

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 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 an example of a renewable resource? [1]

- (a) Coal
- (b) Petroleum
- (c) Sunlight
- (d) Natural gas

Answer: (c) — Sunlight is available continuously and does not get used up.

2. Resources that take millions of years to form and cannot be quickly replaced once used up are called: [1]

- (a) Renewable resources
- (b) Non-renewable resources
- (c) Human-made resources
- (d) Community resources

Answer: (b) — Non-renewable resources, e.g. coal and petroleum.

3. After the death of which Mughal emperor in 1707 did a rapid succession of weak rulers begin, marking the start of Mughal decline? [1]

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Shah Jahan
- (c) Aurangzeb
- (d) Bahadur Shah II

Answer: (c) — Aurangzeb, who died in 1707.

4. Which of these became a practically independent regional kingdom in the 18th century while still nominally accepting the authority of the Mughal emperor? [1]

- (a) Hyderabad, under Nizam-ul-Mulk
- (b) The Roman Empire
- (c) The Mauryan Empire
- (d) The Vijayanagara Empire

Answer: (a) — Hyderabad under Nizam-ul-Mulk was one such successor state.

5. Which of these best explains why regional powers like Hyderabad, Awadh and Bengal could become almost independent kingdoms in the 18th century? [1]

- (a) The Mughal emperor personally invited them to break away
- (b) Weakened central Mughal authority could no longer control distant provincial governors, who began ruling on their own
- (c) The British directly created these kingdoms
- (d) There was no Mughal empire at all by this time

Answer: (b) — A weakened Mughal centre allowed provincial governors to become independent rulers.

6. Which Maratha leader founded an independent Maratha kingdom and was crowned Chhatrapati in 1674? [1]

- (a) Shivaji
- (b) Baji Rao I
- (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (d) Ranjit Singh

Answer: (a) — Shivaji, crowned Chhatrapati at Raigad in 1674.

7. Shivaji's council of eight ministers, which assisted him in administering his kingdom, was called the: [1]

- (a) Ashtapradhan
- (b) Navratna
- (c) Diwan-i-Am
- (d) Darbar

Answer: (a) — Ashtapradhan (council of eight ministers).

8. The Maratha practice of collecting a fixed share (about one-fourth of the revenue) from neighbouring territories, even those not under direct Maratha rule, was called: [1]

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

Answer: (a) — Chauth.

9. The English East India Company was originally established in 1600 mainly to carry on: [1]

- (a) Trade with India and the East
- (b) Direct political rule over India
- (c) Missionary work in India
- (d) Military conquest of Indian kingdoms

Answer: (a) — It was set up for trade.

10. Which of the following was NOT among the major European trading powers that set up trading posts in India between the 16th and 18th centuries? [1]

- (a) Portuguese
- (b) Dutch
- (c) French
- (d) Chinese

Answer: (d) — Chinese traders did not set up such trading-post companies in India in this period.

11. The grant of Diwani rights to the East India Company in 1765, after the Battle of Buxar, gave it the power to: [1]

- (a) Collect land revenue directly from Bengal, Bihar and Odisha
- (b) Appoint the Mughal emperor
- (c) Rule over the Marathas
- (d) Abolish all Indian courts

Answer: (a) — Diwani meant the right to collect land revenue directly.

12. The term 'universal adult franchise' means that: [1]

- (a) Only wealthy or property-owning citizens can vote
- (b) Every adult citizen has an equal right to vote, regardless of wealth, caste, gender or education
- (c) Only male citizens can vote
- (d) Only graduate citizens can vote

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

13. What is the minimum age at which an Indian citizen becomes eligible to vote? [1]

- (a) 16 years
- (b) 18 years
- (c) 21 years
- (d) 25 years

Answer: (b) — 18 years.

14. An Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is mainly used in Indian elections to: [1]

- (a) Record and count votes quickly and accurately
- (b) Campaign for candidates
- (c) Prepare the voter list
- (d) Count only postal ballots

Answer: (a) — EVMs record each vote and allow fast, accurate counting.

15. Why is it important for the Election Commission of India to function independently of the ruling government? [1]

- (a) So that elections are conducted fairly, without political interference by whichever party is in power
- (b) So that only the ruling party wins every election
- (c) Because the Constitution does not mention elections at all
- (d) So that voting becomes optional for citizens

Answer: (a) — Independence lets it conduct free and fair elections without government pressure.

16. 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.

17. In India's parliamentary system, who exercises real executive power on a day-to-day basis? [1]

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

Answer: (b) — The Prime Minister and Council of Ministers run the government day to day.

