

SOCIAL SCIENCE
Sample Question Paper – 2
(Class 8) (Session 2026-27)

(Exploring Society: India and Beyond – Part 1 Only)

Time: 2 Hours 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 60

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The question paper contains 14 questions divided into six sections - A to F.
2. All questions are compulsory. Internal choices are provided in some questions.
3. Section A contains 15 objective-type questions of 1 mark each.
4. Section B contains 4 Very Short Answer questions of 2 marks each.
5. Section C contains 2 Short Answer questions of 3 marks each.
6. Section D contains 2 Long Answer questions of 5 marks each.
7. Section E contains 4 Case-Based questions of 4 marks each.
8. Section F contains one Map-Based question of 5 marks.
9. Answers should be written clearly and to the point.

SECTION A

Objective Type Questions (15 x 1 = 15)

- 1. (i)** Which statement best explains the "paradox of plenty"? **[1]**
- (A) Resource-rich regions are always prosperous
- (B) Abundant resources alone do not guarantee economic prosperity
- (C) Only renewable resources create wealth
- (D) Countries without minerals cannot develop
- (ii)** The Bahmani Sultanate was established in: **[1]**
- (A) 1206 (B) 1326
- (C) 1347 (D) 1498
- (iii)** Which of the following was one of the five Deccan Sultanates that emerged after the fragmentation of the Bahmani Sultanate? **[1]**
- (A) Golconda (B) Mewar
- (C) Awadh (D) Punjab
- (iv)** The Portuguese traveller who left a detailed account of Vijayanagara was: **[1]**
- (A) Robert Clive (B) Domingo Paes
- (C) William Digby (D) W.W. Hunter
- (v)** The Battle of Plassey was fought in: **[1]**
- (A) 1498 (B) 1674
- (C) 1757 (D) 1858
- (vi)** At Plassey, Robert Clive conspired with which military commander of the Nawab of Bengal? **[1]**
- (A) Mir Jafar (B) Kanhoji Angre
- (C) Tatia Tope (D) Harihara

- (vii)** After Plassey, the East India Company secured the right to collect revenue in Bengal, Bihar and: [1]
 (A) Punjab (B) Odisha
 (C) Maharashtra (D) Assam
- (viii)** The Election Commission of India was established in: [1]
 (A) 1947 (B) 1950
 (C) 1952 (D) 1971
- (ix)** The President of India is elected by: [1]
 (A) All adult citizens directly (B) Only Lok Sabha members
 (C) An Electoral College (D) The Supreme Court
- (x)** Which of the following is NOT included in the Electoral College for electing the President? [1]
 (A) Elected MPs (B) Elected MLAs of states
 (C) Elected MLAs of Delhi and Puducherry (D) Nominated Rajya Sabha members
- (xi)** In economics, "land" includes: [1]
 (A) Only agricultural fields
 (B) Only buildings
 (C) Natural resources such as soil, forests, water and minerals
 (D) Only factory sites
- (xii)** Human capital mainly refers to: [1]
 (A) Money kept in banks
 (B) Specialised knowledge, skills, experience and abilities of people
 (C) Factory machinery
 (D) Natural resources
- (xiii)** Fill in the blank: The Japanese concept meaning "continuous improvement" is _____. [1]
 (A) Swarajya (B) Kaizen
 (C) Cartaz (D) Franchise
- (xiv)** Assertion (A): Education and training can improve human capital.
 Reason (R): They help individuals develop knowledge and skills needed for productive work.
 (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]
- (xv)** Statement I: Lok Sabha members are directly chosen by citizens.
 Statement II: The President of India is directly elected by all citizens. [1]
 (A) Both statements are correct (B) Only Statement I is correct
 (C) Only Statement II is correct (D) Both statements are incorrect

SECTION B

Very Short Answer Questions (4 x 2 = 8)

2. What was the "divide and rule" policy used by the British? Explain briefly. [2]
3. Give any two differences between direct and indirect elections. [2]
4. What is human capital? Mention any one factor that helps develop it. [2]
5. Why did foreign travellers and traders visit Vijayanagara? Mention any two points from the textbook account. [2]

SECTION C

Short Answer Questions (2 x 3 = 6)

6. Explain how the East India Company used the Battle of Plassey to strengthen its political position in India. [3]
7. How is the election of the President of India an indirect election? Explain the composition of the Electoral College. [3]

SECTION D

Long Answer Questions (2 x 5 = 10)

8. Explain the economic impact of East India Company rule on Bengal after it obtained revenue-collection rights. Refer to revenue demands and the famine of 1770-1772 in your answer. [5]

OR

Explain how British colonial policy combined political manipulation and economic exploitation to expand control in India.

9. Explain the importance of human capital in production. Discuss the role of education, training, healthcare and social or cultural influences in improving productivity. [5]

OR

Why are free and fair elections essential in a parliamentary democracy? Explain the role of the Election Commission of India and the importance of informed voter participation.

SECTION E

Case-Based Questions (4 x 4 = 16)

10. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: [4]
Having abundant natural resources does not automatically make a country prosperous. Economies also need the ability to convert resources into products of higher value. Human knowledge, good governance and strategic planning determine whether natural wealth becomes a lasting benefit or only a temporary windfall. At the same time, resource extraction must be balanced with sustainability.
 - (a) What is the phenomenon in which resource abundance does not guarantee prosperity called? [1]
 - (b) Mention one requirement, other than natural resources, for creating lasting benefits. [1]
 - (c) Why must resource extraction be balanced with sustainability? Explain in two points. [2]

- 11.** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: [4]
- Foreign travellers visited Vijayanagara for trade. Portuguese travellers were treated well because they brought horses for sale. Domingo Paes described the capital as large and beautiful, with gardens, water channels, lakes, busy streets and markets filled with goods. His account suggests a prosperous and well-supplied urban centre.
- (a) Name the traveller mentioned in the passage. [1]
- (b) What important item did Portuguese traders bring for sale? [1]
- (c) What do the traveller's observations tell us about Vijayanagara's urban and economic life? Give two points. [2]

- 12.** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: [4]
- The President of India is not directly elected by the common people. An Electoral College elects the President. It includes elected Members of Parliament from both Houses and elected Members of Legislative Assemblies of the states and the union territories of Delhi and Puducherry. The system is designed to give representation to both the Union and the states.
- (a) Is the election of the President direct or indirect? [1]
- (b) Name any one category of elected representatives included in the Electoral College. [1]
- (c) Why does this method give the President democratic legitimacy? Explain in two points. [2]

- 13.** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: [4]
- Businesses use natural resources in production, but these resources can be degraded by careless practices. Industrial waste can pollute rivers and soil, while improperly discarded electronic devices may release harmful substances. Producers are therefore expected to reduce waste, avoid pollution and protect the environment. Businesses also have responsibilities towards workers, including fair compensation, safe working conditions and skill development.
- (a) Mention one environmental problem caused by careless production. [1]
- (b) State one responsibility of businesses towards workers. [1]
- (c) Explain two ways in which responsible production can benefit society and future generations. [2]

SECTION F

Map-Based Question (1 x 5 = 5)

- 14.** On an outline political map of India, locate and label the following places connected with the chapters studied: [5]
- (a) Plassey (Palashi) - associated with the Battle of Plassey, in present-day West Bengal. [1]
- (b) Pondicherry (Puducherry) - an important French colonial settlement. [1]
- (c) Bijapur (Vijayapura) - one of the Deccan Sultanates. [1]
- (d) Golconda - one of the Deccan Sultanates. [1]
- (e) Bidar - one of the Deccan Sultanates. [1]

