

Model Question Paper 1
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. The Treaty of Vienna (1815) was drawn up mainly with the object of: [1]

- (a) Undoing the changes brought about by the Napoleonic wars and restoring conservative monarchies
- (b) Promoting nationalism across Europe
- (c) Abolishing all monarchies in Europe
- (d) Uniting Germany into one nation

Answer: (a) — Restoring conservative order in Europe after Napoleon's defeat.

2. The 'Zollverein', formed in 1834 at the initiative of Prussia, was: [1]

- (a) A customs union that abolished tariff barriers between most German states
- (b) A political party demanding democracy
- (c) A military alliance against France
- (d) An academy for the German language

Answer: (a) — A customs union reducing the number of currencies and promoting economic unification of German states.

3. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in which General Dyer ordered troops to fire on an unarmed crowd, took place in the year: [1]

- (a) 1917
- (b) 1919
- (c) 1922
- (d) 1930

Answer: (b) — 1919, in Amritsar.

4. Mahatma Gandhi decided to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement in February 1922 mainly because of: [1]

- (a) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- (b) The violent incident at Chauri Chaura
- (c) The Simon Commission's arrival
- (d) The signing of the Poona Pact

Answer: (b) — The Chauri Chaura incident, where an angry mob set fire to a police station, killing policemen.

5. The Rowlatt Act of 1919 is best described as a law that: [1]

- (a) Gave Indians greater representation in the legislature
- (b) Gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities and allowed detention without trial for two years
- (c) Reduced the tax on salt
- (d) Ordered the partition of Bengal

Answer: (b) — It curbed civil liberties and allowed detention without trial.

6. In Belgium, power sharing among the Dutch, French and German-speaking communities was achieved through a special: [1]

- (a) Military rule
- (b) Constitutional arrangement involving coalition governments and community governments
- (c) Single-party rule
- (d) Monarchy with absolute powers

Answer: (b) — A constitutional/coalition power-sharing arrangement between communities and regions.

7. The majoritarian policies followed by the Sri Lankan government soon after independence, favouring the Sinhala community, eventually led to: [1]

- (a) National integration and harmony
- (b) A prolonged civil war between the Sinhala majority and the Tamil minority
- (c) An economic boom
- (d) Successful power-sharing between communities

Answer: (b) — A long and bitter civil war.

8. A system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and various constituent (state/provincial) units of the country is called a: [1]

- (a) Unitary government
- (b) Federal government
- (c) Monarchy
- (d) Authoritarian government

Answer: (b) — Federal government.

9. In India, subjects on which both the Union government and the State governments can make laws are placed in the: [1]

- (a) Union List
- (b) State List
- (c) Concurrent List
- (d) Residuary List

Answer: (c) — Concurrent List.

10. Which of the following is NOT a basic feature of federalism as practised in India? [1]

- (a) There are two or more levels (tiers) of government
- (b) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each has its own jurisdiction
- (c) The Union government can unilaterally change power-sharing arrangements at will, since the Constitution is easily amendable for this purpose
- (d) An independent judiciary exists to resolve disputes between different levels of government

Answer: (c) — In a genuine federation, power-sharing arrangements are protected by the Constitution and cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.

11. Resources that can be renewed or replenished by physical, chemical or mechanical processes within a relatively short span of time are called: [1]

- (a) Non-renewable resources
- (b) Renewable resources
- (c) Abiotic resources
- (d) Potential resources

Answer: (b) — Renewable resources (e.g. solar energy, water, forests).

12. The planned, careful use of resources so that they meet the needs of both the present and future generations is called: [1]

- (a) Resource depletion
- (b) Sustainable development
- (c) Land reform
- (d) Urbanisation

Answer: (b) — Sustainable development.

13. Multi-purpose river valley projects, which combine a dam with canals and power stations, are built mainly to: [1]

- (a) Increase soil erosion downstream
- (b) Provide irrigation, generate electricity, control floods and supply water together
- (c) Reduce the natural flow of the river to zero
- (d) Prevent fishing in the river

Answer: (b) — They serve several purposes together — irrigation, power, flood control, water supply.

14. A traditional practice in which small bunds or check dams are built to store rainwater so that it seeps into the ground and recharges groundwater is an example of: [1]

- (a) A multi-purpose river project
- (b) Rainwater harvesting
- (c) Canal irrigation
- (d) Inter-linking of rivers

Answer: (b) — Rainwater harvesting.

15. A common criticism levelled against large multi-purpose dam projects in India is that they: [1]

- (a) Never generate any electricity
- (b) Cause large-scale displacement of local communities and submergence of forests and farmland
- (c) Reduce the total area available for irrigation
- (d) Have no impact on the environment

Answer: (b) — Large dams often displace local/tribal populations and submerge forests and fertile land.