18. Before a bill passed by both Houses of Parliament can become a law, it must receive the: [1]

- (a) Assent of the President
- (b) Approval of the Supreme Court
- (c) Approval of all state governments
- (d) Signature of the Chief Election Commissioner

Answer: (a) — A bill becomes an Act only after the President's assent.

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

Assertion (A): The Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved, unlike the Lok Sabha.

Reason (R): About one-third of Rajya Sabha members retire every two years and are replaced by newly elected members, so the House continues as a permanent body even while being periodically renewed.

- (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 the Rajya Sabha is a permanent House.

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

Assertion (A): An entrepreneur is considered a separate factor of production, distinct from labour.

Reason (R): Entrepreneurship involves organising land, labour and capital, taking business risks and making key decisions, which is different from simply supplying physical or mental effort as labour does.

- (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 a distinct factor.

SECTION B

Question numbers 21 to 25 carry 2 marks each.

21. Give two examples each of renewable and non-renewable resources. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Renewable: any two of sunlight, wind, water, forests — 1 mark
- Non-renewable: any two of coal, petroleum, natural gas, minerals — 1 mark

22. Name the four factors of production used to produce any good or service. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Any two named correctly — 1 mark
- Remaining two named correctly (land, labour, capital, entrepreneurship) — 1 mark

23. Give two reasons why EVMs are considered better than the earlier paper-ballot system for conducting elections in India. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Votes can be recorded and counted much faster and more accurately than by hand-counting paper ballots — 1 mark
- They are harder to tamper with and reduce problems such as invalid votes or booth capturing — 1 mark

24. State two differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Lok Sabha members are directly elected by the people, while Rajya Sabha members are mainly elected by the state legislatures — 1 mark
- The Lok Sabha can be dissolved before completing its term, while the Rajya Sabha is a permanent body that is never fully dissolved — 1 mark

25. What is meant by 'chauth' as practised by the Marathas? Explain briefly. [2]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- A regular payment equal to about one-fourth of the land revenue, demanded by the Marathas from territories — 1 mark
- It was paid by these territories to avoid Maratha raids and, in a way, in return for protection — 1 mark

SECTION C

Question numbers 26 to 31 carry 3 marks each.

26. Explain any three ways in which people can conserve natural resources in their daily life. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Following the 3 R's — reduce, reuse and recycle materials such as paper and plastic — 1 mark
- Saving water and electricity by avoiding wastage at home and school — 1 mark
- Using public transport, cycling or walking short distances to save fuel, and planting trees (any correct third point) — 1 mark

27. Explain any three causes that led to the decline of the Mughal Empire in the 18th century. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Weak and incompetent rulers after Aurangzeb were unable to hold the vast empire together — 1 mark
- Costly wars of succession among Mughal princes weakened the central treasury and administration — 1 mark
- Repeated invasions by outsiders such as Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali further drained the empire's wealth and prestige — 1 mark

28. Explain any three reasons why the English East India Company was more successful than other European trading companies in gaining control over Indian trade and territory. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- It had superior naval strength and better organisation compared to its rivals — 1 mark
- It exploited political rivalries among Indian rulers and between other European powers, e.g. defeating the French in the Carnatic Wars — 1 mark
- Its disciplined, trained army and administrative structure allowed effective territorial control after victories like Plassey and Buxar — 1 mark

29. Explain any three features of India's electoral system that help ensure elections are free and fair. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- An independent Election Commission of India supervises the entire election process and enforces the Model Code of Conduct — 1 mark
- Electoral rolls (voter lists) are prepared and regularly updated so that every eligible citizen, and only eligible citizens, can vote — 1 mark
- Voting is done by secret ballot, using EVMs with VVPAT slips, which reduces the chances of pressure on voters or rigging of results — 1 mark

30. Explain the three main stages through which a bill introduced in Parliament becomes a law of the land. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- The bill is introduced and discussed/debated and voted upon in one House of Parliament — 1 mark
- If passed, it is sent to the second House, which also discusses and votes on it — 1 mark
- The bill passed by both Houses is finally sent to the President, and becomes an Act only after receiving the President's assent — 1 mark

31. Explain how the four factors of production combine, taking the example of a small bakery business. [3]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Land provides the site or premises needed, e.g. a rented shop for the bakery — 1 mark
- Labour is the physical and mental effort of the workers who actually do the work, e.g. bakers preparing bread — 1 mark
- Capital (ovens, mixers, money for ingredients) and entrepreneurship (the owner's skill in organising land, labour and capital while taking the risk) together turn all of this into a running, profit-making business — 1 mark

SECTION D

Question numbers 32 to 35 carry 5 marks each.

