

POLITICAL SCIENCE (028)

Sample Question Paper — Set 1
Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The question paper consists of five sections – A, B, C, D and E, with a total of 30 questions.
2. All questions are compulsory, subject to the internal choices provided.
3. Question numbers 1–12 are multiple choice questions of 1 mark each.
4. Question numbers 13–18 carry 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 50–60 words.
5. Question numbers 19–23 carry 4 marks each. Answers should not exceed 100–120 words. There is an internal choice in two of these questions.
6. Question numbers 24–26 are picture, map and passage based questions, to be answered as per the instructions given.
7. Question numbers 27–30 carry 6 marks each. Answers should not exceed 170–180 words. There is an internal choice in all four questions.

SECTION – A (12 × 1 = 12 Marks)

- Q.1** Which one of the following best describes the policy of ‘Shock Therapy’ adopted in Russia after 1991? [1]
(A) Continuation of total state control over the economy
(B) Withdrawal of state control and rapid transition towards a free market economy
(C) Nationalisation of all privately owned industries
(D) Closure of the economy to foreign trade and investment
- Q.2** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in the year: [1]
(A) 1965
(B) 1967
(C) 1971
(D) 1975
- Q.3** Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and choose the correct option: Assertion (A): The five permanent members of the UN Security Council enjoy veto power. Reason (R): The veto power was granted to these members to ensure that decisions could be taken quickly without any delay. [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.
- Q.4** The concept of ‘human security’ places primary emphasis on: [1]
(A) protection of national boundaries from external attack
(B) safety of individuals from hunger, disease and political repression
(C) expansion of military alliances
(D) strengthening of nuclear deterrence
- Q.5** Given below are two statements: Statement I: Global commons refer to resources that are not owned by any single country. Statement II: The Antarctic region is often cited as an example of a global common. Choose the correct option: [1]
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
- Q.6** Which one of the following is NOT considered a consequence of globalisation? [1]
(A) Increased flow of ideas and culture across borders
(B) Greater economic interdependence among nations
(C) Complete elimination of the role of the state
(D) Rise of transnational protest movements
- Q.7** After Independence, the approach followed by the Government of India towards the integration of princely states was: [1]
(A) Reliance on diplomatic persuasion alone, under all circumstances
(B) A combination of diplomacy and, where necessary, use of force
(C) Complete disregard for the wishes of the rulers
(D) Immediate abolition of monarchy without any negotiation
- Q.8** Match the leaders given in List I with the political formations in List II and select the correct code: [1]

List I (Leader)	List II (Political Formation)
I. Minoo Masani	i. Bharatiya Jana Sangh
II. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee	ii. Swatantra Party
III. Jayaprakash Narayan	iii. Sarvodaya Movement
IV. A.K. Gopalan	iv. Communist Party of India

Codes:

- (A) I-(ii), II-(i), III-(iii), IV-(iv)
(B) I-(i), II-(ii), III-(iv), IV-(iii)
(C) I-(iii), II-(iv), III-(i), IV-(ii)
(D) I-(iv), II-(iii), III-(ii), IV-(i)
- Q.9** NITI Aayog was constituted in place of the Planning Commission on 1 January 2015. Its main purpose is to: [1]
(A) Sanction annual budgets of state governments
(B) Provide policy advice to the Central and State Governments as a think tank
(C) Conduct national elections

(D) Regulate the stock market

Q.10 The Fourth General Election in India, marked by the rise of 'non-Congressism', was held in the year: [1]

- (A) 1962
- (B) 1967
- (C) 1971
- (D) 1977

Q.11 The National Emergency of 1975 was proclaimed by invoking which Article of the Indian Constitution? [1]

- (A) Article 356
- (B) Article 352
- (C) Article 370
- (D) Article 368

Q.12 Arrange the following states in the chronological order of their formation, from earliest to latest: I) Nagaland II) Haryana III) Sikkim IV) Chhattisgarh [1]

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

SECTION – B (6 × 2 = 12 Marks)

Q.13 What is meant by the 'traditional' notion of security in world politics? [2]

Q.14 State any two features of the European Union that make it an effective regional organisation. [2]

