

Model Question Paper 2
Half-Yearly Examination 2026-27
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper has 37 questions divided into 6 Sections: A, B, C, D, E and F.
2. Section A: Question numbers 1 to 20 are multiple choice questions of 1 mark each.
3. Section B: Question numbers 21 to 24 are very short answer questions of 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 40 words.
4. Section C: Question numbers 25 to 29 are short answer questions of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.
5. Section D: Question numbers 30 to 33 are long answer questions of 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.
6. Section E: Question numbers 34 to 36 are source-based/case-based questions with sub-parts, carrying 4 marks each.
7. Section F: Question number 37 is a map-based question of 5 marks, with two parts — (i) History and (ii) Geography.
8. There is no overall choice, but internal choices have been provided in a few questions. Attempt only one option wherever an internal choice is given.

SECTION A

Question numbers 1 to 20 carry 1 mark each.

1. Giuseppe Mazzini, who founded the secret society 'Young Italy', believed that a united Italian nation could be built through: [1]

- (a) A centralised, democratic republic
- (b) Continued rule by regional monarchies
- (c) Alliance with Austria
- (d) A return to city-states

Answer: (a) — A unified, centralised republic based on popular participation.

2. Otto von Bismarck, the chief architect of German unification, achieved it mainly through: [1]

- (a) A series of wars over seven years, led by Prussia and its army
- (b) A popular referendum across all German states
- (c) Peaceful negotiations with Austria alone
- (d) Financial aid from Britain

Answer: (a) — Prussia, under Bismarck, unified Germany through three wars over seven years (with Denmark, Austria and France).

3. The Non-Cooperation Movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was formally launched in the year: [1]

- (a) 1920
- (b) 1922
- (c) 1930
- (d) 1942

Answer: (a) — 1920.

4. The Khilafat issue, which Gandhiji linked with the Non-Cooperation Movement, was related to: [1]

- (a) A demand for a separate Muslim state
- (b) Protecting the authority of the Ottoman Caliph after the First World War
- (c) A campaign for cow protection
- (d) Land revenue reforms

Answer: (b) — Protecting the Ottoman Caliph's authority, an issue that mobilised Indian Muslims.

5. The Simon Commission, which arrived in India in 1928 to review constitutional reforms, was widely opposed by Indians mainly because: [1]

- (a) It recommended full independence too soon
- (b) It did not have a single Indian member on it
- (c) It supported all Congress demands
- (d) It proposed the partition of the country

Answer: (b) — It was an all-white commission with no Indian representation.

6. In a genuine federal system, the fundamental provisions relating to power sharing between different levels of government are usually: [1]

- (a) Easily changed by a simple majority vote in the national parliament alone
- (b) Protected by the Constitution and cannot be unilaterally altered by any one level of government
- (c) Decided afresh every year through a referendum
- (d) Determined solely by the judiciary without reference to the Constitution

Answer: (b) — They are constitutionally guaranteed and require special procedures to amend.

7. Belgium adopted a federal model of power sharing mainly to accommodate its: [1]

- (a) Linguistic diversity between Dutch, French and German speaking communities
- (b) Religious diversity
- (c) Racial diversity
- (d) Diversity of caste groups

Answer: (a) — Linguistic diversity.

8. A federation formed when independent states come together and agree to pool sovereignty while retaining their separate identities is called a 'coming together' federation. Which of the following is a well-known example? [1]

- (a) India
- (b) United States of America
- (c) Belgium
- (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (b) — United States of America.

9. Apart from the Union List and the State List, the Indian Constitution provides for a third list of subjects on which both the Union and States can legislate. This is called the: [1]

- (a) Concurrent List
- (b) Residuary List
- (c) Fundamental List
- (d) Emergency List

Answer: (a) — Concurrent List.

10. Local self-government bodies such as panchayats and municipalities in India derive their present-day powers mainly from: [1]

- (a) Direct orders of the Union government
- (b) State legislation enacted following the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments
- (c) Decisions of the judiciary alone
- (d) International treaties

Answer: (b) — The 73rd and 74th Amendments made it constitutionally mandatory for states to devolve powers to local bodies.

11. Resources such as coal and petroleum, whose available stock is limited and which take millions of years to form, are called: [1]

- (a) Renewable resources
- (b) Non-renewable resources
- (c) Biotic resources

(d) Human resources

Answer: (b) — Non-renewable resources.

12. Resources whose exact quantity is not fully known, which exist in a region but have not yet been surveyed or put to use, are called: [1]

(a) Potential resources

(b) Developed resources

(c) Stock resources

(d) Reserves

Answer: (a) — Potential resources.

13. A single large dam project designed to simultaneously provide irrigation, generate hydroelectric power and control floods is an example of a: [1]

(a) Single-purpose project

(b) Multi-purpose river valley project

(c) Minor irrigation project

(d) Rainwater harvesting structure

Answer: (b) — Multi-purpose river valley project.

