

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 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. Social Science, as a field of study, is best described as the systematic study of: [1]
 - (a) Rocks, minerals and the physical composition of the Earth
 - (b) Human beings, their societies, and the relationships they form with one another
 - (c) Chemical reactions between different substances
 - (d) The mathematical properties of numbers
2. A stone inscription issued by a ruler during his own reign, describing his victories, is an example of a: [1]
 - (a) Secondary source
 - (b) Primary source
 - (c) Oral tradition
 - (d) Modern historical textbook
3. Reading from the surface towards the centre, the correct order of the Earth's interior layers is: [1]
 - (a) Core, mantle, crust
 - (b) Mantle, crust, core
 - (c) Crust, mantle, core
 - (d) Crust, core, mantle
4. The theory that the Earth's outer shell is broken into several large, slowly moving rigid segments is known as the theory of: [1]
 - (a) Continental cooling
 - (b) Plate tectonics
 - (c) Soil erosion
 - (d) Monsoon circulation

5. By volume, the gas present in the largest proportion in the Earth's atmosphere is: [1]
- (a) Oxygen
 - (b) Carbon dioxide
 - (c) Nitrogen
 - (d) Argon
6. The day-to-day condition of the atmosphere at a place, including its temperature, rainfall and humidity over a short period, is called: [1]
- (a) Climate
 - (b) Weather
 - (c) Season
 - (d) Latitude
7. The shift from hunting-gathering to a settled life based on farming and the domestication of animals is known as the: [1]
- (a) Industrial Revolution
 - (b) Neolithic (Agricultural) Revolution
 - (c) Bronze Age collapse
 - (d) Renaissance
8. Early Indian texts often describe 'janapadas' as: [1]
- (a) Large modern cities
 - (b) Territorial units/settlements associated with a particular clan or tribe in early India
 - (c) Sea-going trade ships
 - (d) A type of ancient coin
9. A bronze dancing-girl figurine and terracotta toys recovered from an archaeological site are examples of which type of historical source? [1]
- (a) Literary source
 - (b) Archaeological/material source
 - (c) Epigraphic source alone
 - (d) Genealogical record
10. The Himalayan mountain range was formed mainly as a result of: [1]
- (a) The collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, causing sea-bed sediments between them to fold upward
 - (b) Volcanic eruptions along a mid-ocean ridge
 - (c) Wind erosion over millions of years
 - (d) The sinking of a continental plate into the sea
11. Which of the following best distinguishes a plateau from a plain? [1]
- (a) A plateau is a flat, low-lying area, while a plain has a wavy surface
 - (b) A plateau is an elevated, flat-topped landform rising sharply above the surrounding area, while a plain is a low, relatively level stretch of land
 - (c) A plateau is always found near a river mouth, while a plain is never near a river
 - (d) There is no real difference between the two landforms

12. Which factor mainly explains why places at higher altitudes are generally cooler than places at sea level in the same latitude? [1]

- (a) Temperature decreases with increasing height as the air becomes thinner
- (b) Higher places receive less sunlight in total
- (c) Higher places are always farther from the equator
- (d) Air pressure increases with altitude, cooling the air

13. India's rainy season is caused mainly by: [1]

- (a) Cold winds blowing from the Himalayas towards the sea
- (b) Moisture-laden monsoon winds blowing from the sea towards the land during summer
- (c) Cyclones that occur only in winter
- (d) The movement of tectonic plates beneath the Indian Ocean

14. The carefully planned street layout and covered drainage system found at Harappan sites such as Mohenjodaro chiefly indicate: [1]

- (a) A lack of any civic organisation
- (b) An advanced level of urban planning and civic administration
- (c) That the cities were built by a foreign colonial power
- (d) That the Harappans had no knowledge of construction techniques

15. Harappan seals bearing animal motifs and a yet-undeciphered script are believed to have been used mainly for: [1]

- (a) Decorating temple walls
- (b) Identifying ownership of goods and possibly in trade transactions
- (c) Worshipping a single supreme deity exclusively
- (d) Recording personal income tax

16. Early Indian kingdoms of the period after the Vedic age, such as Magadha, grew powerful mainly because of: [1]

- (a) Their location amid fertile land, access to iron ore, and control over trade routes
- (b) Their location in a desert with no resources
- (c) The complete absence of any army
- (d) Reliance solely on maritime trade with distant lands

17. At a convergent plate boundary where two continental plates collide, the most likely result is: [1]

- (a) Formation of a deep ocean trench with no landform change
- (b) Folding of rock layers to form new fold mountains, as neither plate can be easily pushed under the other
- (c) A rift valley with new ocean floor forming between the plates
- (d) No geological activity of any kind

18. Coastal regions generally experience a smaller difference between summer and winter temperatures than places located deep in the interior of a continent at a similar latitude. This is best explained by the fact that: [1]

- (a) The sea heats up and cools down faster than land, keeping coastal temperatures unstable
- (b) Water heats up and cools down more slowly than land, so the sea moderates the temperature of nearby coastal areas
- (c) Coastal areas always receive less sunlight
- (d) Interior regions are always closer to the equator

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

Assertion (A): The Indus/Harappan civilisation is thought to have declined gradually rather than through a single sudden event.

