

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
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
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
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION B

Question numbers 21 to 25 carry 2 marks each.

- 21.** Give two examples each of renewable and non-renewable resources. [2]
- 22.** Name the four factors of production used to produce any good or service. [2]
- 23.** Give two reasons why EVMs are considered better than the earlier paper-ballot system for conducting elections in India. [2]
- 24.** State two differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. [2]
- 25.** What is meant by 'chauth' as practised by the Marathas? Explain briefly. [2]

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]
- 27.** Explain any three causes that led to the decline of the Mughal Empire in the 18th century. [3]
- 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]
- 29.** Explain any three features of India's electoral system that help ensure elections are free and fair. [3]
- 30.** Explain the three main stages through which a bill introduced in Parliament becomes a law of the land. [3]
- 31.** Explain how the four factors of production combine, taking the example of a small bakery business. [3]

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.

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

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.

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.

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]

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

(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]

(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.

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]

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

(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]

(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.

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]

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

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

(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.