



Instructions to the Students

- Write only question numbers clearly outside the margin (1, 2, 3.i, 5.b, 4.c.ii, etc.).
 - Do not write questions or any titles. (For ex. - Do not write **II. Answer the following**).
 - After every answer, give a one-line space.
 - For Multiple choice Questions - Both Option and Answer should be written.
 - The question paper has 4 Sections: Section A - History, Section B - Geography, Section C - Political Science, and Section D - Economics.
 - Each Section has MCQs, VSA, SA, LAs and CBQ.
 - Bullet points & Sub-points should be written inside the margin.
 - Do not fold / staple the paper.
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Section A

1. Why was James Augustus Hickey persecuted by Governor General Warren Hastings? [1]
- a) For poor editing of Bengal Gazette
 - b) For publishing a lot of gossip about company's senior officials
 - c) For keeping it a private English enterprise
 - d) For publishing substandard material in the paper

Answer ↪

- b) For publishing a lot of gossip about company's senior officials (1)

2. In the question given below there are two statements- Assertion (A) and Reason (R). [1]
Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Discovery of America resulted in transformation of trade life and abundance of wealth for Europeans.

Reason (R): The Americans had vast lands, minerals, silver and gold which enhanced European trade.

- 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 correct but (R) is wrong
- d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct

Answer ↪

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A) (1)

3. In the question given below there are two statements- Assertion (A) and Reason (R). [1]
Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion(A): The most serious source of nationalist tension in Europe after 1871 was the area called the Balkans.

Reason(R): The Balkan states were fiercely jealous of each other and wanted to gain more territory at the expense of others.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is true but R is false
- d) A is false but R is true

Answer 

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A (1)

4. How did Mahatma Gandhi view the Khilafat Movement? [1]

- a) As a distraction from the Non-Co-operation Movement
- b) As irrelevant to Indian nationalism
- c) As an opportunity for Hindu-Muslim unity against colonial rule
- d) As a purely religious movement

Answer 

- c) As an opportunity for Hindu-Muslim unity against colonial rule (1)

- 5.A. Explain how the global transfer of disease in the pre-modern world helped in the colonisation of America. [2]

Answer 

Explanation

The Portuguese and Spanish conquest of America started from the mid-sixteenth century. (0.5)

The most powerful weapon in this conquest was germs such as those of smallpox. (0.5)

Because of their long isolation, American original inhabitants had no immunity against these diseases came from Europe. (0.5)

Smallpox in particular was a deadly killer as it killed and decimated whole communities, paving the way for conquest. (0.5)

(OR)

5.B. What ways did food items offer scope for long distance cultural exchange? [2]

Answer ↪

Traders and travelers introduced new crops to the lands they travelled. (0.5)

It is believed that noodles travelled west from China to become spaghetti. (0.5)

Arab traders took pasta to 5th century Sicily, an island now in Italy. (0.5)

Many of our common foods such as potatoes, soya, groundnuts, maize, tomatoes, chillies, sweet potatoes and so on were not known to our ancestors. (0.5)

6.A. How was unification of Germany ultimately achieved? [3]

Answer ↪

Reasons

Three Wars over 7 years with Austria Denmark. (1)

France ended in victory and completed the process of unification. (1)

In January 1871, the Prussian King William first was proclaimed German emperor in a ceremony held at Versailles. (1)

(OR)

6.B. Describe any three economic hardships faced by Europe in the 1830s. [3]

Answer ↪

Three economic hardships

Food shortages and price increases. (1)

Widespread unemployment and overpopulation in cities. (1)

The burden of feudal dues on peasants. (1)

A poor harvest led to food crises. (1)

An increase in population outpaced job growth. (1)

Mass migration to cities created overcrowded, unsanitary living conditions and a surplus of job seekers. (1)

In some regions, peasants were still obligated to pay feudal dues to the aristocracy, exacerbating their poverty. (1)

- 7.A. Explain the reasons for the lukewarm response of some Muslim organizations to the Civil Disobedience Movement. [5]