Q.15 Why is South Asia considered an important region in contemporary world politics? Give two reasons. [2]

Q.16 What is meant by Jayaprakash Narayan's idea of 'Communitarian Socialism'? [2]

Q.17 Mention any two demands raised during the regional movement in Punjab. [2]

Q.18 What was the Mandal Commission? Why was it appointed? [2]

SECTION – C (5 × 4 = 20 Marks)

Q.19 Discuss the role played by India in maintaining friendly relations with Russia after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. [4]

Q.20 'SAARC has not been able to achieve its objectives fully.' Examine this statement with the help of any two reasons. [4]

Q.21 A Explain any two functions performed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in promoting global trade. [4]

OR

Q.21 B Discuss any two challenges faced by the United Nations in the contemporary world. [4]

Q.22 A Analyse the main features of the 'Third Democratic Upsurge' in Indian politics. [4]

OR

Q.22 B Explain the circumstances that led to the split in the Indian National Congress in 1969. [4]

Q.23 Describe the process through which the princely state of Hyderabad was integrated into the Indian Union. [4]

SECTION – D (3 × 4 = 12 Marks)

Q.24 Study the illustration given below and answer the questions that follow: [4]

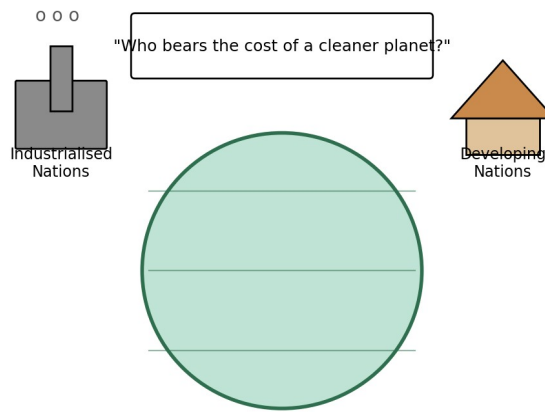


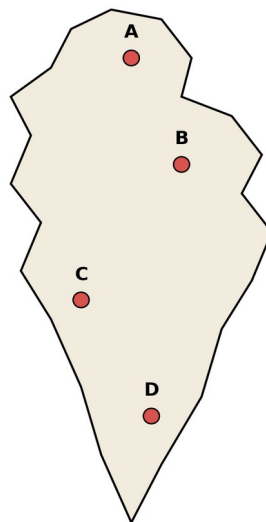
Fig. 24 — Sharing the Responsibility for the Environment

- I) The illustration is most closely related to the debate over: (A) military alliances (B) responsibility for environmental protection (C) trade tariffs (D) space exploration
- II) The figures in the illustration represent: (A) two political parties (B) developed and developing nations (C) two international organisations (D) two Indian states
- III) The principle that developed nations should bear a greater share of responsibility for environmental damage is known as: (A) national sovereignty (B) common but differentiated responsibilities (C) balance of power (D) collective security
- IV) Which of the following is an example of a global environmental agreement mentioned in this context? (A) Rio Summit (B) Treaty of Versailles (C) Panchsheel Agreement (D) NPT

NOTE: The following questions are for Visually Challenged candidates in lieu of Question Number 24:

- I) What is meant by the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’?
- II) Name one global summit associated with environmental issues.
- III) What is meant by a ‘global common’?
- IV) Give one example of a resource geopolitics issue.

Q.25 In the given outline political map of India, four states have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these states on the basis of the clues given below and write their correct names in your answer, along with the alphabet used in the map: [4]



Outline Political Map of India (for representation only, not to scale)

- I) This Himalayan state attained statehood in 1975 and was earlier a protectorate of India.
- II) This state was formed in the year 2000 by carving out territory from Madhya Pradesh.
- III) This north-eastern state became the 16th state of the Indian Union in 1963, following a long-standing identity-based movement.
- IV) This southern state is home to a coalition politics tradition and was reorganised on linguistic lines in 1956.

NOTE: The following questions are for Visually Challenged candidates in lieu of Question Number 25:

- I) Name the committee/commission that recommended the linguistic reorganisation of states.

