

CBSE Class 10 Social Science Sample Paper 3

Subject Code: 087 | Academic Year 2026-27

Time Allowed: 3 Hours | Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper contains 38 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper is divided into four sections: Section A – History, Section B – Geography, Section C – Political Science and Section D – Economics.
3. Each section carries 20 marks and includes MCQs, Very Short Answer, Short Answer, Long Answer and Case-Based Questions.
4. Very Short Answer (VSA) questions carry 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 40 words.
5. Short Answer (SA) questions carry 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60 words.
6. Long Answer (LA) questions carry 5 marks each. Answers should not exceed 120 words.
7. Case-Based Questions (CBQ) carry 4 marks each, divided into sub-parts. Answers to each sub-part should not exceed 100 words.
8. Map-based questions carry a combined total of 5 marks (2 marks in Section A, 3 marks in Section B).
9. There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in some questions. Attempt only one option wherever a choice is given.
10. This paper is designed as a full-length, timed mock closely mirroring the difficulty spread of the actual board paper. It is an original practice paper prepared for futuretopper.in and is not an official CBSE sample paper.

SECTION A – HISTORY (20 MARKS)

1. Giuseppe Mazzini is best remembered in the history of European nationalism for: **[1]**
 - A. Leading Prussia's wars of unification
 - B. Founding secret societies to promote the idea of a unified Italian republic
 - C. Drafting the Treaty of Vienna
 - D. Establishing the Zollverein
2. The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 differed from the Non-Cooperation Movement mainly because it: **[1]**
 - A. Involved no participation from peasants
 - B. Called on people not merely to refuse cooperation but to actively break specific colonial laws
 - C. Was led entirely by the Muslim League
 - D. Focused exclusively on urban industrial workers
3. Within the theme 'The Making of a Global World', the movement of crops such as the potato from the Americas to other continents in the pre-modern period illustrates: **[1]**
 - A. The isolation of pre-modern economies from one another
 - B. Early global exchange of food crops well before industrial-era colonisation
 - C. The origin of the World Trade Organization
 - D. The Bretton Woods agreement
4. Assertion (A): Handwritten manuscripts limited the spread of ideas in pre-print societies. Reason (R): Manuscripts were fragile, expensive to produce and could only be reproduced slowly by hand. **[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

5A. Explain any two obstacles that nationalist movements faced from conservative forces in Europe after 1815. **[2]**

OR

5B. Explain any two reasons why peasants participated actively in the Non-Cooperation Movement.

6A. 'The idea of a nation is often built through shared myths and memories, not just political boundaries.' Justify with reference to nineteenth-century Europe. **[3]**

OR

6B. 'Print culture gave a new social status to women in nineteenth and early twentieth-century India.' Discuss with suitable examples.

7A. Analyse how romantic artists and poets contributed to the growth of nationalist feeling in Europe, and explain why culture alone was not sufficient to achieve unification. **[5]**

OR

7B. 'Colonial contact reshaped pre-modern global trade in significant ways.' Discuss with reference to the themes of trade, conquest and disease covered under 'The Making of a Global World'.

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

An original extract for practice: A women's reading circle in a large town began publishing a slim monthly magazine in the early twentieth century, carrying short stories, advice on household health, and occasional essays urging support for girls' schooling. Some male relatives of the contributors initially objected to women's names appearing in print, but the magazine's readership grew steadily among literate women in the town and nearby villages, with several readers later starting similar publications of their own.

8.1 What kinds of content did the magazine described in the passage carry? **[1]**

8.2 Why might some male relatives have objected to women's names appearing in print? **[1]**

8.3 Analyse how the growth of this magazine's readership reflects the wider relationship between print culture and women's public participation in this period. **[2]**

9. Identify and name the following places associated with the nationalist movement in India: **[2]**

(a) The place in Gujarat where mill workers organised a notable labour movement associated with Mahatma Gandhi in the early years of his activism in India.