32. Explain any five measures that can help in the sustainable and wise use of natural resources, giving one real-life example for each. [5]

OR

A village near a forest depends on it for firewood, fodder and grazing land. Over the years, overuse has visibly degraded the forest. Suggest five measures the village community could adopt to use the forest more sustainably.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Practising the 3 R's — reduce, reuse, recycle — e.g. recycling old paper and plastic — 1 mark
- Rainwater harvesting at homes/schools to recharge groundwater instead of letting run-off go waste — 1 mark
- Afforestation — planting more trees than are cut, e.g. community plantation drives — 1 mark
- Using renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power instead of relying only on fossil fuels — 1 mark
- Community management of shared resources, such as a village committee deciding fair rules for using a common forest or pasture — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- Fixing a limit on the number of trees that may be cut each year — 1 mark
- Replanting an equal or greater number of saplings for every tree cut — 1 mark
- Allowing rotational grazing so that no single patch of land is overused continuously — 1 mark
- Forming a village committee to make and enforce fair rules for everyone's use of the forest — 1 mark
- Encouraging the use of alternative fuels (e.g. biogas or LPG) to reduce dependence on firewood — 1 mark

33. Explain any five factors that led to the rise of the Marathas as a major power in 17th-18th century India. [5]

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Shivaji's inspiring leadership and his vision of building an independent Maratha kingdom (Swarajya) — 1 mark
- Effective guerrilla warfare that made skilful use of the hilly terrain of the Western Ghats — 1 mark
- A strong network of hill forts used for defence and administration — 1 mark
- A well-organised administration, including the Ashtapradhan council and a systematic revenue system (chauth/sardeshmukhi) — 1 mark
- After Shivaji, capable Peshwas such as Balaji Vishwanath and Baji Rao I expanded Maratha influence across much of India through alliances and campaigns — 1 mark

34. Explain, in five steps, how a bill introduced in Parliament finally becomes a law of the land. [5]

OR

Explain any five functions performed by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers in India's parliamentary system of government.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- A bill is drafted and introduced in either House of Parliament — the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha (a Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha) — 1 mark
- It is discussed and debated clause by clause, and then voted upon in that House — 1 mark
- If passed, the bill is sent to the other House, which also discusses it and must pass it in the same form — 1 mark
- The bill passed by both Houses is then sent to the President of India for assent — 1 mark
- Once the President gives assent, the bill becomes an Act (a law); for an ordinary bill, the President may first return it once for reconsideration, but is generally expected to give assent if Parliament passes it again — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha and heads the government — 1 mark
- The Council of Ministers, led by the Prime Minister, decides and implements government policies — 1 mark
- Individual ministers head different departments (e.g. defence, finance, education) and run their day-to-day administration — 1 mark
- The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha and can be removed if it loses the House's confidence — 1 mark
- The Prime Minister advises the President on important matters, and the President normally acts on this advice — 1 mark

35. Discuss any five ways in which the decline of Mughal central authority in the 18th century led to major changes in India's political map. [5]

OR

Compare the political map of India around 1707 (at Aurangzeb's death) with that of around 1765 (after the Company gained Diwani rights). Explain any five major changes.

Marking Scheme / Value Points:

- Emergence of independent/semi-independent regional kingdoms such as Hyderabad, Awadh and Bengal — 1 mark
- Rise of new powers such as the Marathas and Sikh states, filling the vacuum left by weakening Mughal control — 1 mark
- Frequent conflicts and shifting alliances among regional powers competing for territory and resources — 1 mark
- Foreign invasions (Nadir Shah in 1739, and later Ahmad Shah Abdali) exposed Mughal weakness and further drained the empire's wealth and prestige — 1 mark
- Political fragmentation and instability created opportunities that European trading companies, especially the British, exploited to expand their own territorial control — 1 mark

OR (value points):

- In 1707, a single large, centralised Mughal empire covered most of India; by 1765, the map was fragmented into many regional kingdoms — 1 mark
- The Maratha confederacy had emerged as a major power controlling large parts of central, western and northern India — 1 mark
- The East India Company had emerged as a significant territorial power, holding Diwani rights over Bengal, Bihar and Odisha — 1 mark
- The Mughal emperor, once the supreme ruler, had been reduced to little more than a nominal ruler with control limited mainly around Delhi — 1 mark
- Regional kingdoms such as Hyderabad, Awadh and Mysore had established themselves as de facto independent states, though still formally under the Mughal umbrella — 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]

The village of Amargarh lies next to a large forest that provides villagers with firewood, fodder for cattle and grazing land. Over the years, unchecked cutting of trees and overgrazing had begun to damage the forest visibly — fewer trees, patchy grass cover and drying streams. Concerned, the villagers formed a forest committee to decide fair rules: a limit on the number of trees any family could cut each year, compulsory replanting, and rotation of grazing areas so that no single patch was used continuously.