Answer ↪

While a significant number of Muslims did participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement, many Muslim organizations and a large section of the community remained unenthusiastic or even hostile towards it. (1)

Their lukewarm response was a significant factor in the movement's eventual decline. This was largely due to a combination of growing communal distrust, political alienation, and the Muslim League's increasing assertiveness. (1)

The decline of Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements led to the alienation of Muslims from the Congress. (1)

In the mid-1920s, relations between Hindus and Muslims worsened, and several communal clashes and riots broke out across the country. (1)

Muslims feared that their culture and identity as a minority would be suppressed under the domination of the Hindu majority in an independent, Congress-led India. (1)

Many Muslim leaders and intellectuals expressed concern about the status of Muslims as a minority within India. (1)

(OR)

- 7.B. How did different groups of people interpret the idea of "Swaraj"? [5]

Answer ↪

Congress & moderates: self-government within British Empire. (1)

Extremists: complete independence. (1)

Peasants: no zamindari, freedom from high rents. (1)

Businessmen: free trade and growth of industries. (1)

Women: equality and freedom from oppression. (1)

8. **Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Pages of Gutenberg's Bible, the first printed book in Europe.

Gutenberg printed about 180 copies, of which no more than 50 have survived.

Look at these pages of Gutenberg's Bible carefully. They were not just products of new technology. The text was printed in the new Gutenberg press with metal type, but the borders were carefully designed, painted and illuminated by hand by artists. No two copies were the same. Every page of each copy was different. Even when two copies look similar, a careful comparison will reveal differences. Elites everywhere preferred this lack of uniformity: what they possessed then could be claimed as unique, for no one else owned a copy that was exactly the same.

In the text you will notice the use of colour within the letters in various places. This had two functions: it added colour to the page, and highlighted all the holy words to emphasise their significance. But the colour on every page of the text was added by hand. Gutenberg printed the text in black, leaving spaces where the colour could be filled in later

8.1. Mention the contribution of Gutenberg in the field of printing [1]

Answer 🔑

(i) Johann Gutenberg created the first mechanical printing press in 1430s. (0.5)

(ii) This brought about the print revolution - shift from hand printing to mechanical printing in the world. (0.5)

(iii) Any other relevant point (1)

8.2. How were the books borders painted and illuminated? [1]

Answer 🔑

(i) The borders were carefully designed, painted and illuminated by hand by artists. (1)

(ii) Any other relevant point (1)

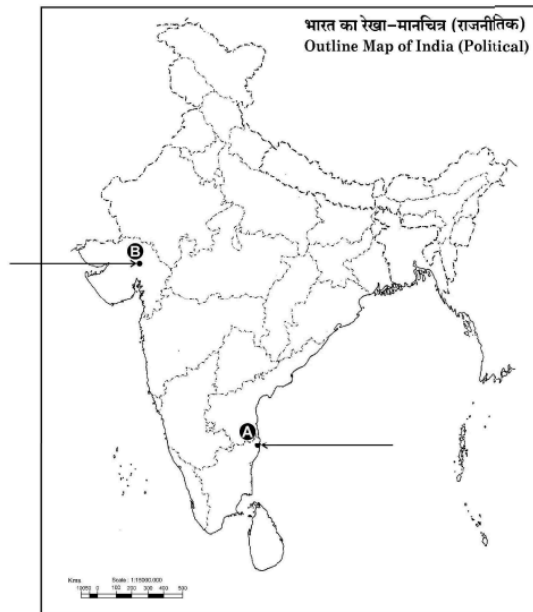
8.3. Analyse how the combination of printing and hand decoration in Gutenberg's Bible reflects the changes taking place during its period of creation. [2]

Answer 🔑

It shows the transition from the medieval to the modern age, where traditional craftsmanship merged with new printing technology. (1)

It highlights how people embraced innovation while preserving artistic individuality, valuing both progress and uniqueness. (1)

9. Two places 'A' and 'B' have been marked on the given political outline map of India. [2]
Identify them with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.
A. The place where the session of Indian National Congress took place in 1927.
B. The place where Mahatma Gandhi led the movement of cotton mill workers.