- II) Name any one state that was created after the year 2000.
III) Name the north-eastern state that became the 16th state of the Indian Union in 1963.
IV) In which year were the states of Andhra Pradesh (Telugu-speaking) first created?

Q.26 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [4]

India's north-eastern states share long international borders and have a rich diversity of ethnic communities. Since independence, several movements demanding greater autonomy have emerged in this region, often rooted in concerns about identity, migration, and control over local resources. The government has responded through special constitutional provisions, autonomous district councils, and peace accords with various groups. Over time, many insurgent organisations have entered mainstream politics, while economic development and better connectivity have been prioritised to integrate the region more closely with the rest of the country.

- I) The movements in the north-eastern region have mainly been driven by concerns about: (A) industrial policy (B) identity, migration and control over resources (C) foreign trade (D) space technology
II) Which mechanism has been used to address demands for autonomy, as per the passage? (A) Autonomous District Councils (B) Abolition of state assemblies (C) Permanent central rule (D) Removal of special provisions
III) According to the passage, what shift has taken place among insurgent organisations? (A) They were banned entirely (B) Many have entered mainstream politics (C) They dissolved without any settlement (D) They merged with foreign groups
IV) The passage suggests that economic development in the region aims to: (A) isolate the region further (B) integrate the region with the rest of the country (C) reduce connectivity (D) increase migration issues

NOTE: The following questions are for Visually Challenged candidates in lieu of Question Number 26:

- I) Name any one hill state of the north-east that witnessed a strong movement for autonomy.
II) What is meant by an Autonomous District Council?
III) Name one peace accord signed by the Government of India with a regional group in the north-east.
IV) Mention one reason for regional movements in the north-eastern states.

SECTION – E (4 × 6 = 24 Marks)

Q.27 A Discuss any three major functions performed by NITI Aayog as a policy think tank of the Union Government. [6]

OR

Q.27 B Explain the 'Bottom-Up Approach' followed by NITI Aayog and discuss its significance for cooperative federalism. [6]

Q.28 A Examine the causes and consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. [6]

OR

Q.28 B Discuss the impact of 'Shock Therapy' on the economy and society of Russia after 1991. [6]

Q.29 A Analyse the growing importance of India as a contemporary centre of power in the twenty-first century. [6]

OR

Q.29 B Discuss the role of China as an emerging economic power in the twenty-first century. [6]

Q.30 A Trace the developments that led to the imposition of National Emergency in 1975 and discuss any three of its consequences. [6]

OR

Q.30 B Assess any three achievements of the Janata Government formed after the 1977 Lok Sabha elections. [6]

POLITICAL SCIENCE (028)

Marking Scheme — Set 1

Class XII

Maximum Marks: 80

SECTION – A

Ans.1 (B) Withdrawal of state control and rapid transition towards a free market economy [1]

Ans.2 (B) 1967 [1]

Ans.3 (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. [1]

Ans.4 (B) safety of individuals from hunger, disease and political repression [1]

Ans.5 (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct. [1]

Ans.6 (C) Complete elimination of the role of the state [1]

Ans.7 (B) A combination of diplomacy and, where necessary, use of force [1]

Ans.8 (C) I-(iii), II-(iv), III-(i), IV-(ii) [1]

Ans.9 (B) Provide policy advice to the Central and State Governments as a think tank [1]

Ans.10 (B) 1967 [1]

Ans.11 (B) Article 352 [1]

Ans.12 (B) II, I, IV, III [Nagaland-1963, Haryana-1966, Sikkim-1975, Chhattisgarh-2000] [1]

SECTION – B

Ans.13 The traditional notion of security is concerned mainly with threats to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of a state, usually arising from military dangers from other states. In this view, security is preserved chiefly by increasing military capability and forming strategic alliances. [2]

Ans.14 Any two: (i) It has created a common market allowing free movement of goods, services, capital and people among member states. (ii) It has introduced a common currency (the euro) and border-free travel in the Schengen Area, deepening economic and social integration. [2]

Ans.15 Any two reasons: (i) It is home to nearly a fifth of humanity, making its political stability significant for global politics. (ii) The region has been a site of tension between India and Pakistan as well as growing engagement of major powers like the US and China, making it strategically important. [2]

