



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

TERM-1 EXAMINATION, 2025-26 SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) MS

CLASS: VIII
DATE: 12/09/2025
NAME:

MARKING SCHEME

DURATION: 3 Hrs.
MAX. MARKS: 80
EXAM NO: -----

SECTION-A(HISTORY-28)

- Q1. Who was the first Governor-General of India? 1
A) Lord Wellesley B) Warren Hastings
C) Lord Cornwallis D) **Robert Clive**
- Q2. Assertion (A): The Battle of Plassey marked the beginning of British political control in India.
Reason (R): After the battle, the British East India Company became the *Diwan* of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. 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
- Q3. Assertion (A): Under Permanent Settlement, the revenue demand was increased every year based on agricultural output. 1
Reason (R): The British wanted to earn more profit from the fertile lands of Bengal.
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**
- Q4. Who introduced the Ryotwari system? 1
A) Lord Cornwallis B) **Thomas Munro**
C) Warren Hastings D) Holt Mackenzie
- Q5. Who led the revolt in Kanpur during 1857? 1
A) Bahadur Shah Zafar B) **Nana Saheb**
C) Kunwar Singh D) Mangal Pandey
- Q6. Identify the personality- 1



A) Rani Laxmibai

B) **Begum Hazrat Mahal**

C) Ahilyabai Holkar

D) None of the above

Q7 Explain the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

3

Ans. 1. Land revenue was permanently fixed by the British and would not change in future.
2. Zamindars became hereditary owners of land and collected revenue from peasants.
3. Peasants had no security of tenure and were often exploited.

Q8. What were the key consequences of the Revolt of 1857? Briefly discuss any three.

3

Ans. 1. End of Company Rule – The East India Company was abolished, and India came under direct rule of the British Crown.
2. Administrative Changes – The British government restructured the army, administration, and policies to prevent future revolts.
3. Policy of Divide and Rule – Greater emphasis was placed on dividing Indians along religious, caste, and regional lines to weaken unity.

Q9. How did the East India Company transform from a trading company to a territorial power in India? Mention any three ways.

3

Ans. This question checks understanding of key developments like:
a. The Battle of Plassey/Buxar
b. Use of military power
c. Subsidiary alliances or Doctrine of Lapse

Q10. Discuss the causes of the Revolt of 1857. Which factor, in your opinion, was the most significant and why?

5

Ans. 1. Political Causes

- The *Doctrine of Lapse* introduced by Lord Dalhousie allowed the British to annex states without a male heir (e.g., Jhansi, Satara).
- Annexation of Awadh in 1856 angered nobles, soldiers, and peasants alike.

2. Economic Causes

- Heavy land revenue demands and exploitation of peasants created widespread discontent.
- Decline of traditional industries due to British imports ruined artisans and craftsmen.

3. Social and Religious Causes

- Reforms like abolition of *sati*, legalization of widow remarriage, and conversion activities of Christian missionaries were viewed as interference in Indian traditions.
- Fear among both Hindus and Muslims that the British aimed to destroy their religions.

4. Military Causes

- Indian soldiers (sepoys) faced discrimination in pay, promotion, and treatment.

Introduction of the new *Enfield rifle* cartridges rumored to be greased with cow and pig fat hurt religious sentiments.

5. The most significant cause of revolt of 1857 was the issue of greased cartridges which is considered as the immediate cause of revolt of 1857.

Q11. Read the passage and answer the questions below:

Zamindars were powerful landowners who collected revenue from the peasants and passed it on to the British government. Many Zamindars became very wealthy and lived lavish lifestyles. However, some exploited the peasants by charging high rents and forcing them to work on their land without fair wages. This led to hardships for the peasants, who often had to borrow money at high interest rates to survive.

Questions:

(a) Who were the Zamindars and what was their role in rural society?

2

Ans. Zamindars were powerful landowners who collected revenue from the peasants and passed it on to the British government.

(b) How did the Zamindars exploit the peasants? 1

Ans. Some Zamindars exploited the peasants by charging high rents and forcing them to work on their land without fair wages.

(c) What difficulties did the peasants face because of this exploitation? 1

Ans. Peasants had to borrow money at high interest rates to survive.

Q12. The East India Company came to India for trade but slowly began interfering in Indian politics. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked a turning point when Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated by Robert Clive with the help of Mir Jafar. This allowed the Company to establish political control over Bengal.

