

CBSE – CLASS X

SOCIAL SCIENCE (087)

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER (2025–26)

(As per Assessment Scheme 2024–25)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. There are **38 questions** in the Question Paper. All questions are compulsory.
2. The Question Paper has **four sections**:
Section A – History, Section B – Geography,
Section C – Political Science, Section D – Economics.
3. Each section carries **20 marks**.
4. **VSA (2 marks):** Answer in not more than **40 words**.
5. **SA (3 marks):** Answer in not more than **60 words**.
6. **LA (5 marks):** Answer in not more than **120 words**.
7. **Case-Based Questions (CBQ)** are of **4 marks** with sub-parts.
8. **Map-based questions** carry **5 marks** (History – 2, Geography – 3).
9. Internal choices are provided in some questions. Attempt **only one**.
10. Separate questions are provided for **Visually Impaired candidates** in lieu of map/visual questions.

SECTION A: HISTORY (20 Marks)

1. Which of the following best describes the 'Utopian' vision of Frederic Sorrieu?
A. A society based on absolute monarchy.
B. A society so ideal that it is unlikely to actually exist.
C. A system of government where only the educated vote.
D. A military alliance between European nations.

2. Identify and name the leader shown in the picture below



- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Jawaharlal Nehru
- D. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

1

> Note: For Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Q. No. 2

> Who was the author of the book 'Hind Swaraj'?

> A. Mahatma Gandhi

> B. Shaukat Ali

> C. C.R. Das

> D. Jawaharlal Nehru

>

3. During the 19th century, 'Indentured Labour' was often referred to as a 'New System of Slavery' because:

- A. Workers were bought and sold in open markets.
- B. Living and working conditions were harsh with few legal rights.
- C. Workers were never paid any wages.
- D. It was only practiced in European countries.

1

4. Why did the Roman Catholic Church begin to maintain an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558?

- A. To encourage the reading of religious texts.
- B. To stop the printing of books in local languages.

C. To control the spread of heretical ideas and criticisms of the Church.

D. To promote the works of Erasmus.

1

5A. "The Silk route was a good example of vibrant pre-modern trade." Explain with two examples.

2

OR

5B. 'The First World War was a war like no other before.' Explain the statement with two examples.

6A. 'The sense of collective belonging in India was fostered through various cultural processes.' Support the statement.

3

OR

6B. 'The Civil Disobedience Movement was different from the Non-Cooperation Movement.' Analyze the statement.

7A. 'The unification of Italy was the result of a series of diplomatic alliances and military interventions.' Analyse.

5

OR

7B. 'The Print Revolution was not just a new way of producing books; it transformed the lives of people.' Highlight significant changes.

8. Read the text and answer:

"The movement in Awadh was against talukdars and landlords who demanded from peasants exorbitantly high rents... The peasant movement demanded reduction of revenue, abolition of begar, and social boycott of oppressive landlords."

8.1 Who led the peasant movement in Awadh? (1)

8.2 What was the meaning of 'Begar'? (1)

8.3 Why did the Awadh movement integrate with the Non-Cooperation movement? (2)

4

9. MAP SKILL (History):

- A) The place where Gandhiji violated the Salt Law.
- B) The place where the 1927 INC session was held.

2

SECTION B: GEOGRAPHY (20 Marks)

10. Which type of resource planning is essential for a country like India?

- A. Regional planning only.
- B. Resource identification and institutional setup.
- C. Planning for urban areas only.
- D. Only private sector resource management.

1

11. Identify the soil type based on these features:

- * Develops in areas with high temperature and heavy rainfall.
- * Result of intense leaching.
- * Humus content is low.

- A. Black Soil
- B. Laterite Soil
- C. Alluvial Soil
- D. Arid Soil

1

12. Which of the following is a 'Joint Forest Management' (JFM) objective?

- A. Excluding local communities from forest management.
- B. Involving local communities in the restoration of degraded forests.
- C. Converting all forests into commercial plantations.
- D. Total ban on the use of forest products.