16. The average income of the people of a country, obtained by dividing the national income by its total population, is called: [1]

- (a) Per capita income
- (b) Minimum wage
- (c) Gross Domestic Product
- (d) Literacy rate

Answer: (a) — Per capita income.

17. Activities in which natural products are changed into other forms through manufacturing — for example, a factory converting sugarcane into sugar — belong to the: [1]

- (a) Primary sector
- (b) Secondary sector
- (c) Tertiary sector
- (d) Unorganised sector (by definition)

Answer: (b) — Secondary sector.

18. Activities such as agriculture, dairy farming, fishing and mining, in which natural resources are used directly to produce goods, are grouped under the: [1]

- (a) Primary sector
- (b) Secondary sector
- (c) Tertiary sector

(d) Public sector

Answer: (a) — Primary sector.

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

Assertion (A): Kerala has a lower infant mortality rate and higher literacy rate than many other Indian states, even though its per capita income is not the highest in the country.

Reason (R): The development of a state or country cannot be judged by income alone; other criteria such as health, education and equality of opportunity also matter.

- (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): The tertiary sector has grown rapidly in India in recent decades and now contributes the largest share to the country's GDP.

Reason (R): As people's incomes rise, they demand more services — such as banking, education, tourism, healthcare and IT — in addition to goods.

- (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. Mention any two ways in which a sense of collective belonging (nationalism) developed among Indians during the freedom struggle. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Identification of India with the image of Bharat Mata as a mother figure — 1 mark
- Revival of Indian folklore, legends and songs by nationalists to build pride in a shared past (any other correct example, e.g. a common flag, reinterpretation of history) — 1 mark

22. What is meant by a 'coalition government'? Give one example of a country where it is common. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- A government formed by two or more political parties/groups coming together, usually because no single party has a clear majority — 1 mark
- Example: Belgium / Germany / India at the national level in several elections (any correct example) — 1 mark

23. What is meant by the 'sustainable' use of resources? Give one example. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Using resources carefully and in a planned way so that they are available not just for the present but also for future generations, without harming the environment — 1 mark
- Example: rainwater harvesting, afforestation, judicious use of groundwater, recycling (any correct example) — 1 mark

24. Differentiate between the 'organised' and 'unorganised' sectors of the economy, with one example each. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Organised sector: enterprises registered with the government, following rules, providing job security and benefits — e.g. a government school or a registered factory — 1 mark

- Unorganised sector: small, scattered enterprises largely outside government control, with little job security or benefits — e.g. a street vendor or a casual construction worker — 1 mark

SECTION C

Question numbers 25 to 29 carry 3 marks each.

25. Explain any three reasons why peasants and tribal communities in different parts of India joined the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), even though their own grievances were often different from those of the Congress leadership. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Peasants in Awadh were fighting high rents and unfair demands of talukdars/landlords, and saw the movement as a chance to fight their own oppression — 1 mark
- Tribal communities, such as in the Gudem Hills of Andhra Pradesh, connected Gandhian ideas to their own struggles against restrictions on their traditional access to forests — 1 mark
- Plantation workers in Assam saw the movement as an opportunity to assert freedom of movement in and out of the confined plantations — 1 mark

26. "Power sharing is a good thing not just for a divided society, but for society in general." Justify this statement with three reasons. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Prudential reason: power sharing helps reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups, since a majority group cannot impose its will on a minority indefinitely — 1 mark
- Moral reason: power sharing is the very spirit of democracy — people have a right to be consulted on how they are governed — 1 mark
- It leads to greater stability of the political order by ensuring the unity of the country and accommodating diverse interests — 1 mark

27. Explain any three methods commonly used by farmers to conserve soil and reduce soil erosion. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Contour ploughing: ploughing along the contours of a slope to slow down the flow of water — 1 mark
- Terrace farming/strip cropping on hill slopes to reduce the speed of water flow — 1 mark
- Planting shelter belts of trees to check wind erosion, especially in arid/semi-arid regions — 1 mark

28. Explain, with examples, any three problems commonly faced by workers in the unorganised sector in India. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Low and irregular wages, often below minimum wage levels — 1 mark
- No job security — workers can be dismissed without notice or compensation, and no protection during illness — 1 mark
- No access to social security benefits such as provident fund, paid leave, or health insurance (any other correct problem, e.g. unsafe working conditions) — 1 mark

29. Explain any three consequences of water scarcity, even in regions that receive relatively good rainfall. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Over-exploitation of groundwater for irrigation and industry lowers the water table drastically in many areas — 1 mark
- Unequal access to water — some communities or large farmers/industries corner most of the available water, leaving little for others — 1 mark
- Pollution of available water sources by industrial effluents, pesticides and fertilisers reduces the quantity of usable freshwater — 1 mark

SECTION D

Question numbers 30 to 33 carry 5 marks each.