(i) Is a forest, as described in the passage, a renewable or a non-renewable resource? Give one reason. [1]

Answer: A renewable resource, because trees can regrow and the forest can be replenished over time if it is managed and used carefully.

(ii) Under which type of ownership (individual/community/national/international) would you classify the village forest described here? [1]

Answer: A community resource — it is used and looked after jointly by the whole village rather than by one person or family.

(iii) Explain how rotational grazing, one of the rules made by the committee, helps protect the forest's grass cover in the long run. [1]

Answer: By allowing only one part of the grazing land to be used at a time while other parts rest and recover, rotational grazing prevents any single patch from being overgrazed and gives the grass and soil time to regenerate, keeping the pasture healthy year after year.

(iv) Explain why community management, rather than unregulated use by individuals, is likely to protect a shared natural resource like this forest more effectively. [1]

OR Suggest one modern method that could help such a village monitor the health of its forest over time.

Answer: If left to individuals acting alone, each family might use as much of the forest as it wants for its own benefit, quickly overusing it; a committee can set and enforce common rules that balance everyone's needs with the forest's long-term health.

OR Answer: Any valid suggestion, e.g. periodic surveys by the forest department, or using satellite/drone images to track changes in forest cover over the years.

Case Study 2 — Question 37 [4 Marks]

Aisha turned 18 this year and voted for the first time in the general elections. Before election day, she checked her name on the electoral roll (voter list) prepared by the Election Commission of India. On voting day, she pressed a button on an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) beside her chosen candidate's symbol, and a paper slip briefly appeared on an attached VVPAT machine confirming her vote before it dropped into a sealed box. Standing in the same queue at the same booth were her elder brother, who had dropped out of college, and her domestic help, who had never been to school — both about to cast their vote too.

(i) What is the minimum age at which an Indian citizen becomes eligible to vote? [1]

Answer: 18 years.

(ii) State two purposes served by the VVPAT slip mentioned in the passage. [1]

Answer: Any two: it lets the voter confirm that their vote was recorded for the candidate they actually chose; it creates a paper record that can be used to cross-check the EVM's results if there is ever a dispute.

(iii) Explain why it is significant that Aisha, her brother (who did not complete college) and her domestic help (who never went to school) could all vote at the same booth with equal rights. [1]

Answer: It shows the principle of universal adult franchise in action — every adult citizen has an equal right to vote regardless of education, wealth, caste or gender, and each of their votes counts exactly the same, which is central to a democracy.

(iv) Why is it important that the Election Commission of India functions as an independent body, separate from the ruling government, while conducting elections like the one Aisha voted in? [1]

OR Suggest one reason why maintaining an accurate and updated electoral roll (voter list) is important for free and fair elections.

Answer: An independent Election Commission ensures elections are conducted fairly, without pressure or interference from whichever party is in power, so that all candidates get an equal chance and voters can trust the final result.

OR Answer: It ensures every eligible citizen can vote and helps prevent fraud, such as bogus or duplicate voting, keeping the election result genuine and trustworthy.

Case Study 3 — Question 38 [4 Marks]

Meena runs a small bakery in her neighbourhood. She rents a small shop on the main road, hires two bakers to prepare bread and cakes, and has invested her savings, along with a small bank loan, in an oven, mixers and raw materials like flour and sugar. Meena herself plans the menu, manages the shop, decides prices, and takes the risk of the business succeeding or failing.

(i) Identify the factor of production represented by (a) the rented shop, and (b) the two bakers Meena has hired. [1]

Answer: (a) The rented shop represents land — the natural resource/site used for production. (b) The two bakers represent labour — the human effort that actually does the work.

(ii) Which factor of production do the oven, mixers and the borrowed money represent? Explain briefly. [1]

Answer: They represent capital — the money, machines, tools and equipment used to help produce goods and services, as distinct from the raw materials themselves.

(iii) Explain the role Meena herself plays in the bakery, and name the factor of production this represents. [1]

Answer: Meena plans, organises and manages the shop, brings together land, labour and capital, and takes the risk of profit or loss — this role is called entrepreneurship, the fourth factor of production.

(iv) If the bakery makes good profits this year, explain briefly who receives which kind of return among rent, wages, interest and profit. [1]

OR Suggest one risk Meena faces as an entrepreneur that her hired bakers do not face in the same way.

Answer: The owner of the shop (if rented from someone else) receives rent; the bakers receive wages for their labour; the bank or whoever lent money receives interest; and Meena, as the entrepreneur who took the risk, keeps whatever profit remains.

OR Answer: If the bakery makes a loss, Meena may lose her investment and could still owe interest on her loan, whereas the bakers, as wage-earners, are usually paid their agreed wages regardless of whether the bakery makes a profit or a loss.

