

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
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
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
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

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

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) Bajji Rao I
- (c) Balaji Bajji Rao
- (d) Nana Phadnavis

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

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

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

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

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

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 16.** Which of the following is NOT one of the four factors of production? [1]
- (a) Land
 - (b) Labour
 - (c) Population
 - (d) Capital
- 17.** The payment received by workers in return for their labour is called: [1]
- (a) Rent
 - (b) Wages
 - (c) Interest
 - (d) Profit
- 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
- 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

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

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]
- 22.** Name the four factors of production, and give the reward/return associated with any one of them. [2]
- 23.** Give two reasons why the secrecy of the ballot (no one can see whom you voted for) is important in elections. [2]
- 24.** State two functions performed by the Rajya Sabha in India's parliamentary system. [2]
- 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]

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

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]

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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]

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

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

(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.

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]
- (ii) State two reasons why Shivaji considered it important to build a strong navy. [1]
- (iii) Explain how maintaining both inland hill forts and coastal forts/a navy together strengthened the overall defence of the Maratha kingdom. [1]
- (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.

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]
- (ii) Explain why the bill still needed to be sent to the Rajya Sabha even after being passed by the Lok Sabha. [1]
- (iii) What is the significance of the 'President' giving assent, as the last step in this activity? [1]
- (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.