Answer

A - Madras (1)

B - Ahmedabad (1)

Section B

10. Identify the crop with the help of the following information: [1]
- It is a Rabi and a cereal crop of India.
 - It requires cool growing season.
 - It needs annual rainfall between 50 to 70 cm.
 - Needs bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
- a) Wheat b) Maize c) Rice d) Sugarcane

Answer

a) Wheat (1)

11. In the question given below there are two statements- Assertion (A) and Reason (R). [1]
Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Alluvial soil is found mainly in the Peninsular Plateau.

Reason (R): Alluvial soil is deposited by rivers in flood plains and deltas.

- 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 correct but (R) is wrong
d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct

Answer

d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct (1)

12. Which of the following is located in the state of Rajasthan? [1]
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) Corbett National Park | b) Bandhavgarh National Park |
| c) Periyar Tiger Reserve | d) Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary |

Answer

- d) Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary (1)

13. The government of India has accorded highest priority to improve the quality of life and enhance ease of living of people living in rural areas by announcing the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Goal of the Jal Jeevan Mission is [1]

- i) To bring behavioural changes in community from prevailing attitude of consumption to conservation.
- ii) Enable every rural household to get assured supply of 55 ltrs per capita of potable piped water.
- iii) Introduce sustainable water conservation practices.
- iv) Ensure functionality of tap water connections
- a) i & ii b) ii, iii & iv
c) All i ,ii , iii & iv d) ii& iv

Answer

- d) ii& iv (1)

14. Which place in India has an artificial lake to conserve water that dates to 11th century? [1]
- a) Delhi b) Bhopal c) Mumbai d) Kolhapur

Answer

- b) Bhopal (1)

15. Which of the following is a ferrous mineral? [1]
- a) Copper b) Bauxite c) Iron ore d) Mica

Answer

- c) Iron ore (1)

Answer Explanation

Iron ore contains iron; hence it is a ferrous mineral.

16. Purva, who lived in Odisha, asked her father why the soil in their area was red in colour. He said it was due to the presence of a mineral. What mineral is he talking about? Name another Indian state that has the same mineral deposits. [2]

Answer

Iron (1)

Chhattisgarh/Karnataka/Maharashtra/Goa/Jharkhand (1)

17.A. 'Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India.' Justify the statement by evaluating the significant role it plays in the growth of the Indian economy in its different forms.

[5]

Answer 

Significance:

It is used for power generation and to supply energy to industry as well as for domestic needs. India is highly dependent on coal for meeting its commercial energy requirements. e.g., in metallurgy (1)

Variety of coal types

Coal, is found in a variety of forms depending on the degrees of compression and the depth and time of burial. (1)

1. Peat - Decaying plants in swamps produce peat. Which has a low carbon and high moisture contents and low heating capacity. (1)

2. Lignite - is a low grade brown coal, which is soft with high moisture content. The principal lignite reserves are in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu and are used for generation of electricity. (1)

3. Bituminous coal-Coal that has been buried deep and subjected to increased temperatures. It is the most popular coal in commercial use. Metallurgical coal is high grade bituminous coal which has a special value for smelting iron in blast furnaces. (1)

4. Anthracite -is the highest quality hard coal. (1)

(OR)

17.B. Highlight the importance of petroleum. Explain the occurrence of petroleum in India. [5]

Answer ↪

It provides fuel for heating and lighting. (1)

It provides lubricants for machinery and raw materials for many manufacturing industries. (1)

Petroleum refineries act as a 'nodal industry' for synthetic textiles, fertiliser and chemical industries. (1)

The occurrence of petroleum in India: Most of the petroleum in India is found in anticlines and fault traps in the rock formations of the tertiary age. (1)

In regions of folding, anticlines or domes, it occurs where oil is trapped in the crest of the upfold. (1)

The oil-bearing layer is porous limestone or sandstone through which oil may flow. (1)

The oil is prevented from sinking or rising by intervening non-porous layers. (1)

Thoughtfully varied responses (5)

18. Farmers clear pieces of land and grow food grains and other food crops on them for the sustenance of their families. When the fertility of the soil becomes low, farmers move from that piece of land and clear another piece of land for agriculture. This type of shifting cultivation increases the fertility of the soil through natural processes. Since farmers do not use fertilizers or other modern techniques, the productivity in this type of agriculture is low. This type of agriculture is known by different names in different parts of the country.

