CBSE Class 10 Social Science

Practice Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Subject: Social Science | **Subject Code:** 087 | **Class:** X
Time Allowed: 3 Hours | **Maximum Marks:** 80

Prepared by Sunbeam World School for practice. This is an original practice paper written on the CBSE Class X question paper design for 2026-27. It is not a CBSE board paper and not a CBSE sample question paper. Official past board papers are published on cbse.gov.in and the official sample question paper is on cbseacademic.nic.in.

General Instructions

1. This question paper contains **37 questions**. All questions are compulsory.
2. The paper is divided into **six Sections: A, B, C, D, E and F**.
3. **Section A** has 20 multiple choice questions of 1 mark each.
4. **Section B** has 4 very short answer questions of 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 40 words.
5. **Section C** has 5 short answer questions of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.
6. **Section D** has 4 long answer questions of 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.
7. **Section E** has 3 source-based or case-based questions of 4 marks each, with sub-parts.
8. **Section F** has 1 map-based question of 5 marks, with two parts, 37a from History and 37b from Geography.
9. There is internal choice in some questions. An outline political map of India is to be attached with the answer book.
10. Use of a calculator is **not** permitted.

Blueprint: Subject-Wise Distribution

Unit	Subject	Marks
I	India and the Contemporary World II (History)	20
II	Contemporary India II (Geography)	20
III	Democratic Politics II (Political Science)	20
IV	Understanding Economic Development (Economics)	20
	Total	**80**

Map work carries 5 of these marks, 2 from History and 3 from Geography.

SECTION A

20 multiple choice questions of 1 mark each

1. Who was proclaimed the German Emperor in 1871 at Versailles?
(a) Otto von Bismarck (b) Kaiser William I (c) Giuseppe Mazzini (d) Count Cavour

2. The Rowlatt Act of 1919 gave the government the power to
(a) increase land revenue (b) detain political prisoners without trial (c) ban foreign cloth (d) dissolve provincial assemblies

3. Which of the following describes the Gandhian idea of satyagraha?
(a) armed resistance against the coloniser
(b) the power of truth and the need to search for truth without using physical force
(c) negotiation only through legal petitions
(d) complete withdrawal from public life

4. The first printing press came to India with
(a) Portuguese missionaries in Goa (b) the British East India Company (c) the French in Pondicherry (d) Dutch traders in Bengal

5. Which type of soil is most widespread in India and is formed by the deposition of sediments by rivers?
(a) black soil (b) laterite soil (c) alluvial soil (d) arid soil

6. Bhakra Nangal and Hirakud are examples of
(a) wildlife sanctuaries (b) multi-purpose river projects (c) iron ore mines (d) software technology parks

7. Which of the following is a rabi crop?
(a) rice (b) wheat (c) jute (d) cotton

8. The Golden Quadrilateral super highway connects
(a) Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai
(b) Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Pune
(c) Kolkata, Patna, Lucknow and Delhi
(d) Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi

9. Power sharing in which power is shared among governments at different levels is called
(a) horizontal power sharing (b) vertical power sharing (c) community government (d) coalition government

10. Which list in the Indian Constitution contains subjects on which only the central government can make laws?

(a) State List (b) Concurrent List (c) Union List (d) Residuary List

11. The system in which women are given an equal share in political representation through reserved seats is an example of
(a) caste politics (b) communalism (c) affirmative action (d) federalism

12. A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections in four states and wins at least four seats is recognised as a
(a) state party (b) national party (c) regional party (d) registered party

13. Which of the following is an outcome of democracy?
(a) guaranteed economic growth for every citizen
(b) accountable, responsive and legitimate government
(c) the complete end of all social inequality
(d) the removal of all political competition

14. Which of the following is a political institution that holds the ruling party accountable in a democracy?
(a) the civil service (b) the opposition (c) the police (d) the army

15. Per capita income is calculated by dividing the total income of a country by
(a) the number of working people (b) its total population (c) the number of households (d) the number of taxpayers

16. Which organisation publishes the Human Development Report?
(a) World Bank (b) UNDP (c) WTO (d) IMF

17. Which sector of the Indian economy employs the largest number of people?
(a) primary (b) secondary (c) tertiary (d) public

18. The modern form of money includes currency and
(a) gold coins (b) deposits with banks (c) grain stored at home (d) promissory notes between neighbours

19. Which of the following is a barrier to foreign trade that a government may use?
(a) tax on imports (b) rise in domestic wages (c) fall in the exchange rate (d) a good monsoon

20. Multinational corporations set up production in countries where
(a) wages are highest (b) production costs are low and markets are near (c) no labour is available (d) taxes are highest

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SECTION B

4 very short answer questions of 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 40 words.

