CBSE Class 8 Social Science

Sample Question Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Subject: Social Science | **Class:** VIII | **Textbook:** Exploring Society: India and Beyond, Part 1 **Time Allowed:** 3 Hours | **Maximum Marks:** 80

Prepared by Sunbeam World School for practice. Based on the seven chapters of Exploring Society: India and Beyond, Part 1 (2026-27). CBSE does not prescribe a Class 8 paper pattern, so this paper follows the format most CBSE schools use. If your school's annual exam also includes Part 2, revise those chapters separately.

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 questions of 1 mark each, including one Assertion and Reason question.
4. **Section B** has 4 questions of 2 marks each. Answer in about 40 words.
5. **Section C** has 5 questions of 3 marks each. Answer in about 60 words.
6. **Section D** has 4 questions of 5 marks each. Answer in about 100 words.
7. **Section E** has 3 case-based questions of 4 marks each.
8. **Section F** is a map question of 5 marks.
9. Internal choice is given in some questions.

Blueprint: Chapter-Wise Distribution

Chapter	Marks
1. Natural Resources and Their Use	13
2. Reshaping India's Political Map	9
3. The Rise of the Marathas	14
4. The Colonial Era in India	11
5. Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System	14
6. The Parliamentary System: Legislature and Executive	10
7. Factors of Production	9
Total	**80**

SECTION A

20 questions of 1 mark each

1. Which of the following is a renewable resource? (a) Coal (b) Petroleum (c) Solar energy (d) Natural gas

2. Things that people make by using natural resources, such as roads and buildings, are called (a) human-made resources (b) potential resources (c) non-renewable resources (d) abiotic resources

3. Sustainable use of resources means (a) using as much as we need today without thinking of the future (b) using resources to meet our needs without harming the needs of future generations (c) not using resources at all (d) using only imported resources

4. The Delhi Sultanate was established in (a) 1192 (b) 1206 (c) 1526 (d) 1556

5. The capital of the Vijayanagara Empire was (a) Delhi (b) Hampi (c) Agra (d) Pune

6. The First Battle of Panipat in 1526 was fought between Babur and (a) Ibrahim Lodi (b) Hemu (c) Rana Sanga (d) Sher Shah

7. The Ahom general who defeated the Mughals at the Battle of Saraighat in 1671 was (a) Lachit Borphukan (b) Shivaji (c) Banda Bahadur (d) Rana Pratap

8. Shivaji was crowned Chhatrapati in 1674 at (a) Raigad (b) Pune (c) Satara (d) Thanjavur

9. The council of eight ministers in Shivaji's administration was called the (a) Ashtapradhan (b) Navaratna (c) Panchayat (d) Diwan-i-Aam

10. The Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 was fought between the Marathas and (a) the British (b) Ahmad Shah Abdali (c) the Mughals (d) the Portuguese

11. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was fought between the English East India Company and (a) Tipu Sultan (b) Siraj-ud-Daulah (c) Mir Qasim (d) Ranjit Singh

12. The Revolt of 1857 began at (a) Meerut (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai

13. The term "drain of wealth" refers to (a) floods that destroyed crops (b) the flow of India's wealth to Britain without a fair return (c) Indian traders investing abroad (d) money spent on building canals

14. The minimum age for voting in India is (a) 16 years (b) 18 years (c) 21 years (d) 25 years

15. Elections to the Lok Sabha are conducted by the (a) Supreme Court (b) Election Commission of India (c) Parliament (d) President

16. Universal adult franchise means that (a) only educated adults can vote (b) only property owners can vote (c) every adult citizen can vote, whatever their religion, caste, gender, wealth or education (d) only men above 21 can vote

17. Members of the Lok Sabha are (a) nominated by the President (b) elected directly by the people (c) elected by state legislatures (d) appointed by the Prime Minister

18. The head of the government in India is the (a) President (b) Prime Minister (c) Chief Justice (d) Speaker

19. Which of the following is NOT a factor of production? (a) Land (b) Labour (c) Capital (d) Consumption

20. Assertion and Reason. Assertion (A): A carpenter's tools are an example of capital. **Reason (R):** Capital includes human-made goods that are used to produce other goods and services. (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

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SECTION B

4 questions of 2 marks each

21. Suggest two ways in which water can be conserved at home or in your locality.

22. What was guerrilla warfare? Why did it suit the Marathas?

23. State any two effects of British colonial rule on Indian farmers or artisans.

24. What are an EVM and a VVPAT? Why is the VVPAT useful?

SECTION C

5 questions of 3 marks each

25. Explain the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources with two examples of each. Why must non-renewable resources be used carefully?

26. Describe any three achievements of Krishnadeva Raya of Vijayanagara. **OR** Explain any three reasons for the decline of the Mughal Empire after Aurangzeb.

