



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
TERM 1 EXAMINATION - 2026-27

SOCIAL SCIENCE - (SET-1) MARKING SCHEME

Class: VIII
Date: 4.09.2026
Admission no:

Time: 3hrs
Max Marks: 80
Roll no:

General Instructions:

1. There are 38 questions in the Question paper. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper has three Sections – A-History, B-Geography and C-Political Science.
3. Each Section has MCQs, VSA, SA, LAs and CBQ.
4. Very Short Answer Type Questions (VSA), carry 2 marks each. Answers to each question should not exceed 40 words.
5. Short Answer Type Questions (SA), carry 3 marks each. Answers to each question should not exceed 60 words.
6. Long answer type questions (LA), carry 5 marks each. Answers to each question should not exceed 120 words.
7. There are case based questions (CBQ) with three sub questions and are of 4 marks each. Answers to each question should not exceed 100 words.
8. The map-based questions, carry 5 marks with two parts- Q14 in Section A-History (3 marks) and Q28. In Section B -Geography (2 marks).
9. There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions. Only one of the choices in such questions must be attempted.

SECTION-A

HISTORY (36 marks)

1. Assertion (A): The Ahoms were able to resist Mughal expansion successfully for a long time. [1]
Reason (R): The Ahoms used their knowledge of Assam's forests, hills and rivers along with guerrilla warfare.
(a) Both A and R are correct, and R correctly explains A.
(b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not correctly explain A.
(c) **A is correct, but R is incorrect.**
(d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.
2. Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order: [1]
I. Guru Nanak spread his message in Punjab.
II. Guru Tegh Bahadur was martyred.
III. Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa.
IV. Maharaja Ranjit Singh unified the Sikh confederacies.
(a) II → I → III → IV
(b) I → III → II → IV
(c) **I → II → III → IV**
(d) I → II → IV → III
3. Assertion (A): The Marathas had a navy to protect their interests along the western coast. [1]
Reason (R): Chhatrapati Shivaji created a navy to secure the west coast.
(a) Both A and R are incorrect.
(b) A is incorrect, but R is correct.
(c) Both A and R are correct, but R does not correctly explain A.
(d) **Both A and R are correct, and R correctly explains A.**

4. Chhatrapati Shivaji's council of eight ministers was known as the _____.

[1]

(a) **Ashta Pradhana Mandala**

(b) Sabha Mandal

(c) Peshwa Mandal

(d) Chauth Mandala

5. The Rebellion began in Bengal after the terrible famine of 1770.

[1]

(a) Santhal

(b) Indigo

(c) **Sannyasi-Fakir**

(d) Vellore

6(a). A king has a much smaller army than his enemy. His soldiers know the local mountains and forests very well. They decide to attack the enemy suddenly in small groups and quickly move away. What military strategy is being used, and why would it be effective?

[2]

Answer:

The strategy is guerrilla warfare. It would be effective because the soldiers can use speed, surprise and their knowledge of the local terrain to challenge a larger army.

OR

6(b). What was Swarājya? Why was it important to Chhatrapati Shivaji?

Answer: Swarājya meant a sovereign kingdom or self-rule. It was important to Chhatrapati Shivaji because he wanted to establish an independent Maratha kingdom with its own political, economic and cultural identity.

7. What were the main features of Akbar's administrative system?

[3]

Answer:

1. **The Diwan was responsible for finances.**
2. **The Mir Bakhshi looked after military matters.**
3. **The Sadr was responsible for justice, religious and educational matters.**

8. How did Chhatrapati Shivaji promote trade and transportation?

[3]

Answer:

1. **He encouraged trade and personally participated in maritime foreign trade.**
2. **His ships travelled to distant ports such as Mocha, Muscat and Malacca carrying goods such as gold and textiles.**
3. **Roads, bridges and ferry networks were constructed and maintained to support transportation.**

9(a). Explain any three ways in which British rule affected Indian agriculture.

[3]

Answer:

1. **The British introduced revenue systems that placed heavy demands on peasants and zamindars.**
2. **Farmers were encouraged or compelled to grow commercial crops such as indigo instead of food crops.**
3. **High revenue demands and changing agricultural policies caused hardship and contributed to rural unrest.**

OR

9(b). A British official argues that introducing modern education and English in India will make the country more developed. However, an Indian scholar points out that traditional systems of learning are being neglected. Based on the situation, explain three ways in which colonial education policies affected Indian education.

Answer:

1. **Greater importance was given to European knowledge and English education.**
2. **Traditional Indian systems and institutions of learning received less attention under the new educational policy.**
3. **The colonial education system was also intended to produce educated Indians who could serve the needs of the British administration.**

10. Why did the British develop the railway network in India? Give three reasons.

[3]

Answer:

1. **Railways helped transport raw materials from different parts of India to ports.**
2. **They enabled British manufactured goods to reach different parts of the Indian market.**
3. **Railways also helped the British move troops and strengthen their administrative and military control.**

11(a). Explain the role of women in the Maratha movement and administration.