(b) The city where the Indian National Congress held its session in 1920, at which the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.

Note: In the full-length examination this appears as an outline-map identification exercise; for this practice paper it is presented as a direct identification question testing the same map-skill content.

SECTION B – GEOGRAPHY (20 MARKS)

10. Which of the following best describes sustainable development in the context of resource use? **[1]**

A. Using resources as quickly as possible to maximise short-term growth

B. Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

C. Restricting resource use entirely to protect the environment

D. Allowing only government agencies to use natural resources

11. Project Tiger was launched in India primarily to: **[1]**

A. Increase the population of tigers through captive breeding only

B. Conserve tigers and their habitats in designated reserves

C. Promote tiger hunting for tourism revenue

D. Relocate all tigers to zoos across the country

12. Which of the following best explains why over-irrigation can sometimes harm agricultural land in the long run? [1]

- A. It has no effect on soil quality
- B. It can lead to waterlogging and salinity, reducing soil fertility
- C. It always increases crop yield without any drawbacks
- D. It reduces the need for any drainage system

13. Which of the following states is a leading producer of tea in India, benefiting from high rainfall and well-drained hill slopes? [1]

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Assam
- C. Punjab
- D. Gujarat

14. Which of the following is a non-conventional source of energy? [1]

- A. Coal
- B. Solar energy
- C. Mineral oil
- D. Natural gas

15. Which of the following industries is classified as agro-based, since it depends on agricultural produce as its main raw material? [1]

- A. Iron and steel industry
- B. Cotton textile industry
- C. Cement industry
- D. Information technology industry

16. Explain any two reasons why water is considered a resource that needs careful conservation despite India receiving substantial annual rainfall. [2]

17A. Examine the role of multipurpose river valley projects in India's development, along with any two criticisms levelled against them. [5]

OR

17B. Discuss the significance of the manufacturing sector for India's economic development, along with the environmental concerns associated with its growth.

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

An original extract for practice: A hill town popular with tourists reported that unregulated construction of hotels on steep slopes had increased the risk of landslides during the monsoon. Environmentalists pointed out that forest cover on the surrounding hills, which had earlier stabilised the soil, had been cleared to make way for new buildings and roads. The local administration proposed a moratorium on new construction above a certain altitude and incentives for hotels to plant trees on any open land within their premises.

18.1 Identify the main cause of increased landslide risk mentioned in the passage. [1]

18.2 Explain how the clearance of forest cover contributed to this risk. [2]

18.3 Suggest one additional measure, besides those mentioned, that could help reduce landslide risk in such a region. [1]

19. Identify and name the following, associated with resources and infrastructure in India: [3]

- (a) A major coal mining region located in the state of Jharkhand.
- (b) A major sea port located on the western coast of India, in Maharashtra.
- (c) An international airport located in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Note: In the full-length examination this appears as an outline-map exercise; here it is presented as a direct identification question testing the same map-skill content.

SECTION C – POLITICAL SCIENCE (20 MARKS)

- 20.** Sri Lanka's experience after independence in 1948 is often cited to illustrate: [1]
- A. The benefits of accommodating linguistic and religious diversity
 - B. The risks of majoritarian policies that alienate minority communities
 - C. A successful model of federal power-sharing
 - D. The absence of any ethnic diversity in the country
- 21.** In India's federal system, subjects on which both the union and state governments can make laws fall under the: [1]
- A. Union List
 - B. State List
 - C. Concurrent List
 - D. Residuary powers list
- 22.** Which of the following best illustrates a healthy expression of social difference within a democracy, rather than a harmful one? [1]
- A. A political party mobilising support by inciting hatred against another community
 - B. Citizens forming associations to demand better representation while respecting others' rights
 - C. A government banning all religious practices to enforce uniformity
 - D. Excluding a minority group entirely from voting rights
- 23.** Assertion (A): Political parties sometimes converge on similar policy positions on major issues. Reason (R): This can reduce meaningful choice for voters between competing parties. [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
- 24.** Highlight any two ways in which the judiciary supports the functioning of federalism in India. [2]
- 25.** State any two reasons why caste continues to influence politics in India, even though the Constitution guarantees equality. [2]
- 26.** 'Democracies must balance freedom and dignity with orderly conduct of public affairs.' Explain this statement with suitable arguments. [3]
- 27A.** 'Internal functioning of political parties in India faces several challenges.' Discuss with suitable examples. [5]