18.1. Explain the process of shifting agriculture. [1]

Answer ↪

In shifting agriculture a plot of land is cleared and cultivated for a short period of time; then it is abandoned and allowed to revert to its natural vegetation while the cultivator moves on to another plot. (1)

18.2. When does soil fertility decrease? [1]

Answer ↪

Soil fertility decreases when the amount of nutrients removed from the soil is greater than the amount of nutrients added (1)

18.3. Mention any two other names of shifting agriculture. [2]

Answer ↪

Thoughtfully varied responses (2)

19.I. On the same outline map of India locate and label the following with suitable symbols: [1]

(p) The dam in the Mahanadhi River Basin

OR

(q) The dam in the Sutlej River Basin

Answer ↪



Hirakud (1)

Bhakra Nangal (1)

19.II. On the same political map of India, locate and label any two of the following: [2]

i) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport

ii) Kudremukh Iron ore mines

iii) Cotton textile Industries - Maharashtra

Answer ↪

Kolkata (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport) (1)

Kudremukh Iron ore mines (1)

Cotton textile Industries - Maharashtra (1)

Section C

20. Consider the following statements on power sharing and choose the correct option: [1]
- (I) Majoritarianism is the real spirit of democracy.
(II) It creates balance and harmony in different groups.
(III) It reduces the possibility of conflict among social groups.
(IV) Power sharing is the essence of democracy.
- a) (I), (II) and (III) b) (II), (III) and (IV)
c) (I), (III) and (IV) d) (I), (II) and (IV)

Answer

- b) (II), (III) and (IV) (1)

21. In the question given below there are two statements- Assertion (A) and Reason (R). [1]
Read the statements and choose the correct option.
- Assertion (A):** The Election Commission gives recognition to political parties as national or state parties.
- Reason (R):** This recognition is based on the performance of parties in the elections.
- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is true but R is false.
 - A is false but R is true.

Answer

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. (1)

22. Which of the following statements represent gender equality ? [1]
- a) The value of women's vote is more than that of men.
 - b) Restricting women to household chores.
 - c) Providing more rights to men.
 - d) Providing voting rights equally to men and women.

Answer

- d) Providing voting rights equally to men and women. (1)

23. Match the Following: [1]

Column A	Column B
I. Union of India	A. President
II. State	B. Sarpanch
III. Municipal Corporation	C. Governor
IV. Gram Panchayat	D. Mayor

- a) I-A, II-B, III-C, IV-D
b) I-A, II-C, III-D, IV-B
c) I-D, II-A, III-C, IV-B
d) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B

Answer 

- b) I-A, II-C, III-D, IV-B (1)

24. How do democratic governments ensure transparency? Explain any two points. [2]

Answer ↪

- 1.Right to Information (RTI) act give citizens the legal right to request and access government records and documents. (1)
- 2.A free and open press acts as a public watchdog, reporting on government policies, actions, and potential misconduct. (1)
- 3.Public consultations and debates allows citizens to voice their opinions and concerns, and provides insight into the government's reasoning and the decision-making process itself. (1)

25. There are various reforms taken to strengthen parties in India so that they perform their function well. Explain the statement with examples. [3]

Answer ↪

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties. (0.5)
- It should be mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third to the women candidates. (0.5)
- There should be state funding of elections. (0.5)
- The government should give parties money to support the election expenses. (0.5)
- Eg: Disclosing Property Details: The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. (0.5)
- Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. (0.5)
- Thoughtfully varied responses (3)

26. “Empowering women through education transforms society.” Justify this statement with suitable examples. [2]

Answer ↪

- Educated women contribute to economic growth, make informed decisions, and actively participate in social and political spheres. (1)
- Education reduces gender disparities, promotes health, and drives progressive societal change. (1)
- Thoughtfully varied responses (2)

27.A. 'The story of Belgium is a stark contrast to the story of Sri Lanka in how they have dealt with the question of power-sharing.' Analyse the statement.