[5]

Answer:

1. **Women participated actively in the Maratha movement and were not confined only to domestic roles.**
2. **Jijabai played an important role in shaping Chhatrapati Shivaji's character and encouraging him towards self-rule.**
3. **Tarabai led the Maratha resistance against the Mughals after the death of her husband, Rajaram.**
4. **Ahilyabai Holkar governed her kingdom wisely and worked for the welfare of her people.**
5. **Women such as Tarabai and Ahilyabai demonstrated leadership, courage and administrative ability in different spheres of Maratha history.**

OR

11(b). Explain the main features of Chhatrapati Shivaji's revenue system.

Answer:

1. **Land revenue was the main source of income for the Maratha state.**
2. **Land was carefully surveyed and assessed for determining the revenue to be collected.**
3. **The revenue demand was generally fixed at around two-fifths of the produce.**
4. **Shivaji abolished the practice of collecting revenue through intermediaries and dealt directly with the cultivators.**
5. **He encouraged the cultivation of wastelands and provided loans to farmers for purchasing seeds and cattle.**

12. Explain the major causes of the Great Rebellion of 1857.

[5]

Answer:

1. **The annexation of Indian territories and the weakening of Indian rulers created resentment.**
2. **Indian soldiers were dissatisfied with discrimination and certain conditions of service in the British army.**
3. **The new rifle cartridges were believed to be greased with cow and pig fat, offending the religious sentiments of Hindu and Muslim soldiers.**
4. **Peasants and zamindars faced economic difficulties due to British revenue policies.**
5. **The rebellion was fuelled by widespread opposition to British political, economic and social interference.**

13. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

[1+1+2]

“The Sultanate period saw some progress in infrastructural works, especially roads in north India, bridges, a few canals and other irrigation works, apart from the creation of new cities, all of which expanded considerably during the Mughal period. Coins in several metals and denominations were introduced as currency. The Mughals will use a different system, with a rupaya of silver and a dam of copper.”

(a) Name any one infrastructural work undertaken during the Sultanate period.

Answer: Roads.

(b) Which two metals were used for the Mughal rupaya and dam?

Answer: The rupaya was made of silver, while the dam was made of copper.

(c) Explain any two developments mentioned in the passage that took place during the Sultanate and Mughal periods.

Answer:

1. **Roads, bridges, canals and other irrigation works were developed during the Sultanate period.**
2. **The creation of new cities expanded considerably during the Mughal period.**

MAP SKILL-BASED QUESTION (3 MARKS)

14. On the outline map of India locate and label any three of the following with suitable symbols:

[3]

- (a) Raigad
- (b) Pratapgad
- (c) Sindhudurg
- (d) Madras
- (e) Hyderabad

SECTION-B

GEOGRAPHY (25 Marks)

15. Which of the following statements is correct about natural resources? [1]
(a) Natural resources are distributed equally across the Earth.
(b) Only living things can be natural resources.
(c) **Natural resources are materials and substances occurring in Nature that are valuable to humans.**
(d) All natural resources can be replenished quickly.
16. Assertion (A): A natural resource should be technologically accessible for it to be considered a resource. [1]
Reason (R): Some natural resources may exist in places where humans do not have the technology to access them.
(a) **Both A and R are correct, and R correctly explains A.**
(b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not explain A.
(c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
(d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.
17. Resources such as coal, petroleum, iron, copper and gold are classified as _____ resources. [1]
(a) renewable
(b) biological
(c) **non-renewable**
(d) unlimited
18. Assertion (A): Human capital refers only to the physical effort used by a worker. [1]
Reason (R): Human capital includes specialised skills, knowledge, abilities and expertise required to perform labour.
(a) Both A and R are correct, and R correctly explains A.
(b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not correctly explain A.
(c) **A is incorrect, but R is correct.**
(d) Both A and R are incorrect.
19. Arrange the following events related to J.R.D. Tata in the correct chronological order: [1]
I. J.R.D. Tata was born.
II. Tata Airlines was started.
III. J.R.D. Tata received the Bharat Ratna.
(a) II → I → III
(b) III → I → II
(c) **I → II → III**
(d) I → III → II
20. A person who starts their own business or creates something new to solve a problem is called an _____. [1]
(a) employee
(b) consumer
(c) **entrepreneur**
(d) labourer
21. Which of the following is an example of physical capital? [1]
(a) Soil
(b) Knowledge
(c) **Machinery**
(d) Natural gas
22. Mention and briefly explain any two categories of natural resources based on their uses? [2]
Answer: Natural resources can be categorised as:
1. **Resources essential for life** – such as air, water and food.
2. **Resources for materials** – used to make objects such as furniture and other products.
3. **Resources for energy** – used to produce energy, such as coal, petroleum, sunlight and wind.
23. What is labour? Mention the two forms of effort involved in labour. [2]
Answer: Labour refers to the physical and mental effort used in the production of goods and services. The two forms of effort are physical effort and mental effort.
24. What is a supply chain? [2]

Answer: A supply chain is a network of individuals, organisations, resources, activities and technology involved in the production and sale of goods.

