



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-2) 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 mansabdari system enabled the Mughal rulers to assemble an army at short notice. [1]

Reason (R): Mansabdars were expected to maintain a specified number of soldiers and animals for the state.

- (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.**

2. Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order: [1]

- I. Battle of Haldighati
- II. Battle of Saraighat
- III. Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom
- IV. Maharaja Ranjit Singh unified the Sikh confederacies

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

3. Assertion (A): Chhatrapati Shivaji gave importance to protecting forests and trees. [1]

Reason (R): He instructed his officials not to cut useful trees such as mango and jackfruit without permission.

- (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.

4. The main script used by the Marathas for their correspondence was the _____ script. [1]
(a) Persian
(b) Sanskrit
(c) Tamil
(d) **Modi**

5. In 1858, the British took direct control of India from the East India Company. [1]
(a) Parliament
(b) East India Company
(c) Governor-General
(d) **Crown**

6(a). A coastal kingdom wants to protect its coastline and control access to resources from the sea. It decides to establish a permanent naval force. Why would establishing a navy be important for such a kingdom? [2]
Answer: A navy would help protect the coastline, secure access to coastal resources and defend the kingdom against threats from other naval powers.

OR

6(b). What were the two types of cavalry soldiers in the Maratha army?
Answer: The bārgīrs were soldiers whose horses and equipment were paid for by the state, while the shiledārs provided their own horses and equipment.

7. How did the Bhakti movement contribute to the cultural foundation of the Marathas? [3]
Answer:
1. **Bhakti saints composed devotional songs and poetry in languages understood by ordinary people.**
2. **In Maharashtra, saints such as Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Tukaram and Ramdas helped spread spiritual and cultural ideas.**
3. **Some important texts were translated into Marathi, making their philosophy accessible to more people.**

8. How did Todar Mal improve the revenue system during Akbar's reign? [3]
Answer:
1. **Todar Mal conducted detailed surveys of crop yields and prices.**
2. **He determined the prices of different crops based on the information collected.**
3. **He introduced a systematic survey of land across the empire, which strengthened revenue collection and the state administration.**

9(a). What were the main features of the British education policy introduced through Macaulay's Minute? [3]
Answer:
1. **Macaulay promoted European knowledge and considered English education important.**
2. **The policy gave greater importance to English-language education rather than traditional Indian systems of learning.**
3. **It aimed to create a class of Indians who could assist the British administration.**

OR

9(b). Imagine that you are a farmer in Bengal during the colonial period. A European planter pressures you to grow indigo on your land even though you would prefer to grow food crops. Why might you oppose this arrangement? Explain any three reasons.

Answer:
1. **Growing indigo would reduce the land available for growing food crops.**
2. **The cultivation of indigo benefited European planters while placing economic pressure on Indian cultivators.**
3. **The situation could lead to indebtedness and hardship for farmers, resulting in resistance against the indigo system.**

10. What were the main causes of the Santhal Rebellion? [3]
Answer:
1. **The Santhals faced the loss of their ancestral lands.**
2. **Moneylenders and zamindars exploited them through unfair practices.**
3. **They resisted the growing control and exploitation of outsiders over their traditional way of life.**

11(a). Explain the contribution of Ahilyabai Holkar to the Maratha legacy.

[5]

Answer:

1. **Ahilyabai Holkar governed her kingdom wisely for around thirty years after losing her husband and son.**
2. **She cared for the common people while administering her state.**
3. **She built and restored temples, ghats, wells and roads across different parts of India.**
4. **She rebuilt important temples such as the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Somnath Temple.**
5. **She promoted the Maheshwar weaving industry and helped revitalise traditional handloom crafts.**

OR

11(b). Explain the importance of forts in the rise and survival of the Maratha state.

