

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 5 Sections: A, B, C, D and E.
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 31 are short answer questions of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.
5. Section D: Question numbers 32 to 35 are long answer questions of 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.
6. Section E: Question numbers 36 to 38 are source-based/case-based questions with four sub-parts each, carrying 4 marks each.
7. This paper covers all seven chapters of Part 1 of the new integrated Social Science textbook: Natural Resources and Their Use; Reshaping India's Political Map; The Rise of the Marathas; The Colonial Era in India; Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System; The Parliamentary System: Legislature and Executive; and Factors of Production.
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. Which of the following is a non-renewable resource? [1]

- (a) Wind
- (b) Sunlight
- (c) Natural gas
- (d) Running water

Answer: (c) — Natural gas takes millions of years to form and cannot be quickly replaced.

2. Resources found in nature that are directly useful to humans, such as air and water, are called: [1]

- (a) Human-made resources
- (b) Natural resources
- (c) Capital resources
- (d) Artificial resources

Answer: (b) — Natural resources.

3. Which Mughal emperor's death in 1707 is generally seen as the start of a period of rapid decline for the Mughal Empire? [1]

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Aurangzeb
- (c) Humayun
- (d) Bahadur Shah Zafar

Answer: (b) — Aurangzeb died in 1707.

4. Saadat Khan is best known for establishing strong, semi-independent rule over which 18th-century region? [1]

- (a) Bengal
- (b) Awadh
- (c) Mysore
- (d) Punjab

Answer: (b) — Awadh.

5. The Maratha demand for an additional one-tenth revenue share, over and above chauth, from lands outside their direct control was known as: [1]

- (a) Jizya
- (b) Sardeshmukhi
- (c) Zakat
- (d) Kharaj

Answer: (b) — Sardeshmukhi.

6. Under which Peshwa did Maratha power and territory expand most rapidly across large parts of India in the early 18th century? [1]

- (a) Balaji Vishwanath
- (b) Baji Rao I
- (c) Balaji Baji Rao
- (d) Nana Phadnavis

Answer: (b) — Baji Rao I.

7. In which year was the English East India Company established, initially as a trading company? [1]

- (a) 1600
- (b) 1707
- (c) 1757
- (d) 1857

Answer: (a) — 1600.

8. Which of the following was one of the first Indian port cities where European trading companies set up important trading posts (factories)? [1]

- (a) Surat
- (b) Shimla
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Jaipur

Answer: (a) — Surat, on India's western coast.

9. Why could the East India Company gradually turn a trading relationship into political control over regions like Bengal? [1]

- (a) Because Indian rulers had no armies of their own at all
- (b) Because it combined the wealth from trade with a disciplined army, and skilfully exploited rivalries among Indian rulers and other European powers
- (c) Because the Mughal emperor personally handed over Bengal to the Company as a gift
- (d) Because the Company was purely a charitable organisation with no interest in power

Answer: (b) — A combination of trade profits, military strength and exploiting political rivalries.

10. Which of the following is a key idea behind 'universal adult franchise'? [1]

- (a) Only wealthy citizens have the right to vote
- (b) Every adult citizen gets one equal vote, regardless of income, caste or gender
- (c) Only male citizens can vote
- (d) Voting is allowed only for citizens who are graduates

Answer: (b) — Every adult citizen has one equal vote, whatever their background.

11. The list of all eligible voters in a constituency, prepared and updated by the Election Commission, is called the: [1]

- (a) Voter ID card
- (b) Electoral roll (voter list)
- (c) Model Code of Conduct
- (d) Ballot paper

Answer: (b) — The electoral roll, or voter list.

12. What is the purpose of the 'Model Code of Conduct' enforced by the Election Commission during elections? [1]

- (a) To ensure all parties and candidates follow fair practices, and no one misuses government power during campaigning
- (b) To fix the prices of goods during the election period
- (c) To select which candidates a political party may field
- (d) To count the votes faster on counting day

Answer: (a) — It sets fair-conduct rules for parties and candidates during campaigning.

13. The Indian Parliament consists of the President and which two Houses? [1]

- (a) Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- (b) Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad
- (c) Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha
- (d) Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Parishad

Answer: (a) — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, together with the President.

14. Who is the ceremonial/constitutional Head of State in India? [1]

- (a) The Prime Minister
- (b) The President
- (c) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- (d) The Chief Justice of India

Answer: (b) — The President.

15. A bill that deals only with taxation and government spending (a 'Money Bill') can be introduced only in the: [1]

- (a) Rajya Sabha
- (b) Lok Sabha
- (c) Supreme Court
- (d) State Legislature

Answer: (b) — The Lok Sabha.