1

13. In which state is the Hirakud Dam located?

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha

C. Karnataka

D. West Bengal

1

14. Which of the following is known as the 'Golden Fibre'?

A. Cotton

B. Silk

C. Jute

D. Hemp

1

15. Agriculture and Industry are complementary to each other. Which example justifies this?

A. Industry provides fertilizers and PVC pipes to farmers.

B. Agriculture provides tractors to the industry.

C. Both sectors compete for the same land.

D. Industry depends on agriculture for electricity.

1

16. Distinguish between 'Rabi' and 'Kharif' cropping seasons.

2

17A. 'Conservation of minerals is the need of the hour.' Justify the statement with three measures.

5

OR

17B. 'Manufacturing sector is considered the backbone of economic development.' Support with five arguments.

18. Read the text and answer:

"Rainwater harvesting is a viable alternative, both socio-economically and environmentally. In the semi-arid regions of Rajasthan, particularly in Bikaner and Phalodi, almost all houses traditionally had underground tanks or tankas for storing drinking water."

18.1 What are 'Tankas'? (1)

18.2 Why is rainwater harvesting preferred over large dams in some regions? (2)

18.3 How does Rajasthan gather water today via the Indira Gandhi Canal? (1)

4

19. MAP SKILL (Geography):

(p) Bhakra Nangal Dam

(q) A leading Tea producing state

(r) Marmagao Port

3

SECTION C: POLITICAL SCIENCE (20 Marks)

20. Which system of government has two or more levels of government?

A. Unitary

B. Federal

C. Dictatorship

D. Monarchy

1

21. In Belgium, the 'Community Government' is elected by:

A. People belonging to one language community only.

B. All citizens of the country.

C. The central government.

D. The leaders of Brussels.

1

22. Which of the following is NOT a subject of the Union List?

A. Defence

B. Foreign Affairs

C. Police

D. Currency

1

23. ASSERTION (A): India is a secular state.

REASON (R): The Constitution of India provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion.

- 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.

1

24. Highlight any two differences between a Federal and a Unitary government.

2

25. Mention two ways to enhance the participation of women in politics.

2

26. 'Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.' Explain.

3

27A. 'The Lack of internal democracy within parties is a major challenge.' Explain.

5

OR

27B. Describe the importance of regional parties in strengthening federalism in India.

28. Read the text and answer:

"Sri Lanka adopted Majoritarianism. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language... The state shall protect and foster Buddhism."

28.1 Define Majoritarianism. (1)

28.2 What was the impact of the 1956 Act on Sri Lankan Tamils? (1)

28.3 Suggest two power-sharing measures that could have avoided the civil war in Sri Lanka. (2)

4

SECTION D: ECONOMICS (20 Marks)

29. Disguised unemployment occurs when:

- A. People are not willing to work.

- B. People are working but all of them are made to work less than their potential.
- C. People are unemployed for a few months of the year.
- D. There is a lack of jobs for educated youth.

1

30. Which indicator is used by the World Bank to classify countries?

- A. Literacy Rate
- B. Per Capita Income
- C. Health Status
- D. Happiness Index

1

31. Storage, transport, and banking are activities that fall under:

- A. Primary Sector
- B. Secondary Sector
- C. Tertiary Sector
- D. Unorganized Sector

1

32. Formal sources of credit include:

- A. Money lenders
- B. Relatives and Friends
- C. Banks and Cooperatives
- D. Traders

1

33. The main channel connecting countries in the past was:

- A. Trade
- B. Technology
- C. Migration
- D. Religious missions

1

34. Match the following:

| Column A | Column B |

| :--- | :--- |

| 1. Liberalisation | i. Integration of markets |

| 2. Privatisation | ii. Removing trade barriers |

| 3. Globalisation | iii. Selling public sector units |

| 4. WTO | iv. Rules for international trade |

A. 1-ii, 2-iii, 3-i, 4-iv

B. 1-i, 2-ii, 3-iii, 4-iv

1

35. How does the use of money make it easier to exchange things?

3

36. 'The impact of globalisation has not been uniform.' Explain with three points.