30. Explain any five features of the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) launched by Mahatma Gandhi, describing how different social groups — such as rich peasants, poorer peasants, business classes, women and dalits — participated in and responded to it. [5]

OR

Read the following extract and answer the question that follows: 'On 6 April Gandhiji reached Dandi and ceremonially violated the law, manufacturing salt by boiling sea water. This marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement, which soon spread across the country.' Why did Gandhiji choose the salt law to break? Explain any four reasons why the Salt March/Dandi March is considered a significant event in India's freedom struggle.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Launched with the Salt March/Dandi March, breaking the salt law as a symbolic act of defiance — 1 mark
- Rich peasant communities (e.g. Patidars, Jats) joined actively as they were hit hard by high revenue demands during the Depression, but poorer peasants had more ambiguous participation, hoping for rent reduction too — 1 mark
- Indian business classes, organised under bodies like FICCI, supported the movement, wanting protection against foreign competition and freedom to conduct trade without colonial restrictions — 1 mark
- Large numbers of women participated by joining marches, manufacturing salt and boycotting foreign cloth and liquor shops, seeing it as a service to the nation — 1 mark
- Dalit participation remained limited and complex, as some Dalit leaders demanded separate political safeguards rather than simply joining the Congress-led movement — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- Salt was used by every household, rich and poor alike, so a tax on salt was seen as an especially unjust burden on the poor — 1 mark
- It gave Gandhiji a powerful, non-violent symbol that ordinary people across the country could understand and relate to — 1 mark
- It attracted worldwide attention to the Indian freedom struggle through the international press — 1 mark
- It marked the start of country-wide civil disobedience, with people breaking other colonial laws (e.g. manufacturing salt, boycotting foreign cloth) and coming out in large numbers — 1 mark
- It brought many social groups, including large numbers of women, into direct participation in the national movement for the first time — 1 mark (any four correctly explained reasons)

31. Explain, with suitable examples, the different forms through which power is shared among different organs and levels of government in India. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Horizontal power sharing among different organs of government — legislature, executive and judiciary — so that each can check the others (separation of powers) — 1.5 marks
- Vertical power sharing among different levels of government — Union, State and local (panchayats/municipalities) — with each having its own jurisdiction — 1.5 marks
- Power sharing among different social groups, such as through the 'community government' system used in some countries, or reservation of seats for various groups in India — 1 mark
- Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups and movements, which influence policies through competition and coalition in a democracy — 1 mark

32. Explain any five methods of rainwater harvesting practised in different parts of India, mentioning at least one traditional, region-specific example. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Rooftop rainwater harvesting, where rainwater from rooftops is collected and channelled into a storage tank or recharge pit for household use — 1 mark
- Construction of small check dams/bunds across streams to raise the water level and let it percolate into the ground, recharging wells — 1 mark
- Percolation tanks constructed to increase groundwater recharge in hard-rock terrain — 1 mark

- Traditional 'khadin'/'johad' systems in Rajasthan, which store rainwater in small earthen structures/ponds for irrigation and drinking — 1 mark
- 'Guls' or 'kuls' — diversion channels used in hilly regions like the Western Himalayas to carry water from mountain streams to fields (any correct region-specific example) — 1 mark

33. Explain any five measures that the government has taken, or could take, to protect and improve the conditions of workers employed in the unorganised sector. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Enacting and enforcing minimum wage laws so that workers are not exploited — 1 mark
- Ensuring safety regulations at construction sites, factories and mines to reduce accidents — 1 mark
- Providing access to institutional credit at low interest rates so that self-employed workers are not forced to borrow from moneylenders at high interest — 1 mark
- Extending social security schemes — health insurance, pension, maternity benefits — to informal workers (e.g. through schemes for street vendors, domestic workers, construction workers) — 1 mark
- Promoting skill-development and training programmes to help unorganised workers find better-paid, more secure employment — 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 the early twentieth century, Indian nationalists began giving the country a visual identity to build a sense of unity among people who spoke different languages and followed different faiths. Abanindranath Tagore painted his famous image of 'Bharat Mata' portraying the nation as an ascetic, calm, dignified mother figure. Around the same time, the song 'Vande Mataram', from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel Anandamath, became a popular symbol of the nation and was widely sung at nationalist gatherings, though it was also viewed with unease by some communities.

(i) Who painted the famous image of 'Bharat Mata'? [1]

Answer: Abanindranath Tagore.