Questions:

1. In which year was the Battle of Plassey fought? 1
- Ans. 1757
2. Who betrayed Siraj-ud-Daulah in the battle? 1
- Ans. Mir Jafar
3. Explain any two results of the Battle of Plassey. 2
- Ans, a. Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated by Robert Clive with the help of Mir Jafar.
- b. This allowed the Company to establish political control over Bengal.

SECTION-B (GEOGRAPHY-27)

Q13. Assertion (A): Shifting cultivation is an eco-friendly farming method. 1

Reason (R): It involves clearing forests by burning, which enriches the soil for a short period

(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

Q14. Assertion (A): Solar energy is considered a renewable resource. 1

Reason (R): Solar energy can be replenished naturally and is available in unlimited supply.

(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

Q15. Assertion (A): Plantation farming is a type of commercial farming. 1

Reason (R): In plantation farming, crops are grown mainly for sale in markets, often as cash crops.

(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

Q16. Name the most fertile soil of India. 1

(a) **Alluvial** (b) Red (c) Black (d) Laterite

Q17. The formation of just 1 cm of natural soil can take _____. 1

(a) A few weeks (b) Several months

(c) Hundreds to thousands of years (d) Less than a year

Q18. Which of the following best explains why humans are considered a valuable resource? 1

(a) They possess knowledge (b) They have skills to perform tasks

(c) They can think and reason **(d) All of the above**

Q19. What is the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources? Give one example of each. 2

Ans. 1. Renewable resource: Can be replenished naturally (e.g., Solar energy).

2. Non-renewable resource: Cannot be replenished in a human lifetime (e.g., Coal).

Q20. Riya notices that her village uses a lot of groundwater for farming, and the water level is falling every year. She suggests using rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation.

Based on the situation:

1. Which concept is Riya trying to promote? 1

Ans. Sustainable use of resources / Water conservation.

2. Give one reason why this concept is important for the future. 1

Ans. Ensures water availability for future generations and prevents depletion of groundwater.

Q21. What are the key conditions or practices required to conserve soil and prevent its degradation? Explain any two. 2

Ans. 1. Contour ploughing: Ploughing along the contour lines to reduce water runoff.

2. Afforestation: Planting trees to bind the soil.

Q22. List and briefly describe any three main types of farming practiced around the world. 3

Ans. 1. Subsistence farming: Farmers grow crops mainly for their own consumption.

2. Commercial farming: Crops grown mainly for sale and profit.

3. Shifting cultivation: Clearing a patch of land, cultivating it, then moving to another area once fertility declines.

Q23. During a school trip to Jim Corbett National Park, students observed tigers, elephants, and various birds in their natural habitat. The park authorities explained that such areas are protected to conserve biodiversity.

Based on the situation, answer the following:

1. What is a national park? 1

Ans. A protected area where wildlife and their habitats are preserved in their natural environment.

2. Mention any two objectives of setting up national parks. 2

Ans. 1. To conserve biodiversity and protect endangered species.

2. To promote research, education, and eco-tourism.

Q24. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The village of Rampur has fertile alluvial soil and receives good rainfall, making it ideal for agriculture. However, excessive use of chemical fertilizers has reduced soil fertility. The Panchayat has started training farmers in organic farming and crop rotation.

Questions:

1. What type of resource is fertile soil? 1

Ans. Natural resource.

2. Suggest one sustainable farming method mentioned in the paragraph. 1

Ans. Organic farming / Crop rotation.

3. Name two human activities that can reduce soil fertility. 2

Ans. a. Overuse of chemical fertilizers.

b. Overgrazing by animals.

Q25. Describe the different stages involved in agricultural practices. Name any two modern techniques used to improve crop production. 5

Ans. Stages in agricultural practices:

1. Preparation of soil: Ploughing, leveling, and manuring.

2. Sowing: Planting seeds in the soil.

3. Adding nutrients: Using fertilizers or manure.

4. Irrigation: Providing water to crops.

5. Weeding: Removing unwanted plants.
6. Harvesting: Cutting and gathering mature crops.
7. Storage: Keeping produce safe from pests and moisture.

Modern techniques:

- Drip irrigation.
- Use of HYV (High Yielding Variety) seeds.