OR

- 27B.** Discuss any two electoral reforms introduced in India and evaluate their effectiveness in improving the fairness of elections.
- 28.** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

An original scenario for practice: The federation of Coralia consists of four provinces, each with a distinct regional language. For decades after independence, only the language of the largest province was used in national government offices and courts, causing frustration among citizens from the other three provinces who had to conduct official business in a language not their own. Following sustained political pressure, Coralia's parliament passed an amendment recognising all four regional languages as official within their respective provinces, while retaining a common link language for communication between provinces at the national level.

- 28.1 Identify the majoritarian policy followed in Coralia before the amendment. [1]
- 28.2 State one effect of this policy on citizens from the smaller provinces. [1]
- 28.3 Explain how the new language policy reflects the principle of power-sharing. [2]

SECTION D – ECONOMICS (20 MARKS)

- 29.** Which of the following best distinguishes economic development from mere economic growth? **[1]**
- A. Development considers only the growth rate of national income
 - B. Development considers broader improvements in living standards and opportunities, not just income growth
 - C. Growth and development always mean exactly the same thing
 - D. Development is measured only through industrial output
- 30.** Which sector of the Indian economy employs the largest proportion of the workforce, despite contributing a smaller share to national income compared to its employment share? **[1]**
- A. Primary sector
 - B. Secondary sector
 - C. Tertiary sector
 - D. Public sector only
- 31.** Which of the following best distinguishes the public sector from the private sector? **[1]**
- A. The public sector is owned and operated by government, while the private sector is owned by private individuals or companies
 - B. The public sector is always more profitable than the private sector
 - C. The private sector cannot provide any public services
 - D. The public sector exists only in developed countries
- 32.** Money acts as a medium of exchange mainly because it: **[1]**
- A. Is accepted by all parties as a means of payment for goods and services
 - B. Must always be backed by gold reserves
 - C. Can only be used within a single country
 - D. Has no role in facilitating trade
- 33.** Which of the following is most likely to be a term of a loan offered by an informal moneylender, compared to a formal bank? **[1]**
- A. Lower interest rate and simpler documentation
 - B. Higher interest rate and fewer formal safeguards for the borrower
 - C. Government supervision of lending practices
 - D. Mandatory collateral requirements identical to formal banks in every case
- 34.** Which of the following best reflects a factor that has enabled globalisation, as covered under the current syllabus? **[1]**
- A. Increasing restrictions on international communication
 - B. Liberalisation of trade policies and improvement in technology enabling closer integration of economies
 - C. Complete elimination of multinational companies
 - D. Reduction in the number of international flights and shipping routes
- 35.** Explain any three characteristics that distinguish the tertiary sector from the primary and secondary sectors. **[3]**
- 36.** 'Debt can become a burden when borrowing takes place mainly from informal sources.' Justify this statement. **[3]**
- 37.** Explain any three ways in which improved transport and communication technology have supported the process of globalisation. **[3]**

38A. A survey found that most workers in a city's organised manufacturing units had written appointment letters and access to paid sick leave, while most workers in nearby informal workshops had neither. Analyse the significance of this difference for the workers' economic security. **[5]**

OR

38B. 'Government intervention remains necessary even in a largely market-driven economy.' Discuss this statement with suitable examples.