21. Describe any two steps taken by Napoleon that made the administrative system in the territories he controlled more efficient.

OR

State any two reasons why the Non-Cooperation Movement slowed down in the cities.

22. Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable resources, giving one example of each.

23. State any two differences between a unitary form of government and a federal form of government.

24. What is meant by the Human Development Index? State any two indicators used in it.

SECTION C

5 short answer questions of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.

25. Explain any three effects of the First World War on the Indian economy and on Indian politics.

26. Why is conservation of resources necessary? Explain with any three reasons.

27. Explain any three features of commercial farming in India, and name one crop grown under it.

OR

Explain any three problems faced by the jute industry in India.

28. Describe any three ways in which federalism is practised in India.

29. Explain any three reasons why public sector investment is important for a country's development.

SECTION D

4 long answer questions of 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.

30. Explain the role of the following in the growth of nationalism in India: the Salt March, the Simon Commission, and the Civil Disobedience Movement.

OR

Describe the circumstances that led to the Jallianwala Bagh incident and explain its impact on the national movement.

31. Explain any five factors that have led to the concentration of the cotton textile industry in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

OR

Describe the importance of roadways in India and explain any four types of roads found in the country.

32. Explain the three main features of the caste system in Indian politics, and describe two ways in which politics influences caste.

33. Describe the role of banks in the economy, and explain the difference between formal and informal sources of credit with two examples of each.

SECTION E

3 source-based questions of 4 marks each

34. Read the source and answer the questions that follow.

Print culture created the conditions within which the French Revolution occurred. Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers, who attacked the authority of the Church and the despotic power of the state. Print created a new culture of dialogue and debate, and people began to question established beliefs rather than accept them without argument.

(34.1) State how print popularised Enlightenment ideas. **(2)**
(34.2) Explain how print created a new culture of debate. **(2)**

35. Read the source and answer the questions that follow.

A democratic government is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient and not always very responsive, but it is the people's own government. Democracies produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people. There is overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world, among the rich and the poor alike.

(35.1) State what is meant by a legitimate government. **(2)**
(35.2) Explain why democracy is described as accountable, using the source. **(2)**

36. Read the source and answer the questions that follow.

Globalisation has enabled some large Indian companies to emerge as multinationals themselves. Indian companies in information technology, pharmaceuticals and automobile parts have benefited from greater competition. At the same time, small producers such as those making batteries, capacitors, plastics and toys have been hit hard, and many have shut down, causing unemployment.

(36.1) State how globalisation has helped some Indian companies. **(2)**
(36.2) Explain the impact of globalisation on small producers, using the source. **(2)**

SECTION F

Map-based question, 5 marks

37. On the given outline political map of India, locate and label the following.

(37.1) Two features from History, 1 mark each. (2 marks)
(a) The place where the Indian National Congress session of December 1920 was held, deciding on the Non-Cooperation Movement.
(b) The place where Mahatma Gandhi broke the salt law in 1930.

(37.2) Three features from Geography, 1 mark each. (3 marks)
(c) A major iron ore mine in Odisha.
(d) The Kandla sea port.
(e) The Noida software technology park.

Note for candidates: if you are unable to mark the features on the map, write the answers in your answer book in the space provided.

MARKING SCHEME

CBSE Class 10 Social Science Practice Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Marks are shown in brackets. Award full marks for any other correct and relevant answer.