Ans.16 Communitarian Socialism, as put forward by Jayaprakash Narayan, views India as a society made up of layered communities — village, region and nation — that combine to form a true federation, with decentralised decision-making at each level rather than concentration of power at the centre. [2]

Ans.17 Any two: (i) Demand for greater state autonomy from the central government. (ii) Demands relating to river-water sharing and the status of Chandigarh as the shared capital. [2]

Ans.18 The Mandal Commission was set up to examine the question of reservation for socially and educationally backward classes. It was appointed because the benefits of development had largely bypassed the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and there was a need to assess their representation in government services and education. [2]

SECTION – C

Ans.19 After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, India continued its close ties with Russia as the principal successor state. Both countries have signed several agreements on trade, defence cooperation and technology sharing, including cooperation in the nuclear and space sectors. India has consistently supported Russia at international forums, and Russia has remained a major supplier of defence equipment to India, including support during sensitive strategic negotiations. Both nations have also cooperated on matters of regional security, such as concerns relating to Afghanistan and Central Asia, keeping the relationship strong despite the changed global order after the Cold War. [4]

Ans.20 Any two reasons: (i) Persistent political mistrust between India and Pakistan, the two largest members, has repeatedly stalled cooperation and summit-level meetings. (ii) SAARC does not allow bilateral and contentious issues to be raised formally, which limits its ability to resolve core disputes among member states, keeping intra-regional trade and cooperation well below potential. [4]

Ans.21 A Any two functions: (i) The WTO sets and enforces rules for international trade, encouraging member countries to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers. (ii) It provides a forum for negotiating trade agreements and a dispute-settlement mechanism through which countries can resolve trade disagreements without resorting to unilateral action. [4]

Ans.21 B Any two challenges: (i) Reforming the composition of the Security Council to reflect contemporary global realities, including demands for permanent seats for countries like India, has proved difficult due to a lack of consensus among existing permanent members. (ii) Securing adequate and timely funding from member states, especially major contributors, continues to limit the organisation's capacity to respond to crises. [4]

Ans.22 A The Third Democratic Upsurge, associated with the era of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation from the early 1990s, is marked by a shift from state control to market forces, from government to governance, and from the state as controller to the state as facilitator. It also reflects growing participation of the youth as an influential electoral group, with voters increasingly evaluating parties on the basis of development and governance rather than earlier identity-based mobilisation alone. [4]

Ans.22 B The 1969 split arose from a struggle for political succession within the Congress after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, when senior party leaders (the ‘Syndicate’) attempted to control the choice of Prime Minister. Differences between Indira Gandhi and the Syndicate deepened over the Presidential election of 1969, leading to a formal split into Congress (R) led by Indira Gandhi and Congress (O) led by the Syndicate group. [4]

Ans.23 Hyderabad, ruled by the Nizam, refused to accede to India and sought independent status while negotiating with Pakistan. Popular movements within the state, along with communal violence by the Razakars, created pressure for integration. In September 1948, the Indian Army undertook a police action, referred to as ‘Operation Polo’, that led to the surrender of the Nizam’s forces, after which Hyderabad formally acceded to and was integrated into the Indian Union. [4]

SECTION – D

Ans.24 (I) B; (II) B; (III) B; (IV) A [4]

Answers for Visually Challenged candidates: (I) It means developed countries, having contributed more historically to environmental damage, should take on a greater share of responsibility and cost for addressing it, while developing countries are given relatively more latitude. (II) The Rio Summit (1992). (III) Resources that belong to the international community as a whole and are not owned by any single country, such as the atmosphere, Antarctica or the ocean floor. (IV) Competing claims over oil, minerals or water resources among countries, e.g. disputes over Arctic resources.

Ans.25 (A) Sikkim; (B) Chhattisgarh; (C) Nagaland; (D) Kerala [4]

Answers for Visually Challenged candidates: (I) The States Reorganisation Commission. (II) Chhattisgarh (or Uttarakhand/Jharkhand). (III) Nagaland. (IV) 1956 (under the States Reorganisation Act).