— End of Question Paper —

Marking Scheme – Social Science Sample Paper 3

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SECTION A – HISTORY

1. Correct answer: B. Founding secret societies to promote the idea of a unified Italian republic

Mazzini founded organisations dedicated to spreading the idea of a unified Italian nation based on republican principles, influencing nationalist thinking well beyond Italy.

2. Correct answer: B. Called on people not merely to refuse cooperation but to actively break specific colonial laws

While Non-Cooperation asked people to withdraw support from colonial institutions, Civil Disobedience went further by encouraging people to actively defy specific unjust laws, such as the salt law, as a form of direct resistance.

3. Correct answer: B. Early global exchange of food crops well before industrial-era colonisation

The introduction of crops such as the potato from the Americas to Europe and Asia in the pre-modern period is a clear example of long-distance exchange connecting different parts of the world well before formal colonisation intensified global trade.

4. Correct answer: A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

Because manuscripts had to be copied laboriously by hand and were costly and fragile, only a limited number could ever exist, which restricted how widely ideas contained in them could circulate before the arrival of print.

5A. Answer:

(i) Conservative regimes restored after the defeat of Napoleon sought to reinstate hereditary monarchy and suppress liberal and nationalist ideas associated with the French Revolution. (ii) Repressive measures, including censorship of the press and surveillance of student and political associations, were used by governments such as Austria's to prevent nationalist ideas from spreading among the public.

5B. Answer:

(i) Many peasants were burdened by high rents and oppressive demands from landlords, and the movement offered a chance to protest these local grievances under a wider nationalist banner. (ii) Local leaders reinterpreted Gandhiji's call for Swaraj in ways relevant to their own concerns, such as relief from debt and rents, encouraging widespread peasant mobilisation across the countryside.

6A. Answer:

Nationalist thinkers and artists often drew on stories of common ancestry, historic struggles or shared folklore to give people a sense of belonging to the same community, even when they were spread across different regions and had never met one another. Public rituals, monuments and celebrations of past heroes reinforced these shared memories, giving abstract political ideas of nationhood an emotional, everyday reality. In this way, culture and memory worked alongside political events to build the sense of common identity on which movements for national unification depended.

6B. Answer:

As journals and cheap primers became more widely available, some women gained greater access to reading and were able to record and share their own experiences and opinions through writing, expanding their public voice in a limited but significant way. Reformers used print to campaign for female education and against restrictive customs, connecting print culture directly to debates over women's status in society. However, access remained unequal across class and region, meaning that while print opened new possibilities for some women, its benefits were not felt uniformly across all social groups.

7A. Answer:

Romantic artists and poets rejected the purely rational, calculating spirit associated with Enlightenment thought and instead celebrated emotion, folklore, landscape and a shared cultural past as the true basis of a nation's identity, helping ordinary people imagine an emotional bond with others who shared their language and traditions. Poets and composers who collected and popularised folk tales and songs presented them as evidence of a long-standing, distinct national culture, feeding a growing sense of pride and belonging. However, culture alone could not overcome entrenched political divisions, rival dynasties, and the resistance of established powers; it was ultimately combined with organised political movements, diplomacy and, in cases such as Germany and Italy, military campaigns, before fragmented territories were actually unified into single nation-states.

7B. Answer:

Pre-modern trade routes such as the Silk Route had already connected distant regions through the exchange of goods, people and ideas, but the arrival of European explorers and colonisers in the Americas and elsewhere intensified and altered these patterns dramatically. Conquest allowed colonising powers to extract precious metals and agricultural produce on a much larger scale than earlier trade networks had allowed, reorganising local economies around the needs of the coloniser. At the same time, contact introduced diseases such as smallpox to populations with no prior immunity, causing demographic collapse that further enabled conquest and reshaped the balance of power between the Old and New Worlds, showing how trade, conquest and disease were closely intertwined in this period.

8.