16. Which of the following is NOT one of the four factors of production? [1]

- (a) Land
- (b) Labour
- (c) Population
- (d) Capital

Answer: (c) — Population is not a factor of production; the four factors are land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship.

17. The payment received by workers in return for their labour is called: [1]

- (a) Rent
- (b) Wages
- (c) Interest
- (d) Profit

Answer: (b) — Wages — the return to labour.

18. Which of the following best explains why the decline of Mughal authority did NOT lead to complete chaos everywhere, but instead to well-organised regional kingdoms in several areas? [1]

- (a) There were no wars at all in 18th-century India
- (b) Capable regional rulers/governors built effective administrations, armies and revenue systems in the territories they controlled
- (c) The Mughal emperor personally administered all regions as before

(d) The East India Company ruled all of India by 1720

Answer: (b) — Capable regional rulers built strong administrations of their own.

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

Assertion (A): The President of India can return a bill (other than a Money Bill) to Parliament for reconsideration before giving assent.

Reason (R): If Parliament passes the bill again, with or without changes, the President is generally expected to give assent, so the President's role remains largely constitutional rather than a power to permanently block laws.

- (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 the limited, constitutional nature of this power.

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

Assertion (A): Entrepreneurship is often described as the most crucial of the four factors of production.

Reason (R): An entrepreneur takes on the risk and responsibility of organising land, labour and capital to actually produce goods and services, and without this initiative the other three factors may remain unused.

- (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 why entrepreneurship is seen as so crucial.

SECTION B

Question numbers 21 to 25 carry 2 marks each.

21. State two examples of resources that are classified as 'human-made' rather than natural. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Any two examples, e.g. buildings, roads, bridges, machinery — 1 mark each (max 2 marks)

22. Name the four factors of production, and give the reward/return associated with any one of them. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- All four factors named correctly — land, labour, capital, entrepreneurship — 1 mark
- One correct matching return, e.g. labour → wages (or land → rent, capital → interest, entrepreneurship → profit) — 1 mark

23. Give two reasons why the secrecy of the ballot (no one can see whom you voted for) is important in elections. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It allows voters to vote according to their own choice, without fear of pressure or victimisation — 1 mark
- It prevents others, such as employers, local leaders or family members, from checking or influencing a person's vote — 1 mark

24. State two functions performed by the Rajya Sabha in India's parliamentary system. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It reviews and revises bills already passed by the Lok Sabha, acting as a check on hasty law-making — 1 mark
- It represents the states of India in the central Parliament — 1 mark

25. Explain briefly why many small regional kingdoms found it difficult to resist the growing power of the East India Company in the second half of the 18th century. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Constant rivalries and wars among Indian regional powers prevented them from uniting against a common outside threat — 1 mark
- The Company had superior military training, discipline, weapons and financial resources built up through trade profits, giving it an advantage over individually weaker regional armies — 1 mark

SECTION C

Question numbers 26 to 31 carry 3 marks each.

26. Explain any three ways in which Shivaji strengthened Maratha defence along the Konkan coast. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- He built forts along the coast, such as Sindhudurg, to guard against sea-borne attacks — 1 mark
- He maintained a fleet of warships to protect Maratha trade and the coastline — 1 mark
- This checked the growing influence of European naval powers, such as the Portuguese, along the coast — 1 mark

27. Explain any three effects of Nadir Shah's invasion of Delhi in 1739 on the Mughal Empire. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It exposed the military weakness of the Mughal empire to the whole of India — 1 mark
- Huge wealth, including the famous Peacock Throne, was looted and taken away, badly draining the Mughal treasury — 1 mark
- It further encouraged provincial governors to act more independently, accelerating the decline of central Mughal authority — 1 mark

28. Explain any three reasons why the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, came into conflict with the English East India Company before the Battle of Plassey (1757). [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- The Company was fortifying its trading post at Calcutta without the Nawab's permission, which he saw as a threat — 1 mark
- The Company was misusing trading privileges (duty-free trade passes) for private profit, reducing the Nawab's revenue — 1 mark
- The Nawab feared the Company's growing military strength and interference in local politics (any other valid reason) — 1 mark

29. Explain any three ways in which an entrepreneur combines the other factors of production to run a business, using a small shop as an example. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- The entrepreneur rents or arranges land/premises for the shop — 1 mark
- The entrepreneur hires workers (labour) and assigns them their tasks — 1 mark
- The entrepreneur arranges capital (money, equipment, stock) and takes the risk of running the business for profit — 1 mark

30. Explain any three reasons why universal adult franchise — the right of every adult citizen to vote, regardless of wealth, caste, gender or education — is important for Indian democracy. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It gives equal political power and voice to every citizen, whether rich or poor, literate or not — 1 mark
- It makes elected representatives accountable to the whole population rather than only to a privileged few — 1 mark
- It strengthens people's trust in democracy by ensuring that the government truly represents the wishes of the majority — 1 mark

31. Explain any three differences between the roles of the President and the Prime Minister in India's parliamentary system. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- The President is the ceremonial/constitutional head of state, while the Prime Minister is the real head of government exercising executive power — 1 mark
- The President normally acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister, while the PM and ministers actually decide and implement policies — 1 mark
- The President is elected indirectly for a fixed term, while the Prime Minister holds office only as long as he or she commands the confidence (majority support) of the Lok Sabha — 1 mark

SECTION D

Question numbers 32 to 35 carry 5 marks each.

