

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 38 questions divided into 6 Sections: A, B, C, D, E and F.
2. Section A: Question numbers 1 to 20 are multiple choice/Assertion-Reason questions of 1 mark each.
3. Section B: Question numbers 21 to 25 are very short answer questions of 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 40 words.
4. Section C: Question numbers 26 to 30 are short answer questions of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.
5. Section D: Question numbers 31 to 34 are long answer questions of 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.
6. Section E: Question numbers 35 to 37 are source-based/case-based questions with four sub-parts each, carrying 4 marks each.
7. Section F: Question number 38 is a map-based question of 3 marks, based on physical and historical geography.
8. This paper covers Chapters 1-5 of the new integrated Social Science textbook (Introduction to Social Science; Earth's Surface: Interior and Landforms; Atmosphere and Climate; Early Humans and the Rise of Civilisation; State and Society in Early India up to c. 1000 CE).
9. 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 word 'History' is derived from a Greek word that originally meant: [1]
 - (a) Inquiry/investigation
 - (b) Government
 - (c) Mountain
 - (d) Currency
2. A gold coin issued by an ancient king, bearing his portrait and title, is classified by historians as a source of history under the category of: [1]
 - (a) Numismatic (coin-based) evidence
 - (b) Oral tradition
 - (c) Genealogical record
 - (d) Secondary literature
3. The thin, outermost solid layer of the Earth on which we live is called the: [1]
 - (a) Mantle
 - (b) Core
 - (c) Crust
 - (d) Asthenosphere
4. Landforms such as river valleys, floodplains and deltas are mainly formed by the action of: [1]
 - (a) Running water (rivers)
 - (b) Wind alone
 - (c) Glaciers alone
 - (d) Ocean currents alone

5. The layer of the atmosphere closest to the Earth's surface, where almost all weather phenomena occur, is the: [1]
- (a) Stratosphere
 - (b) Troposphere
 - (c) Mesosphere
 - (d) Thermosphere
6. Which of these best describes 'humidity'? [1]
- (a) The speed of wind at a place
 - (b) The amount of water vapour present in the air
 - (c) The pressure exerted by the atmosphere
 - (d) The average temperature of a season
7. The earliest stone tools used by early humans were mainly used for: [1]
- (a) Writing records
 - (b) Cutting, chopping and scraping, for hunting and processing food
 - (c) Building large temples
 - (d) Minting coins
8. The term 'Mahajanapada' refers to: [1]
- (a) A large, powerful early Indian kingdom/state that emerged around the sixth century BCE
 - (b) A type of ancient coin
 - (c) A religious festival
 - (d) A modern administrative district
9. Oral traditions — stories, songs and legends passed down by word of mouth across generations — are useful to historians mainly because they: [1]
- (a) Are always completely accurate and unchanged over time
 - (b) Can preserve memories of events, migrations or social customs not recorded in writing, though they must be used carefully
 - (c) Are considered more reliable than any inscription
 - (d) Cannot provide any historical information at all
10. A 'plateau' is best defined as a landform that is: [1]
- (a) Elevated with a broad, relatively flat top, standing above the surrounding land
 - (b) Always found below sea level
 - (c) A narrow strip of flat land along a coast
 - (d) A landform created only by wind deposition
11. The gradual wearing away and removal of rock and soil by agents such as running water, wind and glaciers is known as: [1]
- (a) Weathering
 - (b) Erosion
 - (c) Deposition
 - (d) Folding

12. Which of the following is a major factor that makes Mumbai's climate more moderate (less extreme) than that of a city like Delhi, even though both lie at broadly similar latitudes? [1]

- (a) Mumbai's location on the coast, close to the sea
- (b) Mumbai's higher altitude
- (c) Mumbai's distance from the equator
- (d) Mumbai receiving no rainfall at all

13. Which of these correctly explains why the interior parts of India generally experience hotter summers and colder winters than coastal areas? [1]

- (a) Land heats up and cools down faster than the sea, leading to greater temperature extremes away from the coast
- (b) Interior areas receive more rainfall than coastal areas
- (c) Interior areas are always at a higher altitude
- (d) The sea has no effect on the temperature of nearby land

14. The uniform brick sizes and standard weights found across widely separated Harappan sites suggest: [1]

- (a) That each city acted completely independently with no shared standards
- (b) Some form of common standards/authority connecting different Harappan settlements
- (c) That the Harappans had no trade at all
- (d) That these objects were imported from a completely unrelated civilisation

15. Archaeologists have found very few large palaces or grand royal monuments at Harappan sites, unlike in some other early civilisations. This observation has led some historians to suggest that: [1]

- (a) The Harappans had no cities at all
- (b) Harappan society may have had a less visibly centralised/monarchical form of authority than some contemporary civilisations, though this remains debated
- (c) The Harappans definitely had no rulers of any kind
- (d) All Harappan buildings have been completely destroyed with no exceptions

16. Village assemblies and local bodies in early India commonly handled matters such as: [1]

- (a) Declaring war on neighbouring kingdoms
- (b) Managing local irrigation, resolving minor disputes, and maintaining local land records
- (c) Minting the kingdom's official coinage
- (d) Appointing the king's successor

17. Two tectonic plates sliding past each other horizontally, without much upward or downward movement, describes which type of plate boundary? [1]

- (a) Convergent boundary
- (b) Divergent boundary
- (c) Transform boundary
- (d) Subduction boundary

18. In which of the following situations would you expect the LEAST difference between day and night temperatures? [1]

- (a) A desert region far from the sea
- (b) A small island surrounded by the sea on all sides
- (c) A high plateau in the middle of a continent
- (d) A landlocked region with very low humidity

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

Assertion (A): Even though the Harappan civilisation had a written script found on seals and other objects, historians have not been able to reconstruct a detailed political history (such as a list of kings) for this civilisation.
Reason (R): The Harappan script has not yet been deciphered, so historians cannot read the content of the inscriptions that survive.