Answer:

1. **Forts were the core of the Maratha state and were central to its military strategy.**
2. **They helped the Marathas control important routes and regions.**
3. **Forts provided shelter to the army during military campaigns.**
4. **They strengthened the Marathas' ability to use guerrilla warfare against larger armies.**
5. **The forts enabled the Maratha state to survive decades of Mughal attacks and military pressure.**

12. Explain how the British transformed the traditional Indian economy to serve their colonial interests.

[5]

Answer:

1. **India was increasingly turned into a supplier of raw materials** such as cotton, indigo and other products for British industries.
2. **British manufactured goods were sold in Indian markets**, creating competition for Indian producers.
3. **Traditional Indian handicrafts and textile industries declined**, causing many artisans to lose their livelihoods.
4. **Heavy duties were imposed on Indian goods entering Britain**, while British goods entered India with relatively low tariffs.
5. **The railway and transport network helped move raw materials to ports and distribute British manufactured goods across India.**

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

[1+1+2]

“Apart from textiles, craftspeople made a wide range of products, from weapons to utensils to ornaments and jewellery items. Ship-building, essential to river and overseas trade, developed considerably in those centuries. Indian goods were exported through coastal and riverside towns such as Calicut, Mangalore, Surat, Masulipatnam or Hooghly. India imported much less than it exported; import products included silk, horses, metals, and all kinds of luxury goods. Merchants from Arabia, Persia (now Iran), and Central Asia settled in Indian ports, contributing to the bustling trade activity.”

(a) Name any one product made by craftspeople apart from textiles.

Answer: Weapons.

(b) Name any one coastal or riverside town through which Indian goods were exported.

Answer: Surat.

(c) Explain any two factors that contributed to the growth of trade during this period.

Answer:

1. **Ship-building developed considerably, supporting river and overseas trade.**
2. **Merchants from Arabia, Persia and Central Asia settled in Indian ports, contributing to bustling trade activity.**

MAP SKILL-BASED QUESTION

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

[3]

- (a) Pune
- (b) Gingee
- (c) Thanjavur
- (d) Bengal
- (e) Bombay

SECTION-B

GEOGRAPHY (25 Marks)

15. Which of the following statements is correct?

[1]

- (a) Coal and petroleum are renewable resources.
- (b) **Solar energy and wind energy can be renewable resources when managed sustainably.**
- (c) Gold can be replenished at the rate at which humans use it.
- (d) Renewable resources can never be depleted.

16. Assertion (A): Timber can be a renewable resource. [1]

Reason (R): Timber remains renewable when trees are harvested at a rate that allows forests to regenerate.

- (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) Both A and R are incorrect.

17. The phenomenon in which having abundant natural resources does not automatically lead to economic prosperity is called the _____. [1]

- (a) regeneration cycle
- (b) sustainability gap
- (c) **natural resource curse**
- (d) resource renewal cycle

18. Assertion (A): Technology always replaces old technologies completely. [1]

Reason (R): Some older technologies, such as pulleys and wheelbarrows, are still in use today.

- (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.**

19. Arrange the following stages of mobile phone production in the correct order: [1]

- I. Mass production and packaging
- II. Acquire raw materials
- III. Test the phone
- IV. Distribution to retail stores

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

20. What does the Japanese concept 'kaizen' mean? [1]

- (a) Hard work
- (b) **Continuous improvement**
- (c) Traditional knowledge
- (d) Economic growth

21. The benefit a country gets when it has a large number of young and working people is known as the _____. [1]

- (a) human capital
- (b) **demographic dividend**
- (c) supply chain
- (d) physical capital

22. What are ecosystem services? Give one example. [2]

Answer: Ecosystem services are the benefits that humans receive from the natural processes of ecosystems.

For example, forests help provide clean water by naturally filtering water.

23. What is a startup? [2]

Answer: A startup is an entrepreneurial venture with limited resources that aims for rapid growth and expansion while using technology.

24. What is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)? Mention one activity that comes under CSR. [2]

Answer: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to the efforts made by businesses to address social and environmental concerns. Reducing pollution or promoting the well-being of local communities are

examples of CSR activities.

25. Mention any two responsibilities of businesses towards their workers. [2]

Answer: Businesses should provide fair compensation and safe working conditions and should support skill development and training for workers.

26. A school decides to reduce its use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The students start a compost pit using biodegradable waste and encourage farmers in the nearby village to use natural fertilisers and mulching. Why can excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides be harmful to soil? Mention **two traditional practices** that can help in maintaining soil health. [3]

Answer:

a. Excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides can lead to soil degradation. Two practices are:

1. Use of cow dung and other natural fertilisers.

2. Mulching and multi-cropping.

27(a). Explain any five features of India's ancient skill heritage mentioned in the chapter. [5]

Answer:

1. Work was considered a form of expressing one's nature and striving for perfection.

2. Traditional knowledge was passed on from one generation to another and was continuously developed.

3. The Shilpa Shastras provided detailed guidelines for sculptures, paintings, buildings, wooden items and jewellery.

4. Generations of sculptors worked on temples and developed their skills through regular practice and learning new techniques.

