intact onto ships, railways, planes and trucks

(B) The setting up of Special Economic Zones

(C) The removal of trade barriers by the government

(D) The rise of the internet and e-mail

Answer (1 mark)
(A) The use of containers that can be loaded intact onto ships, railways, planes and trucks
Containers have led to a huge reduction in port handling costs and increased the speed with which exports can reach markets. (B) and (C) are policy measures; (D) is a change in communication, not transport.

SECTION D – ECONOMICS (contd.) Q.35 to Q.37 (SA, 3 marks each), Q.38 (LA, 5 marks). **[14]**

Q.35 A cotton farmer in Yavatmal sells cotton worth ₹ 4,000 to a spinning mill. The mill makes yarn and sells it for ₹ 6,500 to a handloom weaver in Paithan. The weaver uses all of it to make a saree, which a customer buys for ₹ 9,000.

(a) Identify the intermediate goods and the final good in this example. (1)

(b) What value should be counted in the GDP for this chain of production? Why would it be wrong to add up ₹ 4,000 + ₹ 6,500 + ₹ 9,000? (2)

Answer (3 marks)

(a) Intermediate goods: cotton and yarn (they are used up in producing the final good). Final good: the saree, which reaches the consumer.

(b) Only the value of the final good, ₹ 9,000, should be counted. The value of the final good already includes the value of all the intermediate goods used in making it (the cotton worth ₹ 4,000 and the yarn worth ₹ 6,500). Adding all three (₹ 19,500) would count the value of cotton and yarn more than once – this is called double counting – and would overstate the value of production. GDP is the value of all final goods and services produced within a country during a particular year.

Marking: (a) intermediate and final goods correctly identified – 1 mark (½ + ½) · (b) ₹ 9,000 – 1 mark; reason (value of intermediate goods already included / double counting) – 1 mark

Examiner tip: The answer is ₹ 9,000, not ₹ 19,500 – only final goods are counted because their value already includes the intermediate goods.

Q.36 Shankar, a small farmer near Latur, needs ₹ 40,000 for one year. A moneylender offers the loan at 5 per cent per month (simple interest) without any paperwork. A bank offers it at 12 per cent per annum but asks for documents and collateral.

(a) Calculate the interest Shankar would pay in one year to each lender. (1)

(b) Apart from the rate of interest, name two other terms of credit on which the two offers differ. (1)

(c) After the harvest, Shankar's income from the crop is ₹ 50,000. Show what happens if he has to repay each lender in full, and state what this shows about the cost of borrowing. (1)

Answer (3 marks)

(a) Moneylender: 5% per month × 12 months = 60% per year; interest = 60/100 × ₹ 40,000 = ₹ 24,000.

Bank: 12/100 × ₹ 40,000 = ₹ 4,800. The moneylender's loan costs ₹ 19,200 more.

(b) Collateral (the bank asks for it, the moneylender does not) and documentation (the bank needs papers, the moneylender none). (Mode of repayment may also be credited.)

(c) Moneylender: he must repay ₹ 40,000 + ₹ 24,000 = ₹ 64,000, which is ₹ 14,000 more than his income of ₹ 50,000 – he cannot repay and falls deeper into debt.

Bank: he must repay ₹ 40,000 + ₹ 4,800 = ₹ 44,800, leaving him ₹ 5,200.

This shows that a higher cost of borrowing means a larger part of the borrower's earnings is used to repay the loan; the amount to be repaid can even be greater than the income of the borrower, leading to increasing debt (a debt trap).

Marking: (a) both interest amounts – 1 mark (½ + ½) · (b) two terms of credit – 1 mark (½ + ½) · (c) both repayment comparisons with conclusion – 1 mark

Examiner tip: 5 per cent per month is 60 per cent per year – students often compare 5 with 12 directly and miss this.

Q.37 In a district of Marathwada, farmers have dug deeper and deeper borewells over the last twenty years, and the groundwater level keeps falling. (a) Explain what is meant by sustainability of development. (b) Suggest two ways to make the use of groundwater in this district sustainable. (1+2)

Answer (3 marks)

(a) Sustainability of development means that the present level of development should be maintained, or should go up further, for future generations as well – it should not be achieved by exhausting resources. Groundwater is a renewable resource replenished by nature (by rain), but if we use more than what is being replenished, we overuse it; about 300 districts have reported a water level decline of over 4 metres during the past 20 years.

