

YASASVI Social Science

Sample Paper – 4

Duration: 38 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 100

Instructions

- This paper contains **25** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Social Science portion of the **YASASVI** entrance test.
- Each correct answer carries **+4 marks**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **Class 8 NCERT — History (Our Pasts III), Geography (Resources and Development), Civics (Social and Political Life III), and Economics basics.**
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. Lord Wellesley introduced the Subsidiary Alliance system to expand British control over Indian states. Under this arrangement, which of the following was required of Indian rulers?

- (A) Pay an annual tribute directly to the British Parliament in London
- (B) Adopt English as the official language of their courts within five years
- (C) Surrender their right to trade with other foreign powers
- (D) Maintain a British military contingent at their own expense and accept a British Resident at their court, surrendering control over foreign policy

Q2. The Doctrine of Lapse was one of the most controversial policies used by the British to annex Indian kingdoms. According to this doctrine, if a ruler died without a natural male heir, the kingdom would be taken over by the British. Which Governor-General introduced this doctrine?



- (A) Lord Dalhousie
- (B) Lord Wellesley
- (C) Lord Cornwallis
- (D) Lord Canning

Q3. After the abolition of slavery in British colonies, plantation owners needed a new source of cheap labour. Thousands of Indian workers were sent to places like the Caribbean, Fiji, and Mauritius under the indentured labour system. Which of the following BEST describes this system?

- (A) Workers were voluntarily employed in Indian factories at government-fixed wages
- (B) Workers signed contracts to work on foreign plantations for a fixed period under strict conditions, receiving minimal wages and living in poor conditions
- (C) Skilled artisans were sponsored by the British to travel to England and learn industrial techniques
- (D) Labourers were granted free land in the colonies in exchange for five years of agricultural work

Q4