Ans.26 (I) B; (II) A; (III) B; (IV) B [4]

Answers for Visually Challenged candidates: (I) Any one, e.g. Nagaland, Mizoram or Manipur. (II) A local self-government body given autonomy over certain administrative, financial and judicial matters in tribal areas of the north-east. (III) Any one, e.g. the Mizo Accord (1986). (IV) Concerns over identity, migration of outsiders, and control over local land and resources.

SECTION – E

Ans.27 A Any three: (i) It acts as a think tank providing policy and technical advice to the Centre and States. (ii) It fosters cooperative federalism by involving states as equal partners in national development planning through mechanisms like the Governing Council. (iii) It monitors and evaluates the implementation of government programmes and encourages the adoption of best practices across states. [6]

Ans.27 B Unlike the earlier Planning Commission, which followed a top-down approach with the Centre setting targets for states, NITI Aayog follows a Bottom-Up Approach, in which state governments actively participate in shaping national policy through platforms like the Governing Council and sub-groups of Chief Ministers. This is significant for cooperative federalism because it treats states as equal stakeholders, encourages competitive and cooperative federalism simultaneously, and allows region-specific concerns to shape national plans rather than a uniform template being imposed from the Centre. [6]

Ans.28 A Causes: prolonged economic stagnation under a centrally planned economy, an overgrown and inefficient bureaucracy, the failure of Gorbachev’s reforms (glasnost and perestroika) to arrest economic decline, and the rise of nationalist sentiments among constituent republics that demanded greater autonomy. Consequences: the emergence of 15 independent countries including Russia, the end of bipolarity in world politics, the adoption of Shock Therapy leading to severe economic hardship, and a decline in Russia’s global influence relative to its Soviet-era standing before a gradual recovery. [6]

Ans.28 B Shock Therapy involved a rapid transition from a centrally planned to a market economy through privatisation of state assets, removal of trade barriers, and convertibility of the currency. This led to a collapse in production, high inflation that wiped out savings, a sharp fall in living standards, and rising poverty and unemployment. State-owned assets were often sold at throwaway prices, giving rise to a small class of wealthy oligarchs, while social security systems that had existed under the Soviet system collapsed, worsening inequality. [6]

Ans.29 A India’s growing importance as a centre of power can be assessed on several fronts. Economically, its large and growing market, ambitions of becoming a multi-trillion dollar economy, and expanding services sector give it global economic weight. Strategically, indigenous nuclear capability, growing defence manufacturing under ‘Make in India’, and expanding space and technology programmes strengthen its standing. Culturally, its large diaspora across the world and its civilisational depth give it soft power. Diplomatically, India plays an active role in groupings like the G20, BRICS and the Quad, positioning it as an influential voice in a multipolar world. [6]

Ans.29 B China has emerged as a major economic power through market-oriented reforms initiated in the late 1970s, which opened its economy to foreign investment while retaining state control over strategic sectors. It has become the world's leading manufacturing hub and a major trading partner for most countries. Its Belt and Road Initiative has expanded its economic and strategic influence across Asia, Africa and Europe. At the same time, its rise has raised concerns among neighbours, including India, over trade imbalances, market access and territorial disputes, making China both an economic partner and a strategic competitor for many countries. **[6]**

Ans.30 A The Emergency was preceded by economic distress caused by poor harvests, inflation and rising unemployment, as well as growing political unrest reflected in the Gujarat and Bihar movements led by Jayaprakash Narayan against corruption and misgovernance. The Allahabad High Court's verdict invalidating the Prime Minister's election added to the political crisis, leading to the proclamation of Emergency under Article 352 in June 1975. Consequences included suspension of civil liberties and press censorship, large-scale arrests of opposition leaders, and postponement of elections. It also led to a temporary erosion of democratic institutions but ultimately galvanised public opinion in favour of restoring democracy, ending in Congress's defeat in the 1977 elections. **[6]**

Ans.30 B Any three: (i) The Janata Government restored civil liberties and press freedom that had been curtailed during the Emergency. (ii) It set up the Shah Commission to investigate excesses committed during the Emergency, strengthening institutional accountability. (iii) It amended the Constitution (44th Amendment) to make it more difficult to impose Emergency in future, thereby safeguarding democratic institutions, even though the government itself suffered from internal factionalism and could not complete its full term. **[6]**