CBSE Class 9 Social Science

Sample Question Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Subject: Social Science (087) | **Class:** IX | **Textbook:** Understanding Society: India and Beyond **Time Allowed:** 3 Hours | **Maximum Marks:** 80

Prepared by Sunbeam World School for practice. Based on the CBSE Class IX curriculum 2026-27 and the prescribed NCERT textbook.

General Instructions

1. This question paper has **five Sections: A, B, C, D and E**. All questions are compulsory.
2. **Section A** has 20 questions of 1 mark each.
3. **Section B** has 6 questions of 3 marks each, to be answered in 80 to 100 words.
4. **Section C** has 5 questions of 5 marks each, to be answered in 120 to 150 words.
5. **Section D** has 3 case-based questions of 4 marks each.
6. **Section E** has 1 map question of 5 marks.
7. Internal choice is provided in some questions.
8. Attach the outline map provided with your answer sheet.

Blueprint

Section	Question type	Questions	Marks
A	Objective, MCQ and assertion reason	20 × 1	20
B	Short answer	6 × 3	18
C	Long answer	5 × 5	25
D	Case based and source based	3 × 4	12
E	Map skill	1 × 5	5
	Total	**35**	**80**

Note for the teacher setting this paper: CBSE has organised the 2026-27 Class IX course into integrated themes rather than four separate discipline sections. The questions below are grouped by theme area so that the paper can be matched to the themes your class has covered. Adjust the selection to your taught portion.

SECTION A

20 questions of 1 mark each

1. The study of the Earth's physical features and the relationship between people and their environment is called (a) history (b) geography (c) economics (d) political science

2. The standard meridian of India passes through (a) 82°30'E (b) 82°30'W (c) 68°7'E (d) 97°25'E

3. The latitude that passes roughly through the middle of India is the (a) Equator (b) Tropic of Cancer (c) Tropic of Capricorn (d) Arctic Circle

4. The outermost solid layer of the Earth is the (a) core (b) mantle (c) crust (d) asthenosphere

5. Which of the following is a renewable resource? (a) coal (b) petroleum (c) solar energy (d) natural gas

6. The movement of tectonic plates is mainly responsible for (a) rainfall (b) earthquakes and mountain building (c) ocean currents (d) seasonal change

7. Monsoon winds blow towards India in summer from the (a) north-east (b) south-west (c) north-west (d) south-east

8. A government in which people elect their representatives is called (a) monarchy (b) dictatorship (c) democracy (d) oligarchy

9. The Constitution of India came into effect on (a) 15 August 1947 (b) 26 January 1950 (c) 26 November 1949 (d) 2 October 1950

10. The Preamble describes India as (a) sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic (b) sovereign, capitalist, religious, democratic state (c) socialist monarchy (d) secular federation of states

11. The minimum age to vote in a general election in India is (a) 16 years (b) 18 years (c) 21 years (d) 25 years

12. Which of these was an early example of local self-government in India? (a) the Uthiramerur inscriptions (b) the Rowlatt Act (c) the Simon Commission (d) the Montagu reforms

13. Sabhas and samitis in early Indian society were (a) trading guilds (b) assemblies for collective decision-making (c) military units (d) religious orders

14. Which of the following best describes a guild, or shreni, in ancient India? (a) an army regiment (b) an association of craftspeople or merchants (c) a royal council (d) a village temple

15. The term "unity in diversity" refers to (a) the uniformity of Indian culture (b) the coexistence of many languages, religions and traditions within one nation (c) the division of India into states (d) the single official language of India

16. Primary sector activities include (a) manufacturing (b) banking (c) agriculture (d) software services

17. Unemployment in which more people work on a farm than are actually needed is called (a) seasonal unemployment (b) disguised unemployment (c) educated unemployment (d) structural unemployment

18. Food security means (a) growing only food crops (b) availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times (c) storing food in godowns (d) exporting surplus grain

19. Assertion and Reason. Assertion (A): India is called a secular state. **Reason (R):** The Indian state does not have an official religion and treats all religions equally. (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

20. Assertion and Reason. Assertion (A): The monsoon has a unifying influence on India. **Reason (R):** The rhythm of the monsoon shapes agriculture, festivals and daily life across the country. (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

---

SECTION B

6 questions of 3 marks each, 80 to 100 words

21. Explain any three factors that influence the climate of a place.

22. What is meant by democracy? State any two features that distinguish it from a non-democratic government. **OR** Explain any three reasons why a written constitution is necessary for a country.

23. Describe three ways in which early Indian societies organised collective decision-making.

24. Distinguish between seasonal and disguised unemployment, giving one example of each.

25. State any three Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and explain why each matters to an ordinary citizen.