14. Excessive extraction of groundwater for irrigation over many years in states like Punjab and Haryana has mainly resulted in: [1]

(a) Rising water tables

(b) Falling water tables and depletion of groundwater reserves

(c) Increased annual rainfall

(d) Reduced soil salinity

Answer: (b) — Falling water tables and depletion of groundwater.

15. Displacement caused by the submergence of land behind large dam reservoirs tends to affect which group most severely? [1]

(a) Urban middle-class populations

(b) Tribal communities and poor farmers dependent on the submerged forest and agricultural land

(c) Large industrialists

(d) Government employees

Answer: (b) — Tribal and other poor rural communities dependent on the submerged land and forests.

16. A country is generally regarded as more 'developed' when it has: [1]

(a) Only a high per capita income, regardless of any other factor

(b) A high average income along with favourable indicators such as good health and education facilities

(c) A very large population

(d) A very large land area

Answer: (b) — A combination of income and other quality-of-life indicators.

17. Banking, transport, communication and tourism are all examples of activities included in the: [1]

(a) Primary sector

(b) Secondary sector

(c) Tertiary sector

(d) Informal sector, by definition

Answer: (c) — Tertiary sector (services).

18. The total value of all final goods and services produced within a country's borders during a particular year is called its: [1]

(a) Per capita income

(b) Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

(c) National debt

(d) Trade balance

Answer: (b) — Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

19. This question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Choose the correct option: [1]

Assertion (A): Comparing different countries or states only on the basis of per capita income can be misleading.

Reason (R): Per capita income is only an average figure and does not show how income is actually distributed among the people of a country or state.

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

(b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true, but R is false

(d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (a) — Both true; R correctly explains A.

20. This question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Choose the correct option: [1]

Assertion (A): Governments run public sector enterprises such as railways and postal services even though such enterprises may not always be highly profitable.

Reason (R): Such services provide essential infrastructure and welfare to the whole population, which private players may be unwilling to invest in due to high costs and comparatively low profitability.

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

(b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true, but R is false

(d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (a) — Both true; R correctly explains A.

SECTION B

Question numbers 21 to 24 carry 2 marks each.

21. State any two provisions of the Rowlatt Act (1919) that made it so unpopular among Indians. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It gave the colonial government enormous powers to curb/repress political activities — 1 mark
- It allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for up to two years — 1 mark

22. What is meant by 'majoritarianism'? Name one country where it created serious problems. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- A situation where the majority community rules in a way that dominates other communities and denies their fair share of power/opportunities — 1 mark
- Example: Sri Lanka, where Sinhala majoritarian policies led to a long civil war with the Tamil minority — 1 mark

23. Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable resources, with one example each. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Renewable resources can be replenished within a relatively short time, e.g. solar energy, water, forests — 1 mark
- Non-renewable resources have a limited stock and take millions of years to form, e.g. coal, petroleum — 1 mark

24. What is meant by 'disguised unemployment'? Give one example. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- A situation where more people are engaged in an activity than are actually needed, so that removing some of them would not reduce total output — 1 mark
- Example: several members of a farming family working on a small plot of land that could be managed by fewer people, common in Indian agriculture — 1 mark

SECTION C

Question numbers 25 to 29 carry 3 marks each.

25. Explain any three features of the Khilafat Movement and how it came to be linked with the Non-Cooperation Movement. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- A Khilafat Committee was formed by Muslim leaders such as the Ali brothers to pressurise the British government over the treatment of the Ottoman Caliph after the First World War — 1 mark
- Mahatma Gandhi saw the issue as an opportunity to bring Hindus and Muslims together in a joint campaign against British rule — 1 mark
- The Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movements were launched together in 1920, mobilising both communities in a combined, country-wide campaign — 1 mark

26. Distinguish between horizontal and vertical distribution of power, giving one example of each as practised in India. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Horizontal distribution: power shared among different organs of government at the same level — legislature, executive and judiciary — each checking and balancing the others, e.g. courts can strike down a law passed by the legislature if it violates the Constitution — 1.5 marks
- Vertical distribution: power shared among different levels of government — Union, State and local bodies — each with its own defined jurisdiction, e.g. defence is a Union subject while education is largely a State/Concurrent subject — 1.5 marks

27. Explain any three causes of land degradation in India. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Deforestation for mining, industry and settlement destroys vegetation cover, exposing soil to erosion — 1 mark
- Overgrazing by livestock damages grasslands and pastures, especially in states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh — 1 mark
- Over-irrigation in some areas leads to waterlogging, raising soil salinity and reducing fertility — 1 mark

28. Explain any three ways in which the government can help generate more employment in rural areas. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Investing in irrigation facilities to allow multiple cropping in a year, which creates more farm employment — 1 mark
- Promoting rural non-farm activities such as handicrafts, food processing, dairying and poultry farming — 1 mark
- Implementing employment guarantee schemes that assure a minimum number of days of wage employment on public works — 1 mark

29. Explain any three reasons for the growing scarcity of freshwater resources in India, despite the country having a large network of rivers. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Rapid growth of population has increased the demand for water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use many times over — 1 mark
- Unequal access — farmers and industries with more resources can sink deeper tube wells, cornering groundwater and leaving less for others — 1 mark
- Pollution of rivers and groundwater by industrial effluents, fertilisers and pesticides reduces the quantity of water that is actually usable — 1 mark

SECTION D

Question numbers 30 to 33 carry 5 marks each.

