

Social Science
Sample Question Paper – 8
(Session 2026-27)
Class IX

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This question paper contains 38 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The paper is divided into FOUR sections - A, B, C and D. Each section carries 20 marks.
3. The paper includes MCQs, Very Short Answer (VSA), Short Answer (SA), Long Answer (LA), Case/Source-Based and Map-Based Questions.
4. Very Short Answer questions carry 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 40 words.
5. Short Answer questions carry 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.
6. Long Answer questions carry 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.
7. Case/Source-Based questions carry 4 marks and contain three sub-questions.
8. The Map-Based question is divided into two parts: Section A – 2 marks and Section B – 3 marks.
9. Use the outline map provided in the paper wherever required.
10. There is no overall choice. Internal choice is provided in a few questions; attempt only one alternative.
11. Questions with visual input include an alternative for visually impaired candidates.

SECTION – A – HISTORY | 20 Marks

1. Which source is most useful for studying the material culture of a past community when written records are scarce?

1

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (A) Archaeological evidence | (B) Weather report |
| (C) Modern census | (D) Contemporary advertisement |

2. Study the image carefully. The structure shown is best treated as which kind of historical evidence? 1



Image for Q.2

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (A) Material/archaeological source | (B) Oral source |
| (C) Only literary source | (D) Statistical source |

For Visually Impaired Candidates only, in lieu of Q.2: What type of evidence is a surviving historical structure?

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (A) Material/archaeological evidence | (B) Meteorological evidence |
| (C) Census evidence | (D) Purely oral evidence |

3. Assertion (A): Historians compare different sources before drawing conclusions about the past.
Reason (R): Different sources may reveal different aspects of the same society. 1
(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
4. Which sequence best represents the broad development from hunting-gathering to settled and urban life? 1
I. Food production
II. Hunter-gatherer communities
III. Growth of cities
IV. Increasing craft specialisation
(A) II, I, IV, III (B) I, II, III, IV
(C) II, IV, I, III (D) IV, II, I, III
5. State any two ways in which inscriptions can help historians understand past societies. 2
6. Explain any three reasons why the emergence of agriculture was a major turning point in human history. 3
7. (A) Explain how cities, craft production and long-distance exchange were connected in early societies. 5

OR

(B) Explain how different forms of evidence help historians reconstruct political, economic and cultural life in early India.

HISTORY AS A RECONSTRUCTION

A historian may study a settlement through its buildings, tools, pottery, ornaments, inscriptions, coins and other remains. A written text may describe an event or an idea, but material remains can provide clues about technology, occupations and everyday practices. Since each source has limitations, historians compare evidence, consider its context and then develop interpretations.

1. Name one material source mentioned in the passage. 1
 2. Why should historians consider the context of a source? 1
 3. Explain why using more than one type of source can make a historical interpretation stronger. 2
9. On the outline map of India, locate and label the following: 2
(A) Dholavira – an important Harappan site.
(B) Bhimbetka – a site known for prehistoric rock shelters and paintings.

SECTION – B – GEOGRAPHY | 20 Marks

10. The movement of tectonic plates is mainly associated with processes occurring within the: 1
(A) Earth's interior (B) Upper atmosphere
(C) Biosphere only (D) Ocean surface only

11. Which landform is commonly associated with the deposition of sediments by rivers? 1
 (A) Plain
 (B) Volcanic cone
 (C) Fold mountain
 (D) Deep ocean trench
12. Which process lowers elevated land and fills lower areas through erosion, transport and deposition? 1
 (A) Denudation (B) Condensation
 (C) Insolation (D) Evaporation
13. Which factor strongly influences the temperature of a place? 1
 (A) Latitude
 (B) Longitude alone
 (C) Political boundary
 (D) Population density alone
14. Why do winds move from one pressure area to another? 1
 (A) Differences in air pressure create pressure gradients
 (B) All winds are caused by rainfall
 (C) Mountains always attract winds
 (D) Oceans stop air movement
15. The seasonal reversal of winds is a defining characteristic of the: 1
 (A) Monsoon system
 (B) Tidal system
 (C) Plate system
 (D) River system
16. Give two ways in which mountains can influence human life and settlement. 2
17. (A) Explain how internal and external processes together shape the Earth's surface. 5

OR

(B) Explain why the Indian monsoon is important for agriculture and why its distribution is uneven.