26. Explain any three ways in which human activity is changing the natural environment in India today. **OR** Describe three features of the primary sector and explain why it employs the largest share of India's workforce.

SECTION C

5 questions of 5 marks each, 120 to 150 words

27. Describe the major physiographic divisions of India and state one characteristic of each.

28. Explain how the interaction between the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere shapes the surface of the Earth. Give two examples. **OR** Explain the causes and consequences of soil erosion, and suggest three methods of soil conservation.

29. "The Preamble is the soul of the Indian Constitution." Explain this statement with reference to any four key words in the Preamble.

30. Describe how the diversity of India has historically been a source of strength rather than division. Support your answer with examples. **OR** Explain the role of trade and cultural exchange in connecting early India with other civilisations.

31. What is food security? Explain the role of the Public Distribution System and buffer stock in ensuring it.

SECTION D

3 case-based questions of 4 marks each

32. Source-based Question: Reading a Climate Graph

Study the data for a station in India and answer the questions.

Month	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
Average temperature (°C)	14	30	28	24
Average rainfall (mm)	20	10	290	60

(i) In which month does the station receive the highest rainfall, and what does this indicate about the season? **(2)** (ii) Why is July cooler than April despite being a summer month? **(1)** (iii) What type of climate does this pattern suggest? **(1)**

33. Source-based Question: An Extract on Village Assemblies

"Decisions concerning the tank, the temple and the common land were not taken by one man. They were placed before the assembly, and those chosen to serve on its committees held office for a fixed term, after which they gave an account of what they had done."

(i) What does the extract tell us about how decisions were made in this society? **(2)** (ii) Identify one feature described here that resembles a principle of modern democracy. **(1)** (iii) Why would a fixed term of office matter? **(1)**

34. Case Study: Employment in a Village

Rampur is a village of 480 working people. Of these, 300 work in farming, 90 in small workshops making pottery and furniture, and 90 in shops, transport and teaching. During the three months between sowing and harvest, nearly 100 of the farm workers have very little to do.

(i) Classify the three kinds of work in Rampur into the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. **(2)** (ii) What kind of unemployment is described in the last sentence? **(1)** (iii) Suggest one step that could provide work to these people during the lean months. **(1)**

SECTION E

Map skill, 5 marks

35. On the given outline map of India, locate and label **any five** of the following. **(5)**

(a) The Tropic of Cancer (b) The standard meridian of India, 82°30'E (c) The Western Ghats (d) The Thar Desert (e) The river Ganga (f) The Deccan Plateau (g) Any one state that shares a border with Nepal

---

MARKING SCHEME

CBSE Class 9 Social Science Sample Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Marks are shown in brackets. Award full marks for any other correct and well-supported answer.

SECTION A (20 × 1 = 20)

Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1	(b) geography	11	(b) 18 years
2	(a) 82°30'E	12	(a) the Uthiramerur inscriptions
3	(b) Tropic of Cancer	13	(b) assemblies for collective decision-making
4	(c) crust	14	(b) an association of craftspeople or merchants
5	(c) solar energy	15	(b) the coexistence of many languages, religions and traditions within one nation
6	(b) earthquakes and mountain building	16	(c) agriculture
7	(b) south-west	17	(b) disguised unemployment
8	(c) democracy	18	(b) availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times
9	(b) 26 January 1950	19	(a)
10	(a) sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic	20	(a)

SECTION B (6 × 3 = 18)

21. Any three factors, 1 mark each: latitude, since places near the Equator are warmer; altitude, since temperature falls with height; distance from the sea, which moderates temperature; relief, as mountains block or direct winds; ocean currents. **(3)**

22. Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people **(1)** Any two distinguishing features, 1 mark each: free and fair elections; one person one vote one value; rule of law and respect for rights; government accountable to the people. **(2) OR** Any three reasons, 1 mark each: it sets out the fundamental rules by which people live together; it defines the powers and limits of government; it guarantees rights to citizens; it expresses the shared aspirations of a society; it prevents the misuse of power by any one authority. **(3)**

23. Any three, 1 mark each: sabhas and samitis as assemblies that debated and decided matters; village councils and committees managing local resources such as tanks, temples and common land; guilds or shrenis of craftspeople and merchants regulating their own affairs; election or selection of committee members for fixed terms. **(3)**

24. Seasonal unemployment occurs when people are without work during certain parts of the year **(1)**, for example agricultural labourers between sowing and harvest **(0.5)** Disguised unemployment occurs when more people are engaged in work than are actually needed, so removing some would not reduce output **(1)**, for example several family members working on a small farm **(0.5)**

