

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)

Q1. Match the following and choose the correct option: (1)

Column I | Column II

- A. Salt March | 1. Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement
- B. Partition of Bengal (1905) | 2. Economic and political protest
- C. Vernacular Press Act | 3. Censorship of newspapers
- D. Swadeshi Movement | 4. Boycott of British goods

Q2. Identify the leader shown in the image (1)



- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Subhash Chandra Bose
- D. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(Visually Impaired Candidates: Answer in words.)

Q3. Which was a major reason for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre? (1)

- A. Protests against Rowlatt Act
- B. Salt tax hike
- C. Partition of Bengal
- D. Vernacular Press

Q4. Who coined the term “Father of Indian Constitution”? (1)

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. B.R. Ambedkar
- C. Sardar Patel
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

Q5A. “Salt March became an important method of non-violent protest against British rule.” Explain with any two examples. (2)

OR

Q5B. “Vernacular press helped in spreading nationalism in India.” Explain with any two examples. (2)

Q6A. “Cultural revival movements played a key role in Indian nationalism.” Support with examples. (3)

OR

Q6B. "Quit India Movement mobilized Indians across the country." Analyse with reasons. (3)

Q7A. "The Treaty of Versailles (1919) reshaped Europe after WWI." Highlight key provisions. (5)

OR

Q7B. "British India experienced gradual urbanization and industrialisation." Analyse causes and effects. (5)

Q8. Case-Based Question (4)

Read the source:

"Krishnaji Ranade started newspapers in Marathi to educate people, promote discussion, and hold the government accountable. Newspapers played a key role in public opinion, social reform, and the nationalist movement."

8.1 State the main purpose of newspapers by Ranade. (1)

8.2 How were newspapers similar to the opposition in Parliament? (1)

8.3 Mention two reasons for their popularity in the 19th century. (2)

Q9. MAP SKILL – HISTORY (2 MARKS)

Identify and label:

A. Place where Salt March started

B. City of Indian National Congress Session (1930)

(Visually Impaired Candidates: Answer in words.)

SECTION B – GEOGRAPHY (20 MARKS)

Q10. What is essential for resource development? (1)

A. Availability of resources only

B. Technological and institutional development

C. Foreign investment alone

D. Human labor only

Q11. Identify the soil types: (1)

Alluvial → ? → ?

Sugarcane, Wheat → Cotton → Cashew

Q12. Major indirect consequence of tiger poaching: (1)

- A. Decline of prey species
- B. Increase in tourism
- C. Rise in tiger numbers
- D. None of the above

Q13. Which Indian state made rooftop water harvesting compulsory? (1)

- A. Haryana
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Punjab
- D. Assam

Q16. Rice is commercial in Punjab and subsistence in Odisha. Explain why. (2)

Q17A. Why is Odisha suitable for bauxite industry? (5)

OR

Q17B. Justify: “Coal is India’s most important fossil fuel.” (5)

Q18. Case-Based Question (4)

Read the passage on Global Pollution:

18.1 Why is global waste expected to increase by 2050? (1)

18.2 How do manufacturing industries cause pollution? (2)

18.3 Can pollution increase poverty? Justify. (1)

Q19. MAP SKILL – GEOGRAPHY (3 MARKS)

Locate and label:

I. Dam in Sutlej-Beas OR Mahanadi basin

II. Any two:

Major sea port – West Bengal

International airport – Tamil Nadu

International airport – Punjab

(Visually Impaired Candidates: Answer in words.)

SECTION C – POLITICAL SCIENCE (20 MARKS)

Q20. Belgium ethnic composition correct statements: (1)

Q22. Can a state stop the Union in issuing currency? Why? (1)

Q24. Two key features of federalism in India. (2)

Q26. Democracy promotes peaceful coexistence. Support. (3)

Q27A. Role of political parties in democracy. (5)

OR

Q27B. Leadership succession challenges in parties. (5)

Q28. Case-Based Question (4)

Based on Sri Lanka and Belgium:

28.1 Two demands of Sri Lankan Tamils. (1)

28.2 Results of majoritarian rule. (1)

28.3 Two features of Belgian power sharing. (2)

SECTION D – ECONOMICS (20 MARKS)

Q29. Underemployment occurs when – (1)

Q32. Who issues currency notes in India? (1)

Q35. Role of public services in development. (3)

Q37. Three factors contributing to globalisation. (3)

Q38A. Differences between organised and unorganised sectors. (5)

OR

Q38B. Positive & negative effects of privatisation. (5)

— END OF SAMPLE PAPER —

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

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



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1. The responsibility of the correctness of internal details rests with the publisher.
2. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.
3. Their administrative headquarters of Chandigarh, Jammu and Punjab are at 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 interstate boundaries between Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand, Bihar-Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh have not been verified by the Government concerned.

Class Teacher's Signature

SECTION A – HISTORY (20 Marks)

Q1. Match the following:

A → 1 Salt March → Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement

B → 4 Partition of Bengal → Boycott of British goods

C → 3 Vernacular Press Act → Censorship of newspapers


D → 2 Swadeshi Movement → Economic and political protest

Q2. Identify the leader:

Answer: Mahatma Gandhi 

He led the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement.

Q3. Major reason for Jallianwala Bagh massacre:

Answer: A. Protests against Rowlatt Act 

The massacre was a response to peaceful protests against repressive laws that allowed detention without trial.

Q4. Father of Indian Constitution:

Answer: B. B.R. Ambedkar 

He chaired the drafting committee and ensured social justice and rights for minorities in the Constitution.