8.1 The magazine carried short stories, household health advice, and essays advocating for girls' education. [1 mark(s)]

8.2 Some male relatives likely objected because it was still considered socially unusual, in a conservative setting, for women's names and writing to appear publicly, which they may have seen as inappropriate or a threat to established social norms. [1 mark(s)]

8.3 The steady growth in readership, and the fact that readers went on to start their own similar publications, shows that print gave women a rare, expanding avenue for public expression and organisation at a time when other public platforms were largely closed to them; this reflects how print culture, even amid resistance, gradually widened opportunities for women to participate in public and intellectual life. [2 mark(s)]

9. Answer:

(a) Ahmedabad, in Gujarat, was where Gandhiji supported the mill workers' movement. (b) Nagpur hosted the 1920 Congress session at which Non-Cooperation was adopted.

SECTION B – GEOGRAPHY

10. Correct answer: B. Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Sustainable development means using resources in a way that satisfies current requirements while ensuring that future generations are not deprived of the resources and environmental quality they will need.

11. Correct answer: B. Conserve tigers and their habitats in designated reserves

Project Tiger was launched to protect tiger populations by establishing dedicated tiger reserves where habitat and prey base are conserved, addressing threats from poaching and habitat loss.

12. Correct answer: B. It can lead to waterlogging and salinity, reducing soil fertility

Excessive irrigation without adequate drainage can raise the water table, causing waterlogging and the accumulation of salts near the surface, both of which reduce the long-term fertility of agricultural land.

13. Correct answer: B. Assam

Assam's high rainfall, humid climate and well-drained hill slopes provide ideal conditions for tea cultivation, making it one of India's leading tea-producing states.

14. Correct answer: B. Solar energy

Solar energy is a renewable, non-conventional source of energy, unlike coal, mineral oil and natural gas, which are exhaustible, conventional fossil fuel sources.

15. Correct answer: B. Cotton textile industry

The cotton textile industry uses raw cotton, an agricultural produce, as its primary input, making it an agro-based industry rather than a mineral-based one.

16. Answer:

First, rainfall in India is highly uneven across seasons and regions, meaning some areas face acute scarcity even in years of overall adequate national rainfall. Second, rapid growth in agricultural, industrial and household demand for water, combined with pollution of existing water bodies, has placed growing pressure on available supplies, making careful management and conservation necessary despite the overall volume of rainfall received.

17A. Answer:

Multipurpose projects, which combine irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, flood control and sometimes navigation and fisheries in a single scheme, have supported agricultural growth, powered industrial development, and helped regulate the flow of rivers prone to seasonal flooding, making them an important part of India's water resource development strategy. Two criticisms of such projects are, first, that they often submerge large areas of forest and agricultural land, displacing local and tribal communities without always providing adequate rehabilitation, and second, that they can disrupt the natural sediment flow of rivers, affecting the fertility of downstream floodplains and the ecology of the river basin.

17B. Answer:

The manufacturing sector helps modernise agriculture by producing machinery and inputs, generates large-scale employment, and boosts export earnings by adding value to raw materials before they leave the country, making it a central pillar of national economic development. However, its rapid growth has raised environmental concerns, since many industries release untreated effluents into rivers and emit smoke and particulate matter into the air, contributing to water and air pollution; addressing this requires stronger enforcement of environmental regulations and wider adoption of cleaner production technologies alongside continued industrial growth.

18.

18.1 The main cause identified is unregulated construction on steep slopes, combined with the clearing of forest cover that had earlier stabilised the soil. *[1 mark(s)]*

18.2 Tree roots help bind soil particles together and absorb excess rainwater, reducing surface runoff; once forest cover is cleared for construction, the soil loses this natural stabilisation and becomes far more prone to slipping, especially during heavy monsoon rainfall on steep slopes. *[2 mark(s)]*

18.3 Any reasonable measure may be accepted, for example: enforcing strict slope-stability assessments before approving new construction, or building proper drainage channels to divert excess rainwater away from vulnerable slopes. *[1 mark(s)]*

19. Answer:

(a) Bokaro, in Jharkhand, is a major coal mining region. (b) Mumbai port, in Maharashtra, is a major sea port on India's western coast. (c) Chennai International Airport is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.