Reason (R): Historians have found evidence such as shifting river courses, possible climate change, and disruption of trade networks across different Harappan sites, rather than proof of one catastrophic invasion.

- (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): Early Indian society in this period was often organised on the basis of varna and jati, which could influence a person's occupation and social position.

Reason (R): This form of social organisation ensured complete equality of opportunity for every individual, regardless of birth.

- (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. State two ways in which studying the past helps us understand the present-day world. [2]

22. Differentiate between weather and climate, using one example each. [2]

23. Give two pieces of evidence found at Harappan sites that suggest the Harappans carried on trade with other regions. [2]

24. Mention two features that distinguish a mountain from a plateau. [2]

25. Explain why the Deccan Plateau is described as one of the oldest and most stable landmasses of India. [2]

SECTION C

Question numbers 26 to 30 carry 3 marks each.

26. Explain any three functions performed by the atmosphere that make life possible on Earth. [3]

27. Explain, with an example, how the physical remains of buildings and town-planning at an archaeological site can help historians understand the society that built them. [3]

28. Explain any three factors that influence the climate of a place. [3]

29. "The decline of the Harappan civilisation was probably caused by a combination of factors rather than a single cause." Explain this statement with any three possible reasons suggested by historians. [3]

- 30.** Explain any three ways in which the movement of tectonic plates affects human life and settlement patterns. [3]

SECTION D

Question numbers 31 to 34 carry 5 marks each.

- 31.** Explain any five ways in which historians and archaeologists use different types of sources — such as inscriptions, coins, manuscripts and excavated remains — to reconstruct the story of the past. [5]

OR

Explain the meaning of 'primary source' and 'secondary source' in the study of history, and illustrate each with one example. Also explain why historians consider it important to use multiple sources together rather than relying on just one.

- 32.** With reference to the interior of the Earth, explain (a) the three main layers of the Earth, and (b) how the movement of tectonic plates leads to the formation of major landforms. (Any five relevant points) [5]

- 33.** Explain any five effects of the monsoon on life, agriculture and the economy of India. [5]

- 34.** Explain any five features of the way society and administration were organised in early Indian kingdoms/states up to about 1000 CE. [5]

OR

Discuss any five reasons why early Indian kingdoms invested resources in building temples, irrigation tanks and issuing land grants to individuals or institutions.

SECTION E

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

Case Study 1 — Question 35 [4 Marks]

Devgram lies close to a zone where two tectonic plates meet. Older residents recall that the region has experienced several mild earthquakes over the decades, and new government guidelines now require all buildings to follow earthquake-resistant designs. A geography teacher visiting the village explained to students how the shifting plates beneath the surface were responsible for such tremors.

- (i) What name is given to the boundary where two tectonic plates meet? [1]
- (ii) Why do regions located near plate boundaries experience frequent earthquakes? [1]
- (iii) Suggest one reason why building codes in earthquake-prone regions require special earthquake-resistant designs. [1]
- (iv) Name one major mountain range in India formed due to the collision of tectonic plates, and identify the two plates involved. [1]

OR Apart from earthquakes, name one other geological phenomenon commonly associated with plate boundaries.

Case Study 2 — Question 36 [4 Marks]

During excavation at an ancient mound, archaeologists uncovered neatly baked bricks arranged in a grid-like pattern of streets, a covered drainage system running along the lanes, and a large rectangular tank lined with bricks and coated with a natural waterproofing material. Nearby, they also found small stone seals engraved with animal figures and a few undeciphered signs.

- (i) Which ancient civilisation is most likely being described here, based on the features mentioned? [1]

(ii) What does the presence of a planned grid of streets and a covered drainage system suggest about this civilisation? [1]

(iii) Historians are still unable to fully explain the purpose and meaning of the seals mentioned in the passage. Suggest one reason why this uncertainty exists. [1]

(iv) What was the large brick-lined tank mentioned in the passage most likely used for, based on similar structures found at Harappan sites? [1]

OR Suggest one piece of additional evidence archaeologists could look for at this site to confirm trade contact with other regions.

Case Study 3 — Question 37 [4 Marks]

In an early Indian kingdom, an inscription found on a copper plate records that the king granted a piece of agricultural land, along with the right to collect its revenue, to a group of learned Brahmanas so that they could perform religious rituals for the welfare of the kingdom. The inscription also mentions the boundaries of the granted land and instructs local officials not to interfere with it.

(i) What term is generally used for a formal grant of land made by a king, especially to a religious individual/institution? [1]

(ii) Name the material on which this particular land grant was inscribed. [1]

(iii) Why are such inscriptions considered valuable sources for historians studying early Indian society and administration? [1]

(iv) Suggest one way in which such land grants to religious institutions could have helped an early Indian king strengthen his rule. [1]

OR State one way in which local officials mentioned in such inscriptions were expected to respect the terms of a land grant.

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, mark and label: (i) the Himalayan mountain range, formed due to the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates [1 mark]; (ii) the approximate location of the Harappan site of Mohenjodaro [1 mark]; (iii) the approximate location of Pataliputra, an important early Indian city and capital of the Magadha kingdom/empire [1 mark].