5. Indians used a unique stitched shipbuilding technique in which wooden planks were joined using cords instead of nails.

OR

27(b). A factory provides employment to many people but releases untreated waste into a nearby river. The factory later installs a system to recycle its wastewater. Explain why producers have a responsibility to protect natural resources and the environment while carrying out production.

Answer:

1. Natural resources such as land, water and minerals are limited and need to be used carefully.

2. Industrial waste can pollute water and soil and harm living organisms.

3. Producers should reduce waste and pollution while making goods.

4. Recycling wastewater and other materials can reduce environmental damage.

5. Sustainable production helps preserve resources for future generations.

MAP SKILL-BASED QUESTION

28. On the outline map of India locate and label any two of the following with suitable symbols: [2]

(i) Kalol

(ii) Goa

(iii) Bokaro

SECTION-C

POLITICAL SCIENCE (19 marks)

29. **Assertion (A):** The Rajya Sabha is called the Permanent House. [1]

Reason (R): One-third of its members retire every two years.

(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 stages in the correct order during voting for the Lok Sabha or State Assembly: [1]

I. Voter presses the button on the EVM.

II. Polling officer checks the voter's name and ID.

III. Polling officer inks the voter's finger and takes signature.

IV. Another polling officer checks the finger and takes the voter's chit.

(a) I → II → III → IV

(b) II → III → IV → I

(c) III → II → IV → I

(d) IV → III → II → I

31. What is the main purpose of reserving certain constituencies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)? [1]

(a) To increase the number of constituencies

(b) To reduce the voting age

(c) To ensure that only SC and ST voters can vote

(d) **To ensure adequate representation of SCs and STs in legislatures**

32. Which of the following is an example of an electoral malpractice? [1]

(a) **Offering money or gifts to voters in exchange for votes**

(b) Voters checking their names on the electoral roll

(c) Candidates participating in an election debate

(d) Citizens exercising their right to vote

33. What is the significance of NOTA in an election? [2]

Answer: NOTA (None Of The Above) allows voters to reject all the candidates if they are not satisfied with any of them. It expresses their dissatisfaction, although it does not change the election result.

34. What is the role of the State Election Commission in India? [2]

Answer: The State Election Commission conducts elections to local bodies such as panchayats and urban local bodies and works in consultation with the ECI on relevant electoral matters.

35. Why is universal adult franchise considered the cornerstone of Indian democracy? Give any two reasons. [2]

Answer: It ensures equality by giving every eligible citizen one vote. (ii) It allows people to choose their representatives and makes them accountable through elections.

36. Mention any two measures taken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to make voting accessible to all citizens. [2]

Answer: (i) Home voting facility for certain elderly and persons with disabilities. (ii) Braille-enabled voter cards, wheelchairs, ramps and app-based assistance at polling stations.

37(a). What is the importance of election campaigns? Explain any three points. [3]

Answer:

1. **Campaigns help candidates and political parties communicate their policies and programmes to voters.**
2. **They enable voters to compare different candidates and political choices.**
3. **They provide an opportunity for political issues and public concerns to be discussed before voting.**

OR

37(b). A citizen notices that a political party is trying to influence voters by offering them gifts during an election campaign. Why is such an action problematic? What principle of elections does it violate? Explain.

Answer:

1. **Offering gifts to influence voters can unfairly affect their choice.**
2. **Political parties and candidates are expected to follow rules that promote free and fair elections.**
3. **Such practices undermine the fairness and integrity of the electoral process.**

38. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: [1+1+2]

“The Vice President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected and nominated members of both Houses of Parliament; again, the system of single transferable vote is used. The Vice President is the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. If there are situations when the President is not able to discharge their function, the Vice President steps in to play the role.”

(a) Who elects the Vice President of India?

Answer: The elected and nominated members of both Houses of Parliament elect the Vice President.

(b) Which voting system is used for the election of the Vice President?

Answer: The single transferable vote system.

(c) State any two important roles of the Vice President of India.

Answer:

1. **The Vice President is the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.**
2. **The Vice President steps in to discharge the President's functions when the President is unable to do so.**

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

Map for Q14 and Q28

Name:-

Admn no :-