3

37. Explain the importance of 'Sustainability' in development.

3

38A. 'Banks play a vital role in the economy.' Analyze the statement with five reasons.

5

OR

38B. Explain the ways in which the government can create more employment in rural areas.

Name:..... Date:.....

Std.....div.....Roll No.....



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1. The responsibility of the correctness of internal representations with the publisher.
 2. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate baseline.
 3. Their administrative boundaries of Chandigarh, Nagaland and Punjab are of Chandigarh.
 4. The boundary of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya shown on this map is as interpreted from the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, but has yet to be verified.
 5. The External Boundary and Coast Line of India on the map agrees with the Record Master copy certified by the Survey of India.
 6. The pleistocene boundaries between Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh have not been verified by the Government concerned.


Class Teacher's Signature

CBSE – CLASS X – SOCIAL SCIENCE (087)

Answer Key (2025–26)


SECTION A: HISTORY (20 Marks)


Q1. 'Utopian' vision of Frederic Sorrieu:

Answer: B. A society so ideal that it is unlikely to actually exist 


Explanation: Sorrieu imagined an ideal society based on equality, liberty, and democracy—an ideal that was hard to implement in reality.

Q2. Identify the leader:

Answer: B. Subhas Chandra Bose 

For visually impaired candidates (Hind Swaraj author): A. Mahatma Gandhi 

Q3. 'Indentured Labour' = New System of Slavery because:

Answer: B. Living and working conditions were harsh with few legal rights 

Q4. Roman Catholic Church Index of Prohibited Books (1558):

Answer: C. To control the spread of heretical ideas and criticisms of the Church 

Q5A. Silk Route – Vibrant pre-modern trade:

Traders exchanged silk, spices, and precious metals between China, India, and Europe.

Cultural exchanges occurred, spreading religion, ideas, and technology.

OR Q5B. First World War – War like no other:

Involved many countries across continents → 'World' War.

Use of modern technology and weapons caused unprecedented casualties.

Q6A. Collective belonging in India:

Folk songs, plays, and festivals spread patriotism.

Cultural icons like Gandhi and Tagore created national awareness.

Religious and local symbols integrated different regions socially and emotionally.

OR Q6B. Civil Disobedience vs Non-Cooperation:

Civil Disobedience focused on breaking specific laws peacefully.

Non-Cooperation involved boycotts, resignations, and non-payment of taxes.

CD movement included Salt March, symbolic of mass participation.

Q7A. Unification of Italy – Diplomatic and military:

Count Cavour allied with France to fight Austria.

Garibaldi led volunteers to unite southern regions.

Prudent diplomacy and wars led to unification under King Victor Emmanuel II.

OR Q7B. Print Revolution impact:

Books & newspapers made knowledge widely accessible.

Encouraged debates, discussion, and political awareness.

Strengthened social reform movements and literacy.

Spread nationalist ideas and public opinion.

Enabled communication across regions efficiently.

Q8. Peasant Movement in Awadh:

8.1 Leader: Baba Ram Chandra 

8.2 Meaning of 'Begar': Forced unpaid labour for landlords or state 


8.3 Integration with Non-Cooperation movement:

Shared anti-British and anti-feudal goals.

Mobilized peasants to participate in national struggle.


Q9. MAP SKILL – History:

A: Dandi, Gujarat (Salt March)

B: Madras / Chennai (1927 INC Session) 

SECTION B: GEOGRAPHY (20 Marks)


Q10. Essential type of resource planning for India:

Answer: B. Resource identification and institutional setup 


Q11. Soil type – heavy rainfall, high temperature, intense leaching:

Answer: B. Laterite Soil 


Q12. Joint Forest Management objective:

Answer: B. Involving local communities in the restoration of degraded forests 

Q13. Hirakud Dam located in:

Answer: B. Odisha 

Q14. Golden Fibre:

Answer: C. Jute 

Q15. Agriculture & Industry are complementary:

Answer: A. Industry provides fertilizers and PVC pipes to farmers 

Q16. Distinguish Rabi and Kharif crops:

Feature

Rabi

Kharif

Season

Winter

Monsoon

Sowing

Oct–Dec

June–July

Harvest

Mar–Apr

Sept–Oct

Examples

Wheat, Barley

Rice, Maize

Q17A. Conservation of minerals – 3 measures:

Efficient use of minerals.