(b) 1. Recharge groundwater through rainwater harvesting – check dams, farm ponds, percolation tanks and rooftop harvesting.

2. Reduce withdrawal – use drip and sprinkler irrigation, shift to less water-intensive crops, and regulate the digging of new deep borewells through community/panchayat rules.

Marking: (a) meaning of sustainability – 1 mark · (b) two suitable measures – 1 mark each

Examiner tip: Connect sustainability to future generations and to the rate at which groundwater is replenished by rain – both ideas are expected.

Q.38 (A) The table below shows the sources of loans taken by households of a village, grouped by type of household.

Source of loan	Small farmers and landless labourers (number of loans)	Large landowners (number of loans)
Moneylenders, traders and relatives	36	4
Banks and cooperative societies	9	21

(i) Calculate the percentage of loans taken from informal sources by each group. (1)

(ii) Give two reasons for the difference between the two groups. (2)

(iii) Explain how this pattern of borrowing can widen the gap between the two groups. (2)

OR

(B) The table below shows the share of the three sectors in the output (Gross Value Added, GVA) and in employment of a state.

Sector	Share in GVA (%)	Share in employment (%)
Primary	18	46
Secondary	27	25
Tertiary	55	29

(i) Which sector has the largest share in output? By how many percentage points is its share in output greater than its share in employment? (1)

(ii) Explain two reasons why this sector has come to produce the largest share of the state's output. (2)

(iii) A software engineer and an auto-rickshaw driver both work in this sector of the state. Using them as examples, explain why the sector's large share in output does not mean that all the people working in it are well off. (2)

Answer (5 marks)

(A)

(i) Small farmers and landless labourers: 36 out of 45 loans = 36/45 × 100 = 80% from informal sources. Large landowners: 4 out of 25 loans = 4/25 × 100 = 16% from informal sources.

(ii) 1. Bank loans require proper documents and collateral; absence of collateral is one of the major reasons which prevents the poor from getting bank loans, while large landowners have land and other assets to offer.
2. Banks are not present everywhere in rural India, and informal lenders such as moneylenders know the borrowers personally, so they are often willing to give a loan without collateral; borrowers can approach them even without repaying earlier loans.
(iii) 1. Informal lenders charge a much higher interest on loans, so a larger part of the earnings of the poor borrowers is used to repay the loan and they have less income left for themselves; in some cases this leads to increasing debt and a debt trap.
2. The large landowners get cheap credit from formal lenders, which they can use to raise production and income, while the high cost of borrowing may stop poor people from starting an enterprise. So the rich gain more and the poor fall behind. That is why it is important that formal credit is distributed more equally, so that the poor can benefit from cheaper loans.

OR

(B)
(i) The tertiary sector – 55% of output; 55 − 29 = 26 percentage points more than its share in employment.
(ii) Any two: 1. Basic services such as hospitals, educational institutions, post offices, police stations, courts, banks, insurance companies and transport are required in every economy; in a developing country the government has to provide them.
2. The development of agriculture and industry leads to the development of services such as transport, trade and storage – the greater the development of the primary and secondary sectors, the more the demand for such services.
3. As income levels rise, certain sections of people demand many more services like eating out, tourism, shopping, private hospitals, private schools and professional training.
4. New services based on information and communication technology have become important and essential, and their production has been rising rapidly.
(iii) Not all of the service sector is growing equally well. At one end, a limited number of services employ highly skilled and educated workers – like the software engineer, whose service is based on information and communication technology and who earns well. At the other end, a very large number of workers are engaged as small shopkeepers, repair persons and transport persons – like the auto-rickshaw driver, who barely manages to earn a living and does this work because no alternative opportunities for work are available. Hence only a part of the tertiary sector is growing in importance, and its large share in output hides very unequal earnings.

Marking: (A)(i) – 1 mark (½ + ½); (ii) two reasons – 1 mark each; (iii) two points – 1 mark each · (B)(i) sector and 26 points – 1 mark (½ + ½); (ii) two reasons – 1 mark each; (iii) skilled, well-paid worker (software engineer) explained – 1 mark; low-paid worker (auto-rickshaw driver) explained – 1 mark

Examiner tip: In (A), use the numbers from the table (80% against 16%) in your answer. In (B)(i), subtract the two shares of the tertiary sector (55 − 29); in (iii), explain the position of each of the two workers, not just name them.

All the best for your exam!