25. Any three rights with an explanation, 1 mark each: Right to Equality, which prevents discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, sex or place of birth; Right to Freedom, which protects speech, movement and the choice of occupation; Right against Exploitation, which bans forced labour and child labour in hazardous work; Right to Freedom of Religion; Cultural and Educational Rights; Right to Constitutional Remedies, which lets a citizen approach the courts when a right is violated. **(3)**

26. Any three, 1 mark each: deforestation for agriculture and construction reducing forest cover; industrial and vehicular emissions polluting air; discharge of waste into rivers polluting water; overuse of groundwater lowering the water table; mining and quarrying damaging land. **(3) OR** Three features of the primary sector, 1 mark each: it draws directly on natural resources; it includes agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining; output depends heavily on weather and natural conditions. Explanation that it employs the most people because much of the rural population depends on land, landholdings are small and labour intensive, and alternative employment in other sectors is limited. **(3)**

SECTION C (5 × 5 = 25)

27. Any five divisions with one characteristic each, 1 mark per division: the Himalayan mountains, young fold mountains with high peaks; the Northern Plains, formed of alluvium deposited by rivers and highly fertile; the Peninsular Plateau, the oldest landmass with rich mineral deposits; the Indian Desert, low rainfall and sandy terrain; the Coastal Plains, narrow strips along the east and west coasts; the Islands, groups in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. **(5)**

28. Explanation that the Earth's systems exchange matter and energy **(1)** Role of the atmosphere, through wind, temperature change and rainfall causing weathering **(1)** Role of the hydrosphere, through rivers, rain and waves eroding and depositing material **(1)** Role of the lithosphere, through plate movement raising mountains and forming valleys **(1)** Any two concrete examples, such as river valleys carved by water, coastal cliffs shaped by waves, or deserts shaped by wind **(1) OR** Causes of soil erosion: deforestation, overgrazing, faulty farming methods, heavy rainfall and wind **(2)** Consequences: loss of fertile topsoil, reduced crop yields, silting of rivers, flooding **(1)** Any three conservation methods: contour ploughing, terrace farming, shelter belts, afforestation, strip cropping **(2)**

29. Explanation that the Preamble states the ideals and philosophy on which the Constitution rests **(1)** Any four key words explained, 1 mark each: Sovereign, India is free to decide its own affairs; Socialist, the state works to reduce inequality; Secular, the state has no official religion and treats all faiths equally; Democratic, rulers are elected by the people; Republic, the head of state is elected and not hereditary; Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity as guiding values. **(4)**

30. Statement of India's diversity in language, religion, food, dress and custom **(1)** Explanation that diversity has been accommodated rather than suppressed **(1)** Examples such as the coexistence of many faiths, the recognition of many languages, regional traditions within a shared national identity **(2)** A concluding point that this accommodation has promoted peaceful coexistence and resilience **(1) OR** Early trade routes connecting India by land and sea **(1)** Goods exchanged, such as spices, textiles and precious stones **(1)** Cultural exchange, including the spread of ideas, religion, art and script **(2)** One concrete example of a region or civilisation India traded with **(1)**

31. Definition: food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of sufficient food for all people at all times **(2)** Public Distribution System: government supplies foodgrains through ration shops at subsidised prices to targeted households **(1.5)** Buffer stock: grain procured at a minimum support price and stored by the Food Corporation of India, released in times of shortage or to stabilise prices **(1.5)**

SECTION D (3 × 4 = 12)

32. (i) July, with 290 mm **(1)**; it indicates the monsoon season, when south-west monsoon winds bring heavy rainfall **(1)** (ii) Cloud cover and rainfall during the monsoon reduce temperature, so July is cooler than the dry heat of April **(1)** (iii) A monsoon type of climate, with a hot dry season and a distinct wet season **(1)**

33. (i) Decisions on shared resources were made collectively by an assembly rather than by one individual **(1)**, and those serving on committees were accountable for their conduct **(1)** (ii) Any one: elected or chosen representatives; fixed terms of office; accountability to the assembly; collective decision-making **(1)** (iii) A fixed term prevents any individual holding power indefinitely and allows the community to review performance and replace representatives **(1)**

34. (i) Farming is primary, pottery and furniture making is secondary, shops, transport and teaching are tertiary **(2)** (ii) Disguised unemployment, or seasonal unemployment, since the workers are on the farm but have very little to do between sowing and harvest **(1)** (iii) Any one workable step **(1)**: setting up a small agro-processing or dairy unit; rural employment guarantee work on roads, wells or ponds; training in a craft or trade that can be done in the lean season.

SECTION E (5)

35. One mark for each correctly located and labelled feature, up to five. **(5)** Accept reasonable accuracy of position. Deduct no marks for spelling if the feature is clearly identifiable.

End of marking scheme.