32. Explain any five simple steps an individual or family can take at home to help conserve natural resources such as water, electricity and forests. [5]

OR

A housing society in a city decides to install solar panels on rooftops and set up a rainwater harvesting system. Explain five benefits this could bring to the residents and the environment.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Turning off taps and lights when not in use — 1 mark
- Harvesting rainwater at home for reuse instead of letting it drain away — 1 mark
- Using energy-efficient appliances or solar water heaters — 1 mark
- Reducing use of wood/paper products and sending paper for recycling — 1 mark
- Planting trees around the house or joining community plantation drives — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- Lower electricity bills as some power needs are met by solar energy — 1 mark
- Reduced dependence on non-renewable, coal-based electricity — 1 mark
- Groundwater recharge from harvested rainwater, raising the local water table — 1 mark
- Reduced water scarcity, especially useful during dry months — 1 mark
- Overall lower pollution and a smaller impact on the environment — 1 mark

33. Explain any five features of India's electoral system that help make elections free and fair. [5]

OR

A first-time voter asks you to explain why elections are considered essential to democracy. Give five points to explain this to her.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- An independent Election Commission of India supervises and conducts elections without government interference — 1 mark
- Electoral rolls (voter lists) are prepared and regularly updated so that every eligible citizen can vote — 1 mark
- Elections are held by secret ballot, so no one can find out or influence how a person voted — 1 mark
- The Model Code of Conduct is enforced on all parties and candidates to prevent misuse of power during campaigning — 1 mark
- The use of EVMs along with VVPAT slips makes voting quicker while still allowing votes to be verified if disputed — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- Elections allow citizens to choose their own representatives and government periodically — 1 mark
- They give every adult citizen, regardless of background, an equal say through one vote each — 1 mark
- They make the government accountable, since it can be voted out if people are dissatisfied — 1 mark
- They provide a peaceful method for the transfer of power, instead of force — 1 mark
- They encourage political parties and leaders to work for public welfare in order to win public support — 1 mark

34. Explain any five points to show how land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship combine to run a small bakery business. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Land: the bakery needs a shop or premises to operate from — 1 mark
- Labour: workers such as bakers and helpers put in the physical and mental effort to prepare and sell the goods — 1 mark
- Capital: money, ovens, mixers and raw materials are needed to actually produce baked goods — 1 mark
- Entrepreneurship: the owner organises land, labour and capital, decides what and how much to produce, and takes the risk of profit or loss — 1 mark
- All four factors must work together — missing any one of them, such as workers or an oven, would make it difficult to run the bakery successfully — 1 mark

35. Discuss any five ways in which the English East India Company's role in India changed from being purely a trading organisation to becoming a ruling political power by the late 18th century. [5]

OR

Imagine you are a merchant in 18th-century Bengal, watching the East India Company's activities over several decades. Describe five changes you might have observed in the Company's role and behaviour, from its early years of trade to the period after 1765.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It began as a company trading in spices and cotton/silk textiles, with permission from local rulers — 1 mark
- It built fortified trading posts (e.g. at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay), which gradually became centres of military strength — 1 mark
- It gained valuable military and political experience during the Anglo-French rivalry in the Carnatic Wars — 1 mark
- It won key battles — Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764) — defeating Indian rulers and gaining control over Bengal's resources — 1 mark
- It received Diwani rights in 1765, giving it legal power to collect land revenue directly, marking its transformation into a ruling authority in Bengal, Bihar and Odisha — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- In the early years, the Company appeared mainly as a group of traders seeking permission to buy and sell goods like textiles — 1 mark
- Over time, you would notice the Company fortifying its trading posts and building up armed guards and soldiers — 1 mark
- You would see it taking sides in local political disputes and eventually fighting battles such as Plassey against the Nawab — 1 mark
- After Buxar, you would notice Company officials directly collecting land revenue rather than just trading goods — 1 mark
- By the late 1760s, you would see the Company effectively controlling the administration of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha, while the Nawab remained only a figurehead — 1 mark

SECTION E

Question numbers 36 to 38 are source-based/case-based questions carrying 4 marks each.

