

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
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
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
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
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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

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

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]

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

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

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

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]

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]

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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]

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]

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

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

(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.

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]

- (ii) Why had the water table in Bhavgarh been falling for years before the johad was built? [1]
(iii) Explain how a structure like the johad helps recharge groundwater in the surrounding area. [1]
(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.

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]
(ii) Would you classify Anil's employment as being in the organised or unorganised sector? Give one reason. [1]
(iii) Mention one risk or hardship that Anil faces because of the nature of his employment. [1]
(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.

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]