SECTION-C (POLITICAL SCIENCE-20)

Q26. A bill related to government expenditure is called a: 1
 (a) **Money Bill** (b) Ordinary Bill
 (c) Private Member's Bill (d) Constitutional Bill

Q27. Who presides over the Rajya Sabha? 1
 (a) Speaker (b) **Vice-President of India**
 (c) Prime Minister (d) President

Q28. Which of these is not a function of the Constitution? 1
 (a) It gives a guarantee of the rights of the citizens
 (b) It marks out different sphere of power for different branches of government
 (c) **It ensure good people come to power**
 (d) It gives expression to some shared values

Q29. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R).
 Read these statements and choose one correct answer from the given options- 1

Assertion A: Our constitution makers divided our government into three branches- legislature, executive, and judiciary.

Reason R: The three divisions of the government are designed to hold checks and balances over one another.

- (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 false but R is true
 (d) A is true but R is false

Q30. Give three differences between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. 3

Ans. 1. Election Method:

Lok Sabha members are directly elected by the people.

Rajya Sabha members are elected by State Legislative Assemblies and nominated by the President.

1. Tenure:

Lok Sabha has a 5-year term (can be dissolved earlier).

Rajya Sabha has a 6-year term, and it is a permanent body with 1/3rd members retiring every 2 years.

2. Membership Strength:

Lok Sabha: Maximum 545 members.

Rajya Sabha: Maximum 245 members.

3. Powers:

Lok Sabha has greater powers in financial matters and can introduce Money Bills.

Rajya Sabha cannot introduce Money Bills; can only recommend changes.

4. Presiding Officer:

Lok Sabha: Speaker.

Rajya Sabha: Vice-President of India (Chairperson).

Q31. List and explain any five key features that make the Indian Constitution unique. 5

- Ans. 1. Lengthiest Constitution — Incorporates provisions from many sources, detailed governance rules.
2. Blend of rigidity and flexibility — Some parts can be easily amended, others require special procedures.
3. Federal system with a unitary bias — Powers divided between Centre and States, but Centre has more authority.
4. Parliamentary form of government — Executive is accountable to the Legislature.
5. Fundamental Rights and Duties — Guarantees rights and prescribes duties for citizens.

OR

Why do we need a Constitution in a democratic country like India? Explain with five reasons.

- Ans. 1. It lays down the basic framework of government.
2. Defines the powers and functions of different organs.
3. Guarantees rights and freedoms to citizens.
4. Prevents misuse of power.
5. Expresses shared values and principles of society.

Q32. Explain about the right to freedom in detail.

3

- Ans. 1. Article 19: Freedom of speech and expression, to assemble peacefully, to form associations, to move freely, to reside anywhere in India, and to practice any profession.
2. Article 20: Protection in respect of conviction for offences (no ex post facto laws, double jeopardy, or self-incrimination).
3. Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty — no person shall be deprived except according to procedure established by law.
4. Article 22: Protection against arbitrary arrest and detention.

Q33. Describe the structure of the Indian Parliament and its two Houses.

5

- Ans. 1. Bicameral Legislature: Comprises two Houses — Lok Sabha (Lower House) and Rajya Sabha (Upper House).
2. Lok Sabha:
- Maximum strength 545 (530 from states, 20 from UTs, 2 nominated by President).
 - Members elected directly for 5 years.
 - Led by the Speaker.
3. Rajya Sabha:
- Maximum strength 245 (233 elected by State Assemblies, 12 nominated by President).
 - Permanent body; 1/3rd members retire every 2 years.
 - Chaired by Vice-President.
4. Powers: Pass laws, approve budget, amend Constitution, and hold the executive accountable.

SECTION-D (5)

Q34. On the political map of India practice the following-

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|--|---|
| 1. Locate the capital of India during Battle of Plassey. | 1 |
| Ans. Murshidabad | |
| 2. Locate the state where farmers said no to grow Indigo. | 1 |
| Ans. Bihar | |
| 3. Locate the famous epicentre city of revolt of 1857. | 1 |
| Ans. Meerut | |
| 4. Locate the states famous for Asiatic Lion and Royal Bengal Tiger. | 2 |
| Ans. Gujrat (Gir National Park) and West Bengal (Sundarbans) | |