SECTION A (20 × 1 = 20)

Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1	(b) Kaiser William I	11	(c) affirmative action
2	(b) detain political prisoners without trial	12	(b) national party
3	(b) the power of truth and the need to search for truth without using physical force	13	(b) accountable, responsive and legitimate government
4	(a) Portuguese missionaries in Goa	14	(b) the opposition
5	(c) alluvial soil	15	(b) its total population
6	(b) multi-purpose river projects	16	(b) UNDP
7	(b) wheat	17	(a) primary
8	(a) Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai	18	(b) deposits with banks
9	(b) vertical power sharing	19	(a) tax on imports
10	(c) Union List	20	(b) production costs are low and markets are near

SECTION B (4 × 2 = 8)

21. Any two, 1 mark each: he introduced the Civil Code of 1804 abolishing privileges based on birth; he established equality before the law and the right to property; he simplified administrative divisions; he abolished the feudal system and freed peasants from serfdom; he improved transport and communication systems **(2)**

OR

Any two, 1 mark each: khadi cloth was more expensive than mill cloth and the poor could not afford it; the boycott of British institutions was slow because alternative Indian institutions were not ready; students and teachers began returning to government schools; lawyers returned to their practice **(2)**

22. Renewable resources can be renewed or reproduced by physical, chemical or mechanical processes, for example solar energy, water or forests **(1)**
Non-renewable resources take millions of years to form and are exhausted once used, for example coal or petroleum **(1)**

23. Any two, 1 mark each: in a unitary system there is only one level of government, or the subunits are subordinate to it, while in a federal system power is divided between a central authority and the states; in a unitary system the central government can order the state government, while in a federal system the states have their own powers for which they are not answerable to the centre; a federal system has a written constitution and an independent judiciary to settle disputes, which a unitary system need not have **(2)**

24. The Human Development Index is a measure published by the UNDP that ranks countries on the basis of the overall development of their people rather than income alone **(1)**
Any two indicators, half a mark each: per capita income, life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling **(1)**

SECTION C (5 × 3 = 15)

25. Any three, 1 mark each: defence expenditure rose and was financed by war loans and increased taxes; customs duties were raised and income tax was introduced; prices of goods doubled between 1913 and 1918, causing hardship for the common people; villages were called upon to supply soldiers, causing widespread anger; crop failures in 1918-19 and 1920-21 brought acute food shortages and an influenza epidemic **(3)**

26. Any three, 1 mark each: resources are limited and most are non-renewable; indiscriminate use has led to environmental problems such as pollution and land degradation; resources are essential for the survival of all living beings and for future generations; unequal distribution of resources has created social and economic divisions; conservation supports sustainable development **(3)**

27. Any three features, 1 mark each: it uses higher doses of modern inputs such as high yielding variety seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides; it is practised on large areas of land; production is mainly for sale in the market rather than for the farmer's own use; the degree of commercialisation varies from region to region **(2)**
One crop named correctly, such as sugarcane, cotton, jute or rice in Haryana and Punjab **(1)**

OR

Any three, 1 mark each: stiff competition in the international market from synthetic substitutes; competition from other jute-producing countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines and Thailand; a limited domestic market; high production costs; loss of traditional markets after partition **(3)**

28. Any three, 1 mark each: the Constitution declares India a Union of States and divides subjects into Union, State and Concurrent Lists; linguistic states were created in 1956 so that people speaking the same language lived in one state; a three-language formula was adopted to protect Hindi, English and regional languages; the sharing of revenue between the centre and the states is governed by clear rules; decentralisation created a third tier of panchayats and municipalities in 1992 **(3)**

29. Any three, 1 mark each: the public sector provides services such as roads, bridges, railways, harbours and electricity that the private sector will not supply because the returns are too slow or uncertain; it ensures essential services reach people at affordable prices; it supports activities with high initial costs that private firms cannot afford; it runs health and education services that are necessary for

human development; it buys crops at fair prices and supports small producers **(3)**

SECTION D (4 × 5 = 20)

30. The Salt March: Gandhiji marched from Sabarmati to Dandi in 1930 and broke the salt law by making salt from seawater, which turned a basic necessity into a symbol of protest and drew mass participation **(2)**
The Simon Commission: it was set up in 1928 with no Indian member, and was greeted everywhere with the slogan "Go back Simon", uniting Indians in protest **(1.5)**
The Civil Disobedience Movement: people were asked not merely to refuse cooperation but to break colonial laws, with peasants refusing revenue, foreign cloth boycotted and factory workers going on strike **(1.5)**