[5]

Answer 

Belgium's Approach (Accommodation): The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. They chose to accommodate these differences by working out a complex power-sharing arrangement that gave representation to both the Dutch and French-speaking communities. (1)

2. Sri Lanka's Approach (Majoritarianism): In contrast, the leaders of the Sinhala community in Sri Lanka sought to secure dominance over the government by virtue of their majority. They adopted a series of majoritarian measures that established Sinhala supremacy. (1)

3. Specific Steps in Belgium: Belgium created a government with an equal number of ministers from both communities, a separate government for Brussels with equal representation, and a 'community government for cultural issues. (1)

4. Specific Steps in Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka made Sinhala the only official language, favoured Sinhalas for jobs and university positions, and fostered Buddhism as the state religion, disregarding the Tamil minority. (1)

5. Outcome: The result in Belgium was peace and unity, and it avoided a civic strife. The result in Sri Lanka was a feeling of alienation among Tamils, which led to a devastating and long-lasting civil war that undermined the country's unity (1)

(OR)

27.B. “Power sharing increases trust between different groups.” Support the statement.

[5]

Answer ➤

- The basic principle of democracy is that people are the source for all political power. (1)
- Everyone has a voice in shaping public policies. (1)
- Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts. (1)
- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. (1)
- Belgium is the prime example of power sharing. (1)
- Power sharing gives space to social groups such as religious and linguistic groups. (1)
- Interest groups, pressure groups like traders, and industrialists influence power sharing. (1)
- Power sharing gives minority communities fair share in power. (1)
- Power sharing accommodates social diversity. (1)
- Thoughtfully varied response (5)

28. **Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow.**

The local government structure goes right up to the district level. A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form what is usually called a panchayat samiti or block or mandal. The members of this representative body are elected by all the panchayat members in that area. All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the zilla (district) parishad. Most members of the zilla parishad are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members. Zilla parishad chairperson is the political head of the zilla parishad.

Similarly, local government bodies exist for urban areas as well. Municipalities are set up in towns. Big cities are constituted into municipal corporations. Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people’s representatives. Municipal chairperson is the political head of the municipality. In a municipal corporation, such an officer is called the mayor.

This new system of local government is the largest experiment in democracy anywhere in the world.

28.1. Explain the relationship between gram panchayats and panchayat samitis.

[1]

Answer ➤

Gram panchayats together form Panchayat Samiti. (1)

28.2. How is the structure of municipal corporation different from municipality?

[1]

Answer ➤

Municipality – small town; Corporation – large city (headed by mayor) (1)

28.3. How does the local government structure promote democracy? Examine [2]

Answer 

- Decentralising power (0.5)
- Involving people in decision-making (1)
- Representing diverse interests (0.5)

Section D

29. Which of the following is a key factor that has enabled globalization? [1]
- a) Increased tariffs on international trade
 - b) Development of advanced transportation systems
 - c) Restrictions on foreign direct investment
 - d) Limited access to information technology

Answer 

- b) Development of advanced transportation systems (1)

30. What role do multinational corporations (MNCs) play in India's economy under globalization? [1]
- a) They reduce competition by monopolizing all sectors of the Indian economy.
 - b) They bring investment, technology, and managerial expertise, contributing to economic development.
 - c) They primarily exploit Indian resources without providing any economic benefits.
 - d) They limit the growth of local businesses by forcing them out of the market.