Q5A. Salt March as non-violent protest:

Answer (2 Marks):

Gandhi led the Salt March to Dandi in 1930 to protest the British salt tax.

It inspired widespread civil disobedience across India, showing the power of non-violent protest.

OR Q5B. Vernacular Press in nationalism:

Answer (2 Marks):

Newspapers in local languages spread nationalist ideas among ordinary people.

They informed citizens about colonial policies, encouraging unity and protest.

Q6A. Cultural revival movements:

Answer (3 Marks):

Literary societies promoted Indian languages, history, and culture.

Festivals and theatre revived pride in Indian heritage, inspiring nationalism.

Examples: Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj encouraged education and reform.

Q6B. Quit India Movement mobilization:

Answer (3 Marks):

Nationwide campaign in 1942 demanding British withdrawal.

People from cities, villages, students, and workers participated in protests, strikes, and demonstrations.

Q7A. Treaty of Versailles provisions:

Answer (5 Marks):

Germany accepted blame for WWI.

Loss of territories and colonies.

Military restrictions imposed.

League of Nations established.

Economic reparations led to political unrest in Germany.

OR Q7B. Urbanization & Industrialization in India:

Causes:

Railways and infrastructure development.

Expansion of ports and industries.

Effects:

Growth of cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.

Migration of people for jobs.

Emergence of middle class and trade unions.

Q8. Case-Based:

8.1 Main purpose of newspapers: To educate people, promote discussion, and hold government accountable.

8.2 Similarity to opposition: Newspapers acted like opposition by critiquing policies and representing people's voice.

8.3 Reasons for popularity:

Accessible in local languages.

Encouraged debates and awareness on social/political issues.


Q9. Map Skill – History:

A: Sabarmati Ashram, Gujarat (Salt March starting point)

B: Lahore / Calcutta (1930 Indian National Congress Session)

SECTION B – GEOGRAPHY (20 Marks)

Q10. Essential for resource development:


Answer: B. Technological and institutional development 

Q11. Soil types:

Alluvial → Black → Laterite

Uses: Sugarcane & Wheat (Alluvial), Cotton (Black), Cashew (Laterite)

Q12. Consequence of tiger poaching:

Answer: A. Decline of prey species 

Q13. Rooftop water harvesting compulsory:

Answer: B. Tamil Nadu 

Q16. Rice – commercial in Punjab, subsistence in Odisha:

Punjab produces surplus for sale → Commercial.

Odisha produces mainly for local consumption → Subsistence.

Q17A. Odisha suitable for bauxite:

Rich in bauxite deposits.

Supports aluminum industry.

Good transport & labor availability.

Industrial zones for processing.

Demand from national & international industries.

OR Q17B. Coal as India's main fossil fuel:

Major energy source.

Supports thermal power plants.

Industrial usage (cement, steel).

Abundant reserves.

Economically cheaper than oil.

Q18. Global Pollution Case:

18.1 Cause of water scarcity: Over-exploitation & unequal distribution.

18.2 Industrial pollution: Release of chemicals, waste into water & air.

18.3 Pollution & poverty: Poor health & reduced productivity → Poverty increases.

Q19. Map Skill – Geography:

Dam: Tehri Dam / Mahanadi basin

Rubber state: Kerala


Software park: Noida

Sea port: Kolkata (West Bengal)


International airport: Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Chandigarh (Punjab)

SECTION C – POLITICAL SCIENCE (20 Marks)


Q20. 'Holding Together' federation:

Answer: B. Central government stronger vis-à-vis states 


Q21. Power sharing among organs:

Answer: B. Horizontal distribution of power 

Q22. Concurrent List subject:

Answer: C. Education 

Q23. Assertion-Reason:

Answer: A. Both A & R true, R correct explanation 

Q24. Two key features of federalism in India:

Division of powers between Union & States.

Written Constitution and independent judiciary to resolve conflicts.

Q26. Democracy promotes peaceful coexistence:

Rights of minorities protected.

Citizens participate in decision-making.

Conflicts resolved through dialogue & law.

Q27A. Role of political parties:

Form government.

Represent citizen interests.

Provide policy alternatives.

Mobilize people during elections.

Promote accountability.

OR Q27B. Leadership succession challenges:

Internal conflicts, factionalism, dynastic politics → affects party stability.

Q28. Case-Based – Sri Lanka & Belgium:

28.1 Demands of Sri Lankan Tamils: 1. Autonomy, 2. Language & education rights.

28.2 Majoritarian rule results: 1. Conflict, 2. Civil war, 3. Discrimination.

28.3 Belgian power sharing features: 1. Federal government, 2. Cultural autonomy for regions.

SECTION D – ECONOMICS (20 Marks)

Q29. Underemployment occurs when:

People work below their skill level or work fewer hours than they wish.

Q32. Who issues currency notes in India:

Answer: Reserve Bank of India 

Q35. Role of public services:

Roads, electricity, healthcare, education → support development.

Ensure equity and accessibility for all citizens.

Promote economic growth & social welfare.

Q37. Factors contributing to globalization:

Information technology & internet.

Liberalization of trade & foreign investments.

Multinational companies & outsourcing.

Q38A. Organised vs Unorganised sectors:

Aspect

Organised

Unorganised

Legal

Registered, regulated

Small, unregistered

Job security

High

Low

Wages

Fixed, regular

Irregular

Benefits

Provident fund, insurance

None

Example

Banks, factories

Street vendors, small shops

OR Q38B. Effects of privatization:

Positive: Efficiency, better services, employment opportunities.

Negative: Job insecurity, high costs, inequality.