27. How did the Marathas expand their power in the eighteenth century under the Peshwas?

28. Give three differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

29. What is human capital? How do education and good health improve it?

SECTION D

4 questions of 5 marks each

30. Describe the rise of Shivaji and explain any three features of his administration. **OR** Explain the importance of forts in the Maratha kingdom, with examples of hill forts and sea forts.

31. How did the English East India Company change from a trading company into a ruling power in India? Refer to the Battles of Plassey and Buxar. **OR** Describe the causes of the Revolt of 1857 and state one important result.

32. Explain the main steps of the electoral process in India, from the preparation of voters' lists to the declaration of results.

33. How does a bill become a law in India? **OR** How is the executive made accountable to the legislature in India? Explain any three ways.

SECTION E

3 case-based questions of 4 marks each

34. Case Study: The Coal Town

A town in eastern India gets most of its electricity from a coal-based power plant nearby. Many families earn their living from coal mining. In recent years, people have complained about dust in the air, and the mines are expected to run out of coal in about thirty years. The town council is now discussing rooftop solar panels and rainwater harvesting.

(i) Is coal a renewable or a non-renewable resource? **(1)** (ii) State one problem caused by burning coal. **(1)** (iii) Suggest two ways in which the town can use its resources more sustainably. **(2)**

35. Case Study: Meena's First Vote

Meena turned 18 last year. Her name was added to the electoral roll and she received her voter ID card. On polling day she stood in a queue, the polling officer checked her name, marked her finger with ink, and she pressed a button on the EVM in a covered compartment where no one could see her choice.

(i) Why was Meena allowed to vote this year? **(1)** (ii) Why was ink put on her finger? **(1)** (iii) Why is it important that no one can see whom a voter has chosen? **(2)**

36. Case Study: Ravi's Bakery

Ravi rents a small shop in his town, buys two ovens and a mixing machine with his savings, and hires three workers. He decides what to bake, sets the prices and takes the risk of a loss if customers do not come.

(i) Which of these is an example of capital in Ravi's bakery? **(1)** (ii) Which factor of production does Ravi himself provide when he takes risks and makes decisions? **(1)** (iii) Explain why all four factors of production are needed to run the bakery. **(2)**

SECTION F

Map question, 5 marks

37. On the outline political map of India provided, locate and label the following: (a) Raigad, where Shivaji was crowned (b) Panipat (c) Plassey (d) Hampi, the capital of Vijayanagara (e) Jharkhand, a state rich in coal

Note for visually impaired candidates, in place of Q37: (a) Name the fort where Shivaji was crowned. (b) Name the place where three famous battles were fought in 1526, 1556 and 1761. (c) Name the battle of 1757 that helped the East India Company gain control of Bengal. (d) Name the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. (e) Name one state in India that is rich in coal.

MARKING SCHEME

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Marks are shown in brackets. Accept any other relevant answer with the same meaning.

SECTION A (20 × 1 = 20)

Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1	(c) Solar energy	11	(b) Siraj-ud-Daulah
2	(a) human-made resources	12	(a) Meerut
3	(b)	13	(b)
4	(b) 1206	14	(b) 18 years
5	(b) Hampi	15	(b) Election Commission of India
6	(a) Ibrahim Lodi	16	(c)
7	(a) Lachit Borphukan	17	(b)
8	(a) Raigad	18	(b) Prime Minister
9	(a) Ashtapradhan	19	(d) Consumption
10	(b) Ahmad Shah Abdali	20	(a)

SECTION B (4 × 2 = 8)

21. Any two: fix leaking taps, reuse water used for washing vegetables to water plants, rainwater harvesting, turn off taps while brushing, use buckets instead of hoses **(1 + 1)**

22. Guerrilla warfare means surprise attacks by small, fast-moving groups who then retreat quickly **(1)**. It suited the Marathas because they knew the hills and forests of the Sahyadris well and could defeat larger armies by surprise **(1)**

23. Any two: farmers had to pay heavy land revenue; they were forced to grow cash crops such as indigo; artisans lost work as cheap machine-made British cloth flooded Indian markets; famines caused great suffering **(1 + 1)**

24. EVM: Electronic Voting Machine, used to record votes electronically **(½)**; VVPAT: Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail, prints a slip showing the candidate voted for **(½)**. It lets the voter check that the vote was recorded correctly and allows votes to be verified later **(1)**

SECTION C (5 × 3 = 15)

25. Renewable resources can be replaced naturally, for example sunlight, wind, water, forests **(1)**; non-renewable resources take millions of years to form and can run out, for example coal, petroleum, natural gas, minerals **(1)**. They must be used carefully because once used up they cannot be replaced, and future generations will need them **(1)**

26. Any three: Vijayanagara reached its peak under him; he won wars against neighbouring kingdoms, such as at Raichur; he was a patron of art and literature and wrote the Telugu work Amuktamalyada; poets known as the Ashtadiggajas adorned his court; he built and expanded temples; trade flourished **(1 × 3) OR** Any three: weak successors after Aurangzeb; long wars that emptied the treasury; revolts by the Marathas, Sikhs, Jats and others; governors of provinces became independent; invasions such as that of Nadir Shah in 1739 **(1 × 3)**