Answer 

- b) They bring investment, technology, and managerial expertise, contributing to economic development. (1)

31. Which one of the following is the important characteristic of modern form of currency? [1]
- a) It is made from precious metal
 - b) It is made from thing of everyday use
 - c) It is authorized by the commercial banks
 - d) It is authorized by the Government of the country




Answer 

- d) It is authorized by the Government of the country (1)

32. Vikas takes a loan of ₹ 5 lakh from a bank for his production needs. He utilizes the money efficiently, makes a profit, and repays the loan with interest on time as per the credit terms. Identify the role of credit here. [1]
- a) Negative role, by helping him to increase his income.
 - b) Positive role, by helping him to increase his income.
 - c) Negative role, by helping him to create liability on him.
 - d) None of the above

Answer 

- b) Positive role, by helping him to increase his income. (1)

33. In the question given below there are two statements- Assertion (A) and Reason (R). [1]
Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Higher income always means higher development.
Reason (R): Development depends on other factors like health and education.
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.
Answer 
d) A is false but R is true. (1)
34. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). [1]
Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Running proper schools, providing quality education, particularly elementary education is the duty of the government.
Reason (R): Nearly half of India's children are malnourished and a quarter of them are critically ill.
a) A is true but R is false.
b) A is false but R is true.
c) Both A and R are true and R explains A.
d) Both A and R are true and R does not explain A.
Answer 
d) Both A and R are true and R does not explain A. (1)
35. Mr. Y from a city in India visits a rural area and finds five people working in a small agricultural farm. More than two people are not required to work in the farm and removing the other three will not affect production. How can one solve this problem of underemployment in rural areas? [3]
Answer 
Developing small-scale industries or cottage industries nearby. (1)
Promoting rural non-farm activities like handicrafts, dairy farming, or poultry. (1)
Improving education and skill training so people can work in different sectors. (1)
Encouraging migration to urban areas where more jobs are available. (1)
Thoughtfully varied responses (3)

36. “Sustainable development is the only way for long-term progress.” Justify the statement with any three points. [3]

Answer ↪

It ensures the availability of resources for future generations. (1)

Reduces environmental degradation. (1)

Promotes long-term economic stability and health. (1)

37. Ford Motors produces and exports cars and components from its plant in India to several countries. [3]

If another MNC plans to set up a production unit in India, what two advantages might it gain, and how would this promote globalisation?

Answer ↪

The MNC would benefit from low-cost labour and resources, reducing its overall production expenses. (1)

It would gain access to India’s large and growing market, helping expand its customer base. (1)

This setup would promote globalisation by linking India’s production and trade networks with other countries through exports and supply chains. (1)

38.A. Explain the significance and limitations of average income for comparing different countries with examples.

[5]

Answer 

Significance:

Average income is also known as per Capita income. (1)

It provides a basic understanding of the standard of living within a population by showing the average amount of money earned per person. (1)

It is an indicator of development signifying a higher standard of living among people. (1)

Countries with per capita income of US\$ 49,300 per annum and above in 2019, are called high income or rich countries. (1)

Those with per capita income of US\$ 2500 or less are called low-income countries. (1)

India comes in the category of low middle income countries because its per capita income in 2019 was just US\$6700 per annum. (1)

The rich countries, excluding countries of Middle East and certain other small countries, are generally called developed countries. (1)

Limitations:

Average income is not a reliable index of economic development. (1)

Average income does not consider individual differences. (1)

Average income though useful for comparison but also hides disparities. (1)

Average income does not reflect the quality of human life. (1)

(OR)

38.B. “The goals of development may also be contradictory.” Examine the statement through examples.

[5]

Answer ↪

Different persons can have different developmental goals
and what may be development for one may not be
development for the other. (1)

It may even be destructive for the other. Each one of them
seeks different things. (1)

They seek things that are most important for them,
something which can fulfil their aspirations or desires. (1)

In fact, at times, two persons or groups of persons may
seek things which are conflicting/contradictory. (1)

A girl expects as much freedom and opportunity as her
brother, and that he also shares in the household work.
Her brother may not like this. (1)

Similarly, to get more electricity, industrialists may want
more dams. But this may submerge the land and disrupt
the lives of people who are displaced. (1)

Thoughtfully varied response (5)