

STD. X – SOCIAL SCIENCE

Summative Assessment – I | 2026–27 | Detailed Answer Key
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Prepared in line with the supplied question paper and the given answer key. Answers have been reworded and organised for clear evaluation while retaining the expected points.

Mark distribution

Section	Questions	Marks
Very short answer	1–8	8
Short answer	9–15	14
Answer in 3+ sentences	16–23	24
Answer in 4+ sentences	24–29	24
Detailed answer	30–31	10
Total		80

Evaluation note: Accept equivalent correct expressions where the essential concept, fact, sequence or map location is correctly presented.

SECTION I – Questions 1 to 8

Question 1 (1 mark)

Find out the correct pair.

Answer: B) a, c

Leonardo da Vinci – *The Last Supper*; Michelangelo – *The Last Judgement*.

Question 2 (1 mark)

Identify the climatic region from the hints.

Answer: D) Monsoon climatic region.

The combination of evergreen/deciduous vegetation and intensive subsistence agriculture points to the monsoon climatic region.

Question 3 (1 mark)

Arrange the events in chronological order.

Answer: B) ii, i, iv, iii

Tennis Court Oath → Fall of Bastille → French Declaration of Human Rights → Battle of Waterloo.

Question 4 (1 mark)

Name the sociologist who wrote *The Sociological Imagination*.

Answer: C) Charles Wright Mills.

Question 5 (1 mark)

Match Martin Luther, John Calvin and Henry VIII with their countries.

Answer: B) a–3, b–1, c–2

Martin Luther – Germany; John Calvin – Switzerland; Henry VIII – England.

Question 6 (1 mark)

Name the process of examining social relationships, institutions, structures and problems.

Answer: C) Social analysis.

Question 7 (1 mark)

Evaluate the two statements about the Renaissance.

Answer: B) Both statements are correct.

The Renaissance marked a transition towards the modern age and emerged in Italy.

Question 8 (1 mark)

Choose the correct statements related to atmospheric pressure.

Answer: A) a, c, d.

Atmospheric pressure is the weight of air; it decreases with increasing temperature and altitude. The statement that pressure is high in humid air is incorrect.

SECTION II – Questions 9 to 15

Each answer should contain at least two sentences. Award up to 2 marks for relevant, complete points.

Question 9 (2 marks)

What compulsory services did common people in France have to perform without wages?

Answer: The common people were required to render unpaid and compulsory services. These included military service when required and free labour for constructing and maintaining public roads, waterways, bridges and similar public works.

Question 10 (2 marks)

(A) Complete the sculpture–sculptor table.

Answer:

- **Gattamelata** – Donatello
- **Pieta** – Michelangelo

Question 10 (2 marks)

(B) OR – Write the features of Renaissance architecture.

Answer:

- Renaissance architecture introduced a style distinct from Gothic architecture.
- It drew inspiration from ancient Greco-Roman architecture.
- Domes became prominent, replacing the emphasis on lofty Gothic towers.
- The Cathedral of Florence and St. Peter's Basilica are important examples.

Question 11 (2 marks)

Elucidate: (a) Diurnal range of temperature (b) Daily mean temperature.

Answer:

(a) Diurnal range: The difference between the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during a day.

Formula: Diurnal range = Maximum temperature – Minimum temperature.

(b) Daily mean temperature: The average of the maximum and minimum temperatures of a day.

Formula: Daily mean temperature = (Maximum temperature + Minimum temperature) ÷ 2.

Question 12 (2 marks)

(A) Commonsense knowledge is often partial. Explain with examples.

Answer: Commonsense ideas are often based on everyday observation rather than detailed scientific study. For example, statements such as “eating until one is full is always good for health” or “teenagers are always rebellious and irresponsible” may appear reasonable from ordinary experience, but they do not give a complete or scientifically tested understanding of the issue.

Question 12 (2 marks)

(B) OR – List two personal problems and the social factors causing them.

Answer:

- **Poverty:** may be related to financial, social, political, administrative and geographical factors.
- **Academic pressure:** may arise from family expectations, peer pressure, social expectations, lack of concentration and family–adolescent problems.

Question 13 (2 marks)

Explain the features of the equatorial climatic region.

Answer: The equatorial climatic region extends roughly up to 10° north and south of the Equator. It has high temperature and heavy rainfall throughout the year because the Sun's rays fall almost vertically. Strong convection produces frequent afternoon rainfall. Dense evergreen forests are characteristic of the region.