Recycling & reusing minerals.

Explore alternative resources or substitute materials.

OR Q17B. Manufacturing sector – backbone:

Provides employment.

Drives industrialization.

Promotes exports & economic growth.

Supports agriculture with machinery & tools.

Contributes to national income & development.

Q18. Rainwater harvesting in Rajasthan:

18.1 Tankas: Underground water storage tanks used to collect rainwater 

18.2 Advantage over large dams:

Cost-effective for semi-arid areas.

Reduces evaporation losses.

18.3 Indira Gandhi Canal: Channels water from Punjab/Haryana rivers to Rajasthan for irrigation and drinking.

Q19. MAP SKILL – Geography:


p: Bhakra Nangal Dam

q: Assam (tea producing state)


r: Marmagao Port, Goa 

SECTION C: POLITICAL SCIENCE (20 Marks)

Q20. System with two or more levels of government:

Answer: B. Federal 

Q21. Community Government in Belgium elected by:

Answer: A. People belonging to one language community only 

Q22. Not a Union List subject:

Answer: C. Police 

Q23. Assertion–Reason:

Answer: A. Both A & R true, R explains A 

Q24. Differences – Federal vs Unitary:

Feature

Federal

Unitary

Power division

Center & states

Central govt has all power

Constitution

Rigid

Flexible

Q25. Enhancing women participation in politics:

Reservation of seats in legislature.

Political education and awareness campaigns.

Q26. Democracy promotes dignity & freedom:

Every citizen has equal rights.

Freedom to express opinions.

Participation ensures accountability of government.

Q27A. Lack of internal democracy challenge:

Decisions concentrated in few leaders.

Low accountability within parties.

Leadership succession issues.

Reduces representation of party members.

May harm democratic process.


OR Q27B. Importance of regional parties:


Represent regional & local interests.

Strengthen federalism by balancing central power.

Voice cultural and linguistic identities.

Q28. Sri Lanka Majoritarianism:

28.1 Majoritarianism: Rule by majority community 

28.2 Impact on Tamils: Discrimination, loss of language rights, marginalization 

28.3 Power-sharing measures:

Federal system with devolution of power.


Language and cultural rights for minorities.

SECTION D: ECONOMICS (20 Marks)

Q29. Disguised unemployment:

Answer: B. People are working less than their potential 


Q30. Indicator used by World Bank:

Answer: B. Per Capita Income 


Q31. Storage, transport, banking – sector:

Answer: C. Tertiary Sector 


Q32. Formal sources of credit:

Answer: C. Banks and Cooperatives 

Q33. Main channel connecting countries in the past:

Answer: A. Trade 

Q34. Match the following:

Answer: A. 1-ii, 2-iii, 3-i, 4-iv 

Q35. How money makes exchange easier:

Common medium of exchange.

Eliminates double coincidence of wants.

Provides measure of value for goods & services.

Q36. Unequal impact of globalisation:

Urban areas gain more than rural areas.

Skilled workers benefit more than unskilled.

Certain sectors like IT grow faster than traditional industries.

Q37. Importance of sustainability:

Ensures resources for future generations.

Balances economic growth with environment.

Reduces pollution and ecological damage.

Q38A. Role of banks – 5 reasons:

Provide credit for investment.

Accept deposits safely.

Facilitate payments & transactions.

Encourage savings & capital formation.

Support economic growth & development.

OR Q38B. Government creating rural employment:

Public works (roads, irrigation projects).

Subsidies and support for agriculture & cottage industries.

Skill development programs.

Encouraging MSMEs & cooperatives.

Social security schemes (MGNREGA).