OR

Circumstances: the Rowlatt Act allowed detention without trial, Gandhiji called for a nationwide hartal, and local leaders were arrested in Amritsar **(2)**
The incident: on 13 April 1919 a crowd gathered in the enclosed Jallianwala Bagh, General Dyer blocked the exit and ordered firing, killing hundreds **(1.5)**
Impact: crowds took to the streets across north India, there were strikes and attacks on government buildings, and the anger it produced led directly to the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement **(1.5)**

31. Any five, 1 mark each: availability of raw cotton from the black soil region of the Deccan; a warm and humid climate suited to spinning and weaving; the availability of cheap and skilled labour; good transport including ports at Mumbai and Kandla for import and export; availability of hydroelectric power; a large ready market; the presence of banking, insurance and port facilities in Mumbai **(5)**

OR

Importance of roadways, any two points: construction cost is lower than railways; roads can cross dissected and undulating terrain and steeper gradients; they provide door to door service and act as a feeder to other modes of transport; they carry perishable goods economically over short distances **(2)**
Four types described, three-quarters of a mark each: Golden Quadrilateral super highways; National Highways linking extreme parts of the country, maintained by the CPWD; State Highways linking a state capital to district headquarters; District Roads connecting district headquarters to other places; Other or rural roads linking villages, improved under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana; Border Roads built by the Border Roads Organisation in high altitude areas **(3)**

32. Features of caste in politics, any three, 1 mark each: parties choose candidates keeping the caste composition of the constituency in mind; political parties and governments are formed with an eye to representing different castes and tribes; universal adult franchise has compelled political leaders to mobilise caste groups; caste groups have become larger by including neighbouring castes to gain influence **(3)**
Two ways politics influences caste, 1 mark each: each caste tries to become bigger by including neighbouring sub-castes, which earlier did not mix; new kinds of caste groups such as backward and forward caste groups have emerged **(2)**

33. Role of banks, any three points, 1 mark each: banks accept deposits and pay interest on them; they keep only a small part as cash and lend the rest, mediating between those with surplus funds and those who need credit; they make payments easier through cheques and electronic transfer; bank loans are a cheaper source of credit than informal sources **(3)**
Formal sources are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and charge lower interest, for example banks and cooperative societies **(1)**
Informal sources are not supervised by any organisation and often charge very high interest, for example moneylenders and traders **(1)**

SECTION E (3 × 4 = 12)

34.1 Print popularised Enlightenment ideas by circulating the writings of thinkers who attacked the authority of the Church and the despotic power of the state, so that their criticism reached a wide readership rather than a small circle **(2)**
34.2 Print created a culture of dialogue and debate in which readers discussed and re-evaluated established beliefs, so that values and institutions came to be questioned rather than accepted without argument **(2)**

35.1 A legitimate government is one that is the people's own government, chosen by them through accepted procedures, which is why people support it even when it is slow or less efficient **(2)**
35.2 Democracy is accountable because the government follows set procedures and must answer to the people for its decisions, which gives citizens the means to examine how decisions were taken **(2)**

36.1 Globalisation has allowed some large Indian companies to become multinationals themselves, and greater competition has benefited Indian firms in information technology, pharmaceuticals and automobile parts **(2)**
36.2 Small producers of goods such as batteries, capacitors, plastics and toys could not compete with cheaper imports and larger firms, so many units have shut down and workers have lost their jobs **(2)**

SECTION F (5)

37.1 History, 1 mark each
(a) **Nagpur (1)**
(b) **Dandi (1)**

37.2 Geography, 1 mark each
(c) Any correct iron ore mine in Odisha, such as **Mayurbhanj**, **Kiriburu** or **Bonai (1)**
(d) **Kandla**, in Gujarat **(1)**
(e) **Noida**, in Uttar Pradesh **(1)**

Candidates who write the names in the answer book instead of marking the map receive the same credit.

End of marking scheme.