25. Why is good health important for workers?

[2]

Answer: Good health enables workers to perform better physically and mentally. Healthy workers can work more effectively and are less likely to miss work due to illness.

26. A factory is established in an area rich in natural resources. It provides employment to local people and encourages the growth of a nearby township. However, some local families are displaced from their homes, and the extraction of resources also affects their surroundings. Identify one economic benefit of locating industries near natural resources. Identify one social cost that may arise from such development. Why is it important to consider both present and future generations while extracting natural resources?

[3]

Answer:

- a. It creates employment opportunities for local people and encourages economic development.**
- b. People may be displaced from their homes to facilitate industrial development.**
- c. It is important because excessive extraction can damage Nature and reduce the availability of resources for future generations. Therefore, resources must be used responsibly and sustainably.**

27(a). Explain the role of education, training and healthcare in developing human capital.

[5]

Answer:

- 1. Education: It provides individuals with knowledge, beginning with basic literacy and extending to specialised knowledge.**
- 2. Training: It helps individuals learn the specific skills required to perform a particular job or activity effectively.**
- 3. Better performance: Education and training prepare people to solve real-world problems and perform better in their careers.**
- 4. Healthcare: Good health supports cognitive development and enables children to attend school regularly and learn better.**
- 5. Productivity: Healthy workers can work more effectively, be creative and avoid loss of working time due to ill health.**

OR

27(b). A farmer traditionally depends mainly on manual labour. He purchases modern agricultural machines and starts using them for several farming activities. Explain how the use of technology can change the way factors of production are used in agriculture.

Answer:

- 1. Machines can reduce dependence on labour for certain agricultural activities.**
- 2. Technology can make production more efficient by helping complete tasks more quickly.**
- 3. Modern machines can increase output when used appropriately.**
- 4. Technology can change the proportion of factors used in the production process.**
- 5. Labour can focus on other activities that require human skills and decision-making.**

MAP SKILL-BASED QUESTION

28. On the outline map of India locate and label any two of the following with suitable symbols:

[2]

- (i) Ankleshwar
- (ii) Mumbai High
- (iii) Digboi

SECTION-C

POLITICAL SCIENCE (19 marks)

29. Assertion (A): Universal adult franchise is an important feature of Indian democracy.

[1]

Reason (R): Every Indian citizen aged 18 years and above has the right to vote, irrespective of caste, religion, gender, education or income.

- (a) **Both A and R are correct, and R correctly explains A.**
(b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not correctly explain A.
(c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
(d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.

30. Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order:

[1]

- I. Election Commission of India was established.
II. First general elections in independent India were held.
III. Model Code of Conduct was adopted in Kerala.
IV. Voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years.

- (a) **I → II → III → IV**
(b) II → I → III → IV
(c) I → III → II → IV
(d) IV → III → II → I

31. The minimum age for voting in India is _____ years.

[1]

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

32. The Lok Sabha uses the _____ electoral system.

[1]

- (a) Single Transferable Vote
(b) **First-Past-the-Post**
(c) Proportional Representation
(d) Nomination System

33. What is the role of an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)?

[2]

Answer: An Electoral Registration Officer manages the voter list and helps maintain the electoral roll.

34. Why is a braille ballot or other accessibility assistance provided during elections?

[2]

Answer: Such measures enable persons with disabilities to participate in elections independently and exercise their right to vote.

35. State any two functions of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

[2]

Answer: (i) Conducts free and fair elections. (ii) Registers political parties and enforces the Model Code of Conduct.

36. How are members of the **Rajya Sabha** elected? Mention any one special feature of the Rajya Sabha.

[2]

Answer: Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the elected MLAs using the single transferable vote system. A special feature is that the Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and is never dissolved.

37(a). Explain any three features that make elections in India democratic.

[3]

Answer:

1. **Universal adult franchise** gives eligible adult citizens the right to vote.
2. **Regular elections** allow citizens to choose their representatives at regular intervals.
3. **Free and fair elections** are ensured through an independent Election Commission and rules governing the electoral process.

OR

37(b). A student says, "I am not happy with any of the candidates contesting the election, so I should not have to vote at all." How can the student express this choice while still participating in the electoral process? Explain.

Answer:

1. **The student can choose NOTA (None Of The Above) on the EVM.**
2. **NOTA allows voters to indicate that they do not support any of the candidates.**
3. **It gives voters a way to express dissatisfaction while still exercising their right to vote.**

38. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

[1+1+2]

"The President of India is not directly elected by the common people. Instead, an electoral college is formed to carry out the election. This Electoral College consists of: Members of Parliament (MPs) from both the Houses of

Parliament — Lok Sabha (Lower House) and Rajya Sabha (Upper House); Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) from each of India's states and the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.”

(a) Is the President of India directly elected by the common people?

Answer: No, the President of India is not directly elected by the common people.

(b) Name the two Houses of Parliament whose MPs are part of the Electoral College.

Answer: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

(c) Who are the other members of the Electoral College apart from MPs? Explain.

Answer: The Electoral College also includes MLAs from each of India's states and the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

*******ALL THE BEST*******

Map for Q14 and Q28

Name:-

Admn no :-