30. Discuss the role played by Indian business classes (industrialists and merchants) and their organisations in supporting the national movement during the 1920s and 1930s. [5]

OR

Read the following extract and answer the question that follows: 'When the tricolour was raised in villages and towns, huge crowds gathered to witness the moment. Peasants, students and women alike joined the ceremonies, and many broke the salt law openly.' Explain any five ways in which the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) differed in character from the earlier Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22).

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- They formed organisations such as the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress (1920) and later the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FICCI (1927), to coordinate business interests — 1 mark
- They opposed colonial economic policies that restricted Indian business activity and demanded protection from unrestricted foreign competition — 1 mark
- They extended financial support to the Congress and rejected the all-white Simon Commission — 1 mark
- They envisioned a free India with independent economic development, rather than one subordinated to British commercial interests — 1 mark
- At the same time, they were often wary of prolonged mass struggles and labour/worker movements, fearing these could threaten their own business interests — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- It involved deliberate, direct lawbreaking (e.g. manufacturing salt in defiance of the salt law), rather than simply withdrawing cooperation from British institutions — 1 mark
- It saw much larger and more visible participation of women in public political activity — 1 mark
- Indian business groups extended more organised, institutional support this time — 1 mark
- It was suspended and resumed more than once (1930-31 and 1932-34), reflecting periods of negotiation with the British, such as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact — 1 mark
- It had a wider social and geographical spread, drawing in richer peasants, some tribal communities and, to a more limited extent, Dalit groups across different regions — 1 mark

31. Explain, with examples, why power sharing among different levels of government (federalism) is considered essential for a large and diverse country like India. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It accommodates regional diversity by allowing states to make decisions on local matters suited to their own culture, language and needs — 1 mark
- It reduces the possibility of conflict and secessionist tendencies by giving different regions a genuine share in governance and decision-making — 1 mark
- It allows for healthy competition and cooperation between states, which can encourage better governance and policy innovation — 1 mark
- Local governments (panchayats and municipalities) bring democracy closer to ordinary people, allowing more direct participation in decisions that affect their daily lives — 1 mark
- An independent judiciary and constitutional protection ensure that power-sharing arrangements are respected and cannot be violated unilaterally by any one level of government — 1 mark

32. Explain any five factors responsible for water scarcity in India, distinguishing between natural and human-made causes. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Natural: highly uneven distribution of rainfall across different regions and seasons of the country — 1 mark
- Natural: heavy dependence on monsoon rains, which can be erratic, delayed or insufficient in a given year — 1 mark
- Human-made: over-exploitation and inequitable access to available water resources, with a few sections of society/industries cornering most of it — 1 mark
- Human-made: rapidly growing population and rising demand for water in agriculture, industry and households — 1 mark
- Human-made: pollution of existing rivers, lakes and groundwater, which reduces the quantity of water that is actually safe and usable — 1 mark

33. Explain any five criteria, other than 'growth of GDP alone', that could be used to compare the level of development of different countries or states, and explain briefly why each is important. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Per capita (average) income — gives a broad sense of a country's income level, though it hides how income is actually distributed — 1 mark
- Literacy rate — reflects the population's access to education and future earning potential — 1 mark
- Infant mortality rate — reflects the quality of healthcare and general standard of living — 1 mark
- Access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water and sanitation — directly affects health and quality of life — 1 mark
- The Human Development Index (combining income, education and health indicators, used by the UNDP) — gives a more rounded picture of development than income alone — 1 mark

SECTION E

Question numbers 34 to 36 are source-based/case-based questions carrying 4 marks each.

Source-Based Question 1 — Question 34 [4 Marks]

In 1921, a college student named Rajendra gave up his studies at a government-run college and joined a 'national school' that Congress volunteers had set up in his town as part of the Non-Cooperation programme. He also began wearing only hand-spun cloth and took part in a public bonfire in the town square where imported foreign garments were burnt to promote the boycott of foreign goods.

(i) Name the coarse, hand-spun cloth that nationalists encouraged people to wear during the Non-Cooperation Movement. [1]

Answer: Khadi.