Question 14 (2 marks)

Why was the declaration to draft a constitution important in the French Revolution?

Answer: The Third Estate, after gathering at the Tennis Court, declared itself the National Assembly and pledged not to disperse until a constitution was prepared. This Tennis Court Oath asserted the representative role of the people and marked an important step towards constitutional government in France.

Question 15 (2 marks)

Mention the interventions of the Kyoto Protocol and Montreal Protocol.

Answer:

- **Kyoto Protocol (1997, Kyoto):** aimed at reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.
- **Montreal Protocol (1987, Montreal):** aimed at reducing substances that deplete the ozone layer.

SECTION III – Questions 16 to 23

Answers should contain at least three sentences and the main scoring points.

Question 16 (3 marks)

Explain the formation of the Southwest Monsoon winds.

Answer:

- During summer, the Indian subcontinent becomes intensely heated and a strong low-pressure area develops over the land.
- Comparatively high pressure persists over the Indian Ocean, so winds move from the ocean towards the land.
- Due to the Coriolis effect, these winds become southwesterlies and bring widespread rainfall to India.
- The windward side of the Western Ghats receives heavy rainfall, while parts of Tamil Nadu lie in the rain-shadow region and receive less rainfall.

Question 17 (3 marks)

Evaluate the achievements in medicine during the Renaissance.

Answer: The Renaissance encouraged a more scientific approach to medicine, especially the study of human anatomy. Paracelsus investigated the causes of diseases and their remedies. Andreas Vesalius carried out important studies of human anatomy, helping to replace traditional assumptions with observation-based knowledge.

Question 18 (3 marks)

Define: (a) Utility (b) Total Utility (c) Marginal Utility.

Answer:

(a) Utility: The want-satisfying power of a good or service; it may be expressed in units called utils.

(b) Total Utility: The total satisfaction obtained from consuming several units of a commodity.

(c) Marginal Utility: The change in total utility resulting from the consumption of one additional unit of a commodity.

Question 19 (3 marks)

Give an account of human life in the Savanna climatic region.

Answer: Although the soil can be relatively fertile, low rainfall encourages dry farming. Agriculture and animal husbandry are important occupations, and population density is generally low. The Maasai are an example of an indigenous pastoral community. Cash crops such as cotton in Sudan and coffee in Brazil are also cultivated in savanna regions.

Question 20 (3 marks)

(A) Substantiate the political changes brought by the Congress of Vienna.

Answer:

- It aimed to restore monarchies in Europe, including the Bourbon monarchy in France.
- Britain's naval supremacy and Russia's influence in Eastern Europe were recognised.
- Austria's dominance in Central Europe was also recognised.

Question 20 (3 marks)

(B) OR – How did the economic crisis in France lead the middle class towards revolution?

Answer:

- In the 1770s, agricultural production declined, causing the prices of cereals and bread to rise.
- Reduced import duties on British goods allowed British products to flood the French market, creating difficulties for local producers.
- The government borrowed heavily, but its empty treasury made repayment difficult; the resulting crisis severely affected the middle class and contributed to revolutionary discontent.

Question 21 (3 marks)

Analyse the factors favouring economic development in hot deserts.

Answer: Agriculture and animal husbandry are practised where conditions permit. More importantly, economically valuable mineral resources support development; gold mining in Australia and copper mining in the Atacama are examples. The discovery and exploitation of petroleum in the Sahara and Arabian deserts have greatly transformed these regions and promoted economic development.

Question 22 (3 marks)

What is commonsense knowledge? How is it formed?

Answer: Commonsense knowledge is the everyday understanding people develop about the world. It is formed through personal experiences, general observation and social interaction. Cultural practices, family life and socialisation also contribute to the development of commonsense knowledge.

Question 23 (3 marks)

What is consumption? What factors influence consumption?

Answer: Consumption is the process of buying and using goods and services to satisfy needs and wants. Important factors influencing consumption include price, income, quality, supply, demand and individual taste or preference.

SECTION IV – Questions 24 to 29

Answers should be developed to at least four sentences or equivalent point coverage.

Question 24 (4 marks)

(A) Elucidate the role of the Renaissance in making historiography scientific.

Answer: During the Middle Ages, history was often explained through divine or supernatural forces. Renaissance thinking weakened this approach and encouraged human-centred explanations. Greater importance was given to archaeological evidence, relics, critical thinking and the systematic study of sources. Scientific enquiry gradually replaced stories and myths, and thinkers such as Machiavelli contributed to the development of a more critical approach to history.