SECTION C – POLITICAL SCIENCE

20. Correct answer: B. The risks of majoritarian policies that alienate minority communities

Sri Lanka's post-independence policies favouring the Sinhala majority, including making Sinhala the sole official language, alienated the Tamil minority over time, illustrating the risks of majoritarian rather than power-sharing approaches.

21. Correct answer: C. Concurrent List

The Concurrent List contains subjects on which both the union and state governments are empowered to legislate, with union law generally prevailing in case of conflict.

22. Correct answer: B. Citizens forming associations to demand better representation while respecting others' rights

Democratic expression of social difference is considered healthy when groups organise peacefully to seek fair representation and address grievances, while still respecting the rights of other groups, unlike approaches based on hatred or exclusion.

23. Correct answer: A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

When major parties adopt very similar positions on important issues to appeal to a wide range of voters, it narrows the range of distinct alternatives on offer, reducing meaningful choice for the electorate.

24. Answer:

First, the judiciary interprets the Constitution to settle disputes between the union and state governments over their respective areas of authority, acting as a neutral umpire. Second, higher courts have the power to strike down laws or actions of either level of government that violate the constitutional division of powers, ensuring that federalism is upheld in practice and not just on paper.

25. Answer:

First, despite constitutional equality, deep social and economic inequalities linked to caste persist in practice, making caste-based mobilisation a way for disadvantaged groups to seek fairer representation and access to resources. Second, political parties sometimes consider caste composition while selecting candidates for particular constituencies, believing it improves their electoral prospects, which keeps caste relevant to political calculations even though it is not the sole determining factor in elections.

26. Answer:

Democracies are expected to protect the freedom and dignity of citizens, including their right to express dissent, practise their own culture and participate in public life without discrimination. At the same time, for a democracy to function effectively, decisions of elected bodies need to be respected and implemented in an orderly manner, and disputes need to be resolved through established institutions such as courts and legislatures rather than through disorder or violence. This balance between protecting individual freedom and dignity while maintaining orderly, rule-based governance is central to how outcomes of democracy are evaluated.

27A. Answer:

In many parties, top leadership positions are concentrated within a small number of families or individuals, limiting opportunities for other capable members to rise through open internal contests. Ordinary members often have little formal opportunity to influence major decisions, such as candidate selection, which tends to be controlled by a small central leadership. This concentration of power discourages internal debate and can weaken a party's ability to represent the diverse views of its own supporters, while dissenting voices within the party sometimes have to leave and form new parties rather than reform the existing one from within.

27B. Answer:

One reform is the requirement for candidates to disclose their assets, liabilities, educational qualifications and any pending criminal cases through sworn affidavits, which has made information about candidates more accessible to voters, though it has not prevented candidates with serious criminal charges from continuing to contest and sometimes win elections. Another reform is the use of Electronic Voting Machines with a verifiable paper audit trail, which has made the voting and counting process faster and reduced certain forms of booth-level malpractice, though concerns about the broader role of money power in campaigning remain. Overall, such reforms have improved transparency and administrative efficiency, even though deeper issues around internal party democracy and campaign finance still require further reform.

28.

28.1 Before the amendment, only the language of the largest province was used in national offices and courts, a majoritarian language policy that privileged one province's language over the others. [1 mark(s)]

28.2 Citizens from the smaller provinces were frustrated at having to conduct official business in a language that was not their own, reflecting a sense of exclusion from full participation in national institutions. [1 mark(s)]

28.3 By recognising all four regional languages as official within their own provinces while retaining a common link language for inter-provincial communication, the new policy accommodates linguistic diversity rather than imposing one province's language on all others; this reflects power-sharing because it distributes linguistic recognition and administrative convenience across all provinces, reducing the risk of alienation and helping preserve the unity of the federation. [2 mark(s)]

SECTION D – ECONOMICS

29. Correct answer: B. Development considers broader improvements in living standards and opportunities, not just income growth

While economic growth typically refers to an increase in a country's income or output, development is a broader concept that also considers improvements in health, education, equality and overall quality of life.