(ii) Why did the Non-Cooperation Movement encourage students to leave government schools and colleges? [1]

Answer: To weaken the legitimacy and everyday functioning of British-controlled institutions, and to build a sense of self-reliance (swadeshi) and national pride among Indians as part of the boycott programme.

(iii) What was the purpose of publicly burning foreign cloth during the movement? [1]

Answer: To symbolically reject British-made goods, promote the use of Indian-made (swadeshi) products, and put economic pressure on British trade interests in India.

(iv) Explain one limitation of relying on the boycott of foreign goods as a form of protest. [1]

OR Name one other activity, apart from boycotting schools and foreign cloth, that was part of the Non-Cooperation programme.

Answer: It affected the livelihoods of poor traders/artisans involved in the foreign-cloth trade, and khadi cloth, being more expensive and less available at first, could not be adopted by everyone equally, limiting the boycott's reach.

OR Answer: Any correct example, e.g. surrender of government titles and honours, or boycott of law courts and legislative councils.

Case Study 2 — Question 35 [4 Marks]

Suresh, a farmer in a Punjab village, has had to deepen his tube well three times over the last fifteen years, each time at considerable expense, as water at earlier depths dried up. His neighbours face similar difficulties, yet most continue to grow water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane every season because these fetch a good market price.

(i) Name one water-intensive crop mentioned in the passage. [1]

Answer: Paddy (rice) or sugarcane.

(ii) Why has Suresh had to deepen his tube well repeatedly over the years? [1]

Answer: Excessive extraction of groundwater, partly to irrigate water-intensive crops, has caused the water table in the area to fall steadily.

(iii) Explain how growing water-intensive crops in a region can affect the long-term availability of water for the whole community. [1]

Answer: It leads to groundwater being extracted faster than it can be naturally recharged, lowering the water table for the entire area, which hurts small farmers unable to afford deeper wells and can eventually make continued irrigation unsustainable for everyone.

(iv) Suggest one crop-related change that could help reduce groundwater depletion in such areas. [1]

OR Suggest one government policy that could help address this problem.

Answer: Switching to less water-intensive crops suited to the region's rainfall and climate, or adopting drip/sprinkler irrigation to use water more efficiently.

OR Answer: Any valid suggestion, e.g. regulating groundwater extraction, offering incentives for crop diversification, or subsidising micro-irrigation equipment.

Case Study 3 — Question 36 [4 Marks]

Sunita runs a small tailoring unit from her home with two helpers, stitching garments to order for a local shop. Her business is not registered anywhere, she pays her helpers in cash with no written agreement, and there are no fixed working hours. Nearby, a large garment factory employs 200 workers on fixed shifts, provides them with ESI health cards, and is registered under the Factories Act.

(i) Which of the two enterprises — Sunita's tailoring unit or the large factory — belongs to the organised sector? [1]

Answer: The large garment factory.

(ii) Give two reasons to justify classifying Sunita's tailoring unit as part of the unorganised sector. [1]

Answer: It is not registered with the government, and it does not follow rules regarding fixed working hours or written employment contracts, and provides no formal benefits to workers.

(iii) Explain one advantage that the factory's workers have which Sunita's helpers do not. [1]

Answer: Factory workers get ESI health cards giving them access to healthcare, along with greater job security and regulated working hours, benefits that Sunita's helpers lack.

(iv) Suggest one step Sunita could take to bring her business closer to the organised sector. [1]

OR Suggest one way the government could help workers like Sunita's helpers.

Answer: Registering her business under a relevant small/micro-enterprise (MSME) scheme, which could give her access to institutional credit and legal protection.

OR Answer: Extending social security or insurance schemes specifically designed for informal or home-based workers.

SECTION F

Question number 37 is a map-based question of 5 marks.

37. Map-Based Question [5 Marks]

(A) On the given outline political map of India, locate and label any TWO of the following places associated with the Indian National Movement: (i) Champaran, (ii) Bardoli, (iii) Chauri Chaura. [2 marks]

(B) On the same outline map of India, locate and label any THREE of the following places related to Water Resources: (i) Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, (ii) Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, (iii) Damodar Valley Project, (iv) Indira Gandhi Canal. [3 marks]

Answer: (A) Champaran (Bihar) — Gandhiji's first satyagraha (1917); Bardoli (Gujarat) — site of the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928); Chauri Chaura (Uttar Pradesh) — site of the 1922 violent incident that led Gandhiji to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement. (B) Rana Pratap Sagar Dam — on the Chambal river, Rajasthan; Nagarjuna Sagar Dam — on the Krishna river, Andhra Pradesh/Telangana; Damodar Valley Project — on the Damodar river, Jharkhand/West Bengal; Indira Gandhi Canal — Rajasthan. (Any two from A and any three from B, correctly located and labelled, to be given full credit; for visually impaired candidates, a list of related places may be provided in lieu of the map exercise as per CBSE guidelines.)