(ii) From which novel, and by which author, was the song 'Vande Mataram' taken? [1]

Answer: From the novel Anandamath, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

(iii) State one purpose behind creating a visual/symbolic image of India as a mother figure. [1]

Answer: To build a sense of collective belonging and emotional unity among people from different regions, languages and religions, by giving the abstract idea of the 'nation' a familiar, relatable form.

(iv) Why was the image of Bharat Mata and songs like 'Vande Mataram' viewed with unease by some communities? [1]

OR Name one other icon or symbol (apart from Bharat Mata) that nationalists used to build a sense of Indian identity.

Answer: Some communities felt that such imagery, drawing heavily on Hindu religious symbolism (e.g. depicting the nation similar to a Hindu goddess), did not represent India's shared, multi-religious identity, and could alienate non-Hindu Indians from the nationalist project.

OR Answer: Any correct example, such as the tricolour flag, the revival of Indian folklore, or the reinterpretation of Indian history to highlight past achievements.

Case Study 2 — Question 35 [4 Marks]

Bhavgarh is a small village in a semi-arid region that receives moderate but highly uneven rainfall, mostly during a short monsoon season. For most of the year, the village depended entirely on a single, deep tube well for drinking water and irrigation, and this water table had been falling for years due to over-extraction. Villagers, guided by an NGO, revived a traditional johad (a small earthen check dam) upstream of the village to capture and store monsoon run-off, allowing it to percolate slowly into the ground.

(i) Name the traditional water-harvesting structure the villagers revived. [1]

Answer: A johad (a small earthen check dam/embankment to store rainwater).

(ii) Why had the water table in Bhavgarh been falling for years before the johad was built? [1]

Answer: Because groundwater was being over-extracted through the tube well faster than it could be naturally recharged.

(iii) Explain how a structure like the johad helps recharge groundwater in the surrounding area. [1]

Answer: By capturing and holding back monsoon run-off, the johad allows the collected water time to slowly percolate through the soil into the ground, raising the water table of nearby wells rather than letting the run-off drain away quickly.

(iv) Suggest one other step this village could take to reduce its dependence on groundwater. [1]

OR State one advantage of reviving traditional water-harvesting structures over relying solely on large government dam/canal projects.

Answer: Any valid suggestion, e.g. rooftop rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation to use water more efficiently, or growing less water-intensive crops.

OR Answer: Traditional structures are low-cost, community-managed, suited to local conditions, and do not cause the large-scale displacement or submergence associated with big dam projects.

Case Study 3 — Question 36 [4 Marks]

Anil works as a delivery rider for a food-delivery app in his city. He is paid per delivery, has no fixed working hours, no written contract, and receives no health insurance, paid leave or provident fund from the company. On a good day he earns well, but on days when there are fewer orders or his scooter breaks down, he earns very little and has no one to turn to for support.

(i) Which broad economic sector — primary, secondary or tertiary — does Anil's work belong to? [1]

Answer: Tertiary sector (he provides a delivery service).

(ii) Would you classify Anil's employment as being in the organised or unorganised sector? Give one reason. [1]

Answer: Unorganised sector — because he has no written contract, no job security, and no access to social security benefits such as health insurance or provident fund.

(iii) Mention one risk or hardship that Anil faces because of the nature of his employment. [1]

Answer: Any correct point, e.g. irregular/unpredictable income, no protection or compensation if he is injured or unable to work, no paid leave.

(iv) Suggest one measure that could improve Anil's working conditions. [1]

OR Give one example of a worker in the organised sector for comparison, and state one benefit they receive that Anil does not.

Answer: Any valid suggestion, e.g. bringing gig/platform workers under social security laws, ensuring a minimum guaranteed payment, providing accident/health insurance.

OR Answer: Example: a government school teacher or bank employee; they receive benefits such as a fixed salary, provident fund, paid leave and job security, which Anil does not have.

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) Dandi, (iii) Jallianwala Bagh (Amritsar). [2 marks]

(B) On the same outline map of India, locate and label any THREE of the following places related to Water Resources:

(i) Bhakra Nangal Dam, (ii) Sardar Sarovar Dam, (iii) Hirakud Dam, (iv) Tehri Dam. [3 marks]

Answer: (A) Champaran (Bihar) — site of Gandhiji's first satyagraha; Dandi (Gujarat coast) — site of the Salt March; Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar (Punjab) — site of the 1919 massacre. (B) Bhakra Nangal Dam — on the Sutlej river, Himachal Pradesh/Punjab border; Sardar Sarovar Dam — on the Narmada river, Gujarat; Hirakud Dam — on the Mahanadi river, Odisha; Tehri Dam — on the Bhagirathi river, Uttarakhand. (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.)