30. Correct answer: A. Primary sector

The primary sector, particularly agriculture, continues to employ a very large share of India's workforce, even though its contribution to national income is proportionately smaller than that of the secondary and tertiary sectors.

31. Correct answer: A. The public sector is owned and operated by government, while the private sector is owned by private individuals or companies

The defining distinction between the two lies in ownership and control: the public sector consists of enterprises owned and run by the government, while the private sector consists of enterprises owned by private individuals or firms.

32. Correct answer: A. Is accepted by all parties as a means of payment for goods and services

Money functions as a medium of exchange because it is widely and readily accepted in payment for goods and services, removing the need for a double coincidence of wants required under barter.

33. Correct answer: B. Higher interest rate and fewer formal safeguards for the borrower

Informal lenders typically charge much higher interest rates than banks and are not supervised by the Reserve Bank of India, leaving borrowers with fewer formal safeguards against exploitative lending terms.

34. Correct answer: B. Liberalisation of trade policies and improvement in technology enabling closer integration of economies

Globalisation has been enabled largely by liberalisation of trade and investment policies alongside rapid improvements in technology, both of which have allowed economies to integrate more closely with one another.

35. Answer:

First, the tertiary sector does not itself produce a tangible good but instead provides support services, such as transport, banking, education and communication, which help other sectors function effectively. Second, it has grown particularly rapidly in recent decades in India, now contributing the largest share of national income among the three sectors. Third, employment within the tertiary sector varies widely in nature, ranging from highly skilled professional services to low-paid informal work such as domestic help, showing considerable internal diversity compared with the more uniform activities of the primary sector.

36. Answer:

Informal lenders often charge very high rates of interest compared to formal banks, meaning that a large share of a borrower's income may go towards interest payments alone rather than productive investment or improving household welfare. Because informal lending is not regulated or supervised, borrowers have little legal protection against exploitative terms or unfair recovery practices. Over time, if crops fail or income is disrupted, high-interest informal debt can trap borrowers in a continuing cycle of repayment and re-borrowing, which is why expanding access to formal, supervised sources of credit is considered important for reducing the burden of debt.

37. Answer:

First, faster and cheaper transportation, including large container ships and expanded air cargo networks, has reduced the cost and time needed to move goods across long distances between countries. Second, improved telecommunication networks and the internet allow companies to coordinate production, design and customer service across multiple countries in real time, supporting globally distributed operations. Third, technology has enabled companies to place orders instantly with distant suppliers and track shipments, making international supply chains more efficient and reliable than in earlier periods.

38A. Answer:

Workers with written appointment letters and paid sick leave in the organised sector have documented proof of employment, which can help them access loans, legal protection against unfair dismissal, and continued income even during short periods of illness, contributing to greater overall economic security. Workers in the informal workshops, lacking such documentation and benefits, face greater vulnerability: they can lose income entirely during illness, have limited recourse if dismissed without reason, and often cannot access formal credit that requires proof of stable employment. This difference highlights why expanding formal, organised sector employment, or extending basic protections to informal workers, is considered important for improving overall economic security in the workforce.

38B. Answer:

Markets alone may not adequately provide essential public services, such as basic healthcare or primary education, to poorer sections of society who cannot pay market prices, making government intervention necessary to ensure wider access. Markets can also fail to account for social costs, such as environmental pollution from private production, so government regulation is needed to protect public health and the environment even where production is privately owned. Additionally, government intervention through infrastructure investment, price support for essential goods, and social security schemes helps reduce inequality and provide a safety net that a purely market-driven system may not offer on its own, showing that a degree of government involvement remains important alongside market mechanisms.

— End of Marking Scheme —