27. Under Peshwas such as Baji Rao I, the Marathas expanded beyond the Deccan into central and northern India **(1)**. They collected taxes such as chauth and sardeshmukhi from many regions and built a network of allied chiefs **(1)**. Even after the defeat at Panipat in 1761, they recovered and took control of Delhi in 1771 **(1)**

28. Any three **(1 × 3)**:

Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Members are directly elected by the people	Members are mainly elected by members of state legislative assemblies
Term of five years, unless dissolved earlier	Permanent house; one-third of members retire every two years, each member serves six years
543 elected members	Up to 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President
The council of ministers is responsible to it	It cannot remove the council of ministers

29. Human capital is the knowledge, skills and health of people that make them productive **(1)**. Education gives people knowledge and skills, so they can do better-paid and more productive work **(1)**. Good health lets people work regularly and efficiently **(1)**

SECTION D (4 × 5 = 20)

30. Rise (2 marks): Shivaji built a kingdom in the Western Ghats by capturing forts from the Bijapur Sultanate and resisting the Mughals; he was crowned Chhatrapati at Raigad in 1674 and worked for Swaraj, or self-rule. Features (any three, 1 mark each): Ashtapradhan, a council of eight ministers; a strong network of forts; a navy to protect the coast; a fair land revenue system; collection of chauth and sardeshmukhi; a disciplined army using guerrilla tactics. **OR** Importance (any four points, 1 mark each): forts protected the kingdom; served as bases for guerrilla attacks; stored food, weapons and treasure; controlled trade routes and the coast; showed the ruler's power. Examples (1 mark): hill forts such as Raigad, Sinhagad, Pratapgad, Torna; sea forts such as Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg.

31. Any five points **(1 × 5)**: the Company came to India for trade and set up factories; it used disputes among Indian rulers; it defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah at Plassey in 1757 with the help of Mir Jafar; it defeated the combined forces of Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal emperor at Buxar in 1764; in 1765 it got the Diwani, the right to collect revenue, of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa; it built an army and used treaties and annexation to extend its rule. **OR** Causes

(any four, 1 mark each): heavy taxes and loss of land for farmers; annexation of states through policies such as the Doctrine of Lapse; poor pay and treatment of Indian soldiers; the rumour about cartridges greased with animal fat; interference in social and religious customs. Result (1 mark): Company rule ended and the British Crown took direct control of India in 1858.

32. Any five steps **(1 × 5)**: the country is divided into constituencies; the voters' list (electoral roll) is prepared and updated; the Election Commission announces the schedule and the Model Code of Conduct comes into force; candidates file nominations, which are checked; candidates campaign; voting takes place by secret ballot using EVMs and VVPATs; votes are counted and the candidate with the most votes in each constituency is declared elected.

33. Any five steps **(1 × 5)**: a bill is introduced in either House (a money bill only in the Lok Sabha); it is read and debated; it may be sent to a committee for detailed study; it is voted on and passed by that House; it goes through the same process in the other House; it is sent to the President, and after the President's assent it becomes a law. **OR** Any three ways, with explanation **(5)**: Question Hour, when ministers must answer questions; debates and discussions on government policies; approval of the budget and money bills by Parliament; the council of ministers must keep the confidence of the Lok Sabha and can be removed by a no-confidence motion. *(Three ways explained: 2 + 2 + 1)*

SECTION E (3 × 4 = 12)

34. (i) Non-renewable **(1)** (ii) Any one: air pollution, dust, release of smoke and harmful gases, health problems **(1)** (iii) Any two: use solar panels, harvest rainwater, save electricity, plant trees, train miners for new jobs **(1 + 1)**

35. (i) She had turned 18 and her name was on the electoral roll **(1)** (ii) To show she had voted, so that no one votes more than once **(1)** (iii) Secret voting lets people vote freely without fear or pressure **(1)** and keeps elections free and fair **(1)**

36. (i) The ovens or the mixing machine **(1)** (ii) Entrepreneurship **(1)** (iii) Land (the shop) gives a place to work, labour (the workers) does the work, capital (ovens and machine) helps produce goods, and the entrepreneur brings them together and takes the risk; without any one of them, the bakery cannot run **(2)**

SECTION F (5)

37. One mark for each place correctly located and labelled: (a) Raigad, in Maharashtra, near the western coast (b) Panipat, in Haryana, north of Delhi (c) Plassey (Palashi), in West Bengal (d) Hampi, in Karnataka (e) Jharkhand

For visually impaired candidates: (a) Raigad (b) Panipat (c) Battle of Plassey (d) Hampi (Vijayanagara) (e) Jharkhand, or any other coal-rich state such as Chhattisgarh or Odisha.

End of marking scheme.