A CHANGING SURFACE

The surface of the Earth is not static. Tectonic movements can create large relief features, while running water, wind, ice and other agents wear down, transport and deposit materials. Climate influences the rate and nature of several surface processes. Human activities also respond to the resulting landforms and environmental conditions.

1. Name one internal process that changes landforms. 1
2. Name one external agent mentioned in the passage. 1
3. Explain two ways in which relief and climate can influence human activities. 2

19. On the outline map of India, locate and label any three of the following:

3

1. The Himalayas
2. The Thar Desert
3. The Ganga River
4. The Narmada River

OUTLINE MAP OF INDIA – FOR Q.9 AND Q.19



SECTION – C – POLITICAL SCIENCE | 20 Marks

20. Which principle ensures that public authorities remain answerable for their actions?

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| (A) Accountability | (B) Secrecy |
| (C) Arbitrariness | (D) Hereditary rule |

21. Which institution is primarily responsible for interpreting laws and protecting constitutional principles?

1

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| (A) Judiciary | (B) Legislature |
| (C) Election campaign | (D) Municipal market |

22. Which feature helps prevent the concentration of all public power in one institution?

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|--------------------------|--|
| (A) Separation of powers | (B) One-party appointment of all officials |
| (C) Abolition of courts | (D) No elections |

23. Which is an important feature of local self-government?

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| (A) Decision-making on local matters by elected local bodies |
| (B) Complete absence of citizen participation |
| (C) Rule by unelected hereditary authorities |
| (D) Replacement of all national institutions |

24. Mention any two benefits of citizen participation in democratic decision-making. 2
25. Why are fundamental rights important for citizens? Give any two points. 2
26. Explain any three ways in which institutions can place checks on the exercise of public power. 3
27. (A) Explain why a constitution is important for the functioning of a democratic political system. 5

OR

(B) Explain how elections, representation and accountability are connected in a democracy.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Democracy requires institutions that work according to established rules. Citizens choose representatives, while institutions such as legislatures, executives and courts perform different functions. Public discussion, elections and lawful participation allow citizens to influence government. At the same time, constitutional rules and institutional checks help prevent arbitrary use of power.

1. Name one method through which citizens influence government. 1
2. Why are institutional checks necessary? 1
3. Explain how constitutional rules can protect citizens from arbitrary exercise of power. 2

SECTION – D – ECONOMICS | 20 Marks

29. Scarcity exists because: 1
- (A) Resources are limited in relation to human wants
- (B) Human wants are limited
- (C) Resources can satisfy every want simultaneously
- (D) Choices are never necessary
30. The value of the next best alternative given up when a choice is made is called: 1
- (A) Opportunity cost (B) Revenue
- (C) Capital formation (D) Market price
31. Which question asks about the allocation of goods and services among different people? 1
- (A) For whom to produce? (B) What to produce?
- (C) How to vote? (D) Where to migrate?
32. A firm choosing between labour-intensive and machine-intensive production is deciding: 1
- (A) How to produce (B) What to produce
- (C) For whom to produce (D) Whether to consume
33. In a market-oriented system, prices can help coordinate decisions of: 1
- (A) Producers and consumers (B) Only judges
- (C) Only elected representatives (D) Only schools

34. Which statement best describes a mixed economy? **1**
(A) Market forces operate alongside government intervention
(B) Government makes every household decision
(C) Private activity is completely absent
(D) Prices never change
35. Explain with a suitable example how scarcity forces individuals or societies to make choices. **3**
36. Differentiate between 'what to produce' and 'for whom to produce' with one example each. **3**
37. Why is opportunity cost important when governments, businesses or households make economic decisions? **3**
38. (A) Explain how the three central economic questions arise from the problem of scarcity and unlimited wants. **5**

OR

- (B) Explain the major features of a mixed economy and why both market mechanisms and government policies may operate in it.