Case Study 1 — Question 36 [4 Marks]

In a social science class, students were shown two outline maps of India — one from 1707 (the year Aurangzeb died) and another from around 1765. The 1707 map showed almost the entire map in one single colour, representing the vast Mughal empire. The 1765 map, however, showed many differently coloured regions — including areas under Hyderabad, Awadh, the Marathas, and territory where the East India Company had begun collecting revenue directly.

(i) Whose death in 1707 is generally seen as the starting point of the rapid decline shown between the two maps? [1]

Answer: Aurangzeb's death.

(ii) Name any two regional kingdoms/powers, other than the Marathas, that appear as separate regions on the 1765 map. [1]

Answer: Any two, e.g. Hyderabad and Awadh (Bengal and Mysore are also acceptable).

(iii) Explain why the 1765 map shows many separate regions instead of one large empire as in 1707. [1]

Answer: After Aurangzeb's death, weak Mughal rulers could not control distant provinces; provincial governors and local rulers gradually stopped obeying the centre and set up their own independent or semi-independent kingdoms, breaking the single large empire into many regions.

(iv) What does the appearance of East India Company territory on the 1765 map suggest about the changing balance of power in India by this time? [1]

OR Suggest one reason why studying old maps like these is useful for understanding history.

Answer: It suggests that a European trading company had grown strong enough, by exploiting this political fragmentation, to become a territorial power in its own right — controlling revenue collection in Bengal, Bihar and Odisha alongside older regional Indian kingdoms.

OR Answer: Old maps visually show how political boundaries and the balance of power changed over time, helping us understand historical events, like the decline of an empire, more clearly than text alone.

Case Study 2 — Question 37 [4 Marks]

Meera is preparing a school project on Maratha history. She reads that Shivaji built a strong chain of coastal forts, including Sindhudurg, and maintained a fleet of warships to guard the western (Konkan) coastline against European naval powers and pirates, protecting Maratha trade along the coast.

(i) Along which coast of India did Shivaji build forts and maintain a navy to protect Maratha interests? [1]

Answer: The western, or Konkan, coast of India.

(ii) State two reasons why Shivaji considered it important to build a strong navy. [1]

Answer: Any two: to protect the Konkan coastline and Maratha trade from attack; to check the growing naval influence of the Portuguese, English and other powers along the coast.

(iii) Explain how maintaining both inland hill forts and coastal forts/a navy together strengthened the overall defence of the Maratha kingdom. [1]

Answer: Hill forts protected the inland core territory using natural elevation for defence and as bases for guerrilla operations, while coastal forts and the navy guarded sea approaches and trade routes — together giving the Marathas protection against threats from both land and sea.

(iv) Why might building a navy have been an unusual step for most contemporary Indian rulers of the time, making Shivaji's approach notable? [1]

OR Name one other Maratha coastal fort, apart from Sindhudurg.

Answer: Most contemporary Indian land powers focused mainly on cavalry and land-based armies and paid little attention to sea power; Shivaji recognised early that ignoring the sea would leave the coastline and trade vulnerable to European naval powers, making his navy a far-sighted and unusual step.

OR Answer: Any correct example, e.g. Vijaydurg or Suvarnadurg.

Case Study 3 — Question 38 [4 Marks]

In a school 'Mock Parliament' activity, students role-played how a new bill on plastic waste management could become a law. One group introduced the bill in a 'Lok Sabha' session, where it was debated and passed. It was then sent to a 'Rajya Sabha' group, who suggested some changes before passing it. Finally, a student playing the 'President' gave assent, after which the teacher announced that the bill had become an Act.

(i) In which House was the bill on plastic waste management first introduced, according to the passage? [1]

Answer: In the Lok Sabha, in this role-play.

(ii) Explain why the bill still needed to be sent to the Rajya Sabha even after being passed by the Lok Sabha. [1]

Answer: In India's Parliament, an ordinary bill must be passed by both Houses — the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha — before it can go to the President; the Rajya Sabha reviews the bill and can suggest changes, acting as a check on hasty or one-sided law-making by a single House.

(iii) What is the significance of the 'President' giving assent, as the last step in this activity? [1]

Answer: A bill becomes an Act (a law) of the land only after receiving the President's assent; this is the formal, constitutional step that completes the law-making process, even though the President normally acts on the advice of the elected government.

(iv) In real life, if the President has objections to a bill (other than a Money Bill), what can the President do before giving assent? [1]

OR Suggest one reason why it is useful for students to role-play how a bill becomes a law, as in this activity.

Answer: The President may return the bill once to Parliament for reconsideration; however, if Parliament passes the bill again, the President is generally expected to give assent to it.

OR Answer: It helps students understand the actual step-by-step process of law-making in a practical and memorable way, rather than only reading about Parliament's functions in a textbook.