Question 24 (4 marks)

(B) OR – Explain the changes brought by the Bubonic plague in 14th-century Europe.

Answer: The plague caused major demographic and social changes and weakened the existing feudal order. Europe's heavily agrarian economy was disrupted, while the scarcity of labour strengthened the position of workers. A growing middle class and changes in economic life became more visible. The crisis also encouraged people to question traditional beliefs and increased interest in human life, health and well-being, contributing to the broader intellectual climate of humanism.

Question 25 (4 marks)

(A) List the assumptions and limitations of the Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility.

Answer:

Assumptions:

- The units consumed are of the same quality.
- The consumer's income and tastes/preferences remain unchanged.

Limitation:

- Consumption is assumed to be continuous.
- Utility is subjective or individual-based and can vary with place and time.
- Utility cannot be measured perfectly by cardinal numbers.

Question 25 (4 marks)

(B) OR – Compare consumer goods and capital goods.

Answer:

Consumer goods: Final goods directly used to satisfy human wants, such as baked food, bread and footwear.

Capital goods: Goods used in producing other goods and services, such as factory machinery. Thus, consumer goods directly satisfy needs, whereas capital goods assist the production process.

Question 26 (4 marks)

(A) Map-based temperature question.

Answer:

- a. The imaginary lines are **isotherms**.
- b. Temperature generally **decreases** from the Equator towards the poles.
- c. Isotherms bend along land–sea boundaries because land and water heat and cool at different rates. Land changes temperature more rapidly than the sea, producing differences in temperature across coastal areas.

Question 26 (4 marks)

(B) OR – Identify the variable winds shown and state their characteristics.

Answer: The winds shown are **cyclones**, which are low-pressure systems towards which winds spiral from the surrounding areas. They rotate anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere due to the Coriolis effect. Tropical cyclones form mainly over tropical oceans and are generally smaller and more intense, while temperate cyclones form where warm and cold air masses meet, are larger and can move over land.

Question 27 (4 marks)

Explain the legal and educational reforms implemented by Napoleon in France.

Answer:

Legal reforms: The Napoleonic Code abolished feudal privileges and recognised equality before law and religious freedom.

Educational reforms: Steps were taken to expand state-controlled education. Government-run schools called *lycées* were established to prepare educated personnel for government service and the army. A national university system, the University of France, was established and education came under stronger state control.

Question 28 (4 marks)

Explain the other limitations of commonsense knowledge.

Answer:

- Commonsense knowledge cannot adequately explain individual or complex social problems.
- It is often not based on systematic scientific observation or research.
- It may depend on stereotypes, assumptions and untested practices.
- It can be speculative and partial, so it may provide only an incomplete understanding of social reality.

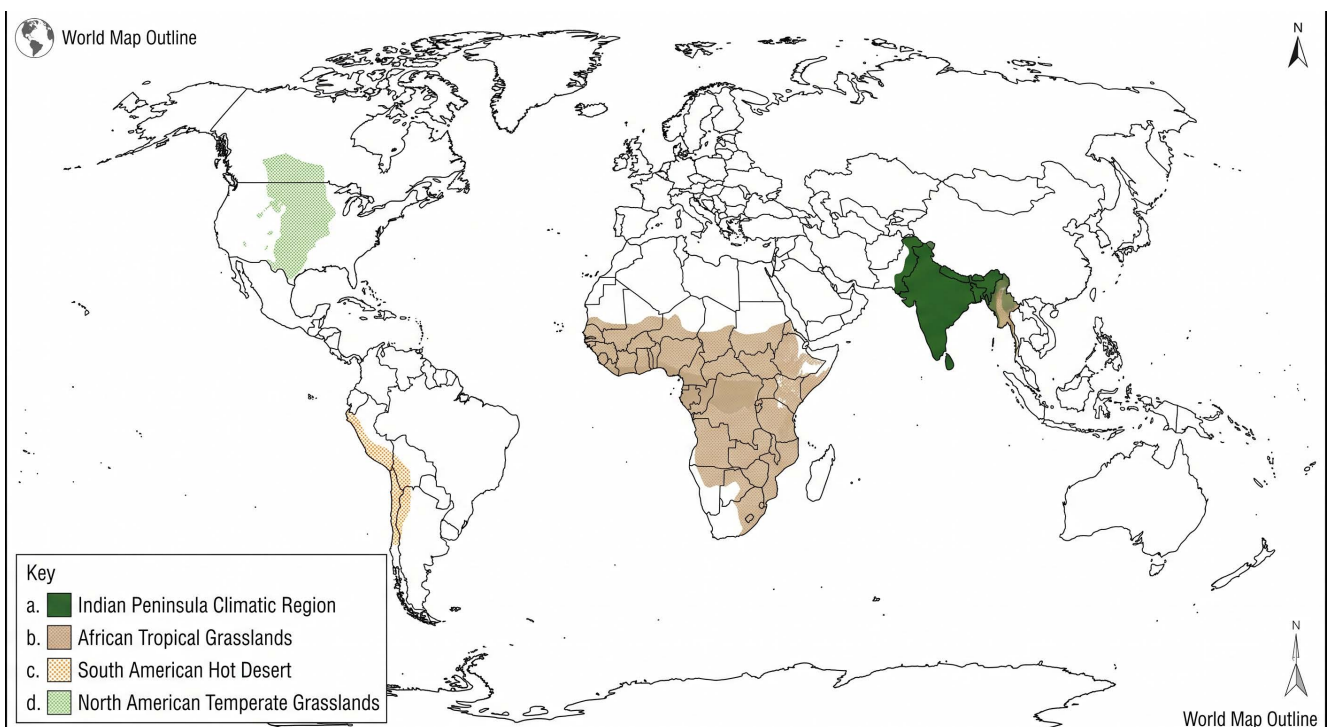
Question 29 (4 marks)