- (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): Fold mountains such as the Himalayas are geologically 'young' and are still rising slowly today.
Reason (R): The tectonic plates responsible for their formation have stopped moving completely, and no further folding is taking place.

- (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 25 carry 2 marks each.

21. Mention two differences between a primary source and a secondary source of history, with one example of each. [2]

22. State two functions of the ozone layer found in the Earth's atmosphere. [2]

23. Give two reasons why river valleys have traditionally attracted early human settlements. [2]

24. Mention two pieces of evidence that suggest the Harappans had contact with the civilisation of Mesopotamia. [2]

25. Explain why historians find it more difficult to reconstruct the political history (such as a list of kings and their reigns) of the Harappan civilisation compared to some later Indian kingdoms. [2]

SECTION C

Question numbers 26 to 30 carry 3 marks each.

26. Explain any three ways in which rivers shape the land as they flow from their source to the sea. [3]

27. Explain any three characteristics of the Northern Plains of India and the process by which they were formed. [3]

28. Explain any three effects of deforestation on the climate and environment of a region. [3]

29. "The Harappans were skilled town planners." Justify this statement with any three pieces of evidence. [3]

30. Explain any three reasons why early Indian states, such as those of the Gangetic plains, were able to grow into large and powerful kingdoms during the period after the Vedic age. [3]

SECTION D

Question numbers 31 to 34 carry 5 marks each.

31. Explain any five methods used by historians to determine the exact or approximate date of an ancient event, object or text. [5]

OR

Explain the meaning of 'stratigraphy' in archaeology, and explain why the deepest layer at an excavation site is generally considered the oldest.

32. Explain any five major landform types found on the Earth's surface, giving one example of each from India where possible. [5]

33. Explain any five reasons why the climate of different parts of India varies so widely, from the cold Himalayan region to the hot Thar Desert and the humid coastal areas. [5]

34. Explain any five ways in which trade and craft production were organised in early Indian towns (up to about 1000 CE). [5]

OR

Explain any five ways in which the study of inscriptions recording land grants and trade transactions helps historians reconstruct the economic history of early India.

SECTION E

Question numbers 35 to 37 are source-based/case-based questions carrying 4 marks each.

Case Study 1 — Question 35 [4 Marks]

Ramnagar is a hilly village where farmers have traditionally grown crops on the steep slopes surrounding their homes. In recent years, after several patches of forest on the upper slopes were cleared for firewood and new farmland, villagers noticed that heavy monsoon rain now washes away the fertile topsoil much faster than before, and a nearby stream carries far more mud after every downpour.

(i) What term describes the process by which topsoil is worn away and carried off by agents such as running water? [1]

(ii) Explain how the clearing of forest cover on the upper slopes has increased soil erosion in Ramnagar. [1]

(iii) Suggest one farming method the villagers of Ramnagar could adopt on their steep slopes to reduce soil erosion. [1]

(iv) Explain one long-term consequence for agriculture in Ramnagar if the current rate of soil erosion continues unchecked. [1]

OR Suggest one reason why the stream near Ramnagar now carries more mud after every downpour.

Case Study 2 — Question 36 [4 Marks]

At a site believed to belong to a very early farming community, archaeologists found charred grains of wheat and barley, the bones of domesticated sheep and goats, simple polished stone tools, and the remains of small mud-and-reed huts arranged close together, unlike the scattered temporary camps found at earlier sites in the same region.

(i) Based on the evidence described, to which broad stage of human history does this site most likely belong? [1]

(ii) What does the presence of permanent mud-and-reed huts, arranged close together, suggest about the way of life of this community compared with earlier hunter-gatherer groups? [1]

(iii) Explain how the presence of charred grains and the bones of domesticated animals together support the idea that this was a farming community rather than a hunting-gathering one. [1]

(iv) Suggest one way in which the shift to farming and animal domestication, seen at this site, would have changed the size and organisation of human communities over time. [1]

OR Suggest one reason why polished (rather than roughly chipped) stone tools are associated with this later stage of the Stone Age.

Case Study 3 — Question 37 [4 Marks]

An early Indian text describes a kingdom where the king was advised by a council of ministers, taxes were collected from farmers as a share of their harvest, and merchants travelling with caravans of goods had to pay tolls at certain points along the route. The text also mentions that village headmen were responsible for maintaining local order and settling minor disputes without always referring matters to the king's court.

(i) What was the main basis on which taxes were collected from farmers according to the passage? [1]

(ii) Who, according to the passage, generally settled minor disputes at the village level? [1]

(iii) Explain why the king relied on a council of ministers rather than ruling entirely alone. [1]

(iv) Explain how tolls collected from merchants and taxes collected from farmers, as mentioned in the passage, would have benefited the kingdom's administration. [1]

OR Suggest one reason why local, village-level resolution of minor disputes (rather than always referring them to the king) would have been useful for the kingdom's administration.

SECTION F

Question number 38 is a map-based question of 3 marks.

38. Map-Based Question [3 Marks]

On an outline map of India/the world, mark and label: (i) the approximate zone where the Indian Plate meets the Eurasian Plate, associated with the formation of the Himalayas [1 mark]; (ii) the location of any ONE Harappan site, such as Harappa, Dholavira or Lothal [1 mark]; (iii) the location of any ONE important early Indian city/capital, such as Taxila or Ujjain [1 mark].