Identify the geoinformation and mark them on the world outline map.

Answer:

- Monsoon climatic region** – Indian subcontinent / South and Southeast Asia.
- Tropical grasslands** – Savanna region of Africa.
- Hot desert** – Atacama Desert along the west coast of South America, mainly northern Chile.
- Temperate grasslands** – Prairies/Great Plains of North America.

Map: Use the supplied answer-map illustration below as a guide.



Suggested marking locations are approximate; students should mark the correct regions neatly on the provided outline map.

SECTION V – Questions 30 and 31

Each question carries 5 marks. Award marks for the relevant points even when the wording differs.

Question 30 (5 marks)

(A) Evaluate the circumstances that led to the Protestant Reformation.

Answer:

- Renaissance humanism encouraged people to question established religious practices and beliefs.
- The sale of indulgences by the Church became a major source of criticism; Johann Tetzel actively promoted their sale in Germany.
- Martin Luther opposed such practices and published his famous *Ninety-Five Theses* at Wittenberg.
- His protest developed into the Protestant Reformation, and universities helped spread new ideas.
- Important reform leaders included Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin in Switzerland and Henry VIII in England, where the English Reformation took a different course.

Question 30 (5 marks)

(B) OR – Analyse how political, social and economic conditions in France led to the French Revolution.

Answer:

Political: France was under an absolute monarchy, while the privileged estates enjoyed major advantages and the Third Estate lacked political equality.

Social: French society was divided into three estates. The clergy and nobility enjoyed privileges, while the Third Estate—middle class, workers and peasants—bore most taxes and compulsory obligations.

Economic: Agricultural production declined and bread prices increased. British goods entered the French market after reduced import duties, while the government accumulated heavy debts and struggled to repay them. These inequalities and the economic crisis created widespread dissatisfaction and helped produce revolutionary conditions.

Question 31 (5 marks)

(A) What are global pressure belts? Explain the formation of the Equatorial Low Pressure Belt and Subtropical High Pressure Belt.

Answer: Global pressure belts are broad, nearly continuous zones of high and low atmospheric pressure extending along particular latitudes of the Earth. Their formation is influenced by differential heating and the rotation of the Earth.

Equatorial Low Pressure Belt: Strong heating near the Equator causes air to expand, become lighter and rise, creating low pressure. This is a calm, windless zone commonly called the *doldrums*.

Subtropical High Pressure Belt: Air that rises near the Equator moves poleward in the upper atmosphere, gradually cools and descends around 30° N and 30° S. The descending air produces high pressure in the subtropical belts.

Question 31 (5 marks)

(B) OR – Analyse the characteristics of the Mediterranean climatic region.

Answer:

Climate: Summers are generally hot and dry, while winters are mild and humid. Summer temperatures are around 20–25°C, while winter temperatures may range roughly from 10–16°C. Winter rainfall, often about 30–75 cm, is an important feature; westerlies are responsible for much of the winter rain.

Vegetation: Dense forests are not common because rainfall is limited and seasonal. Evergreen trees such as oak and sequoia, conifers such as pine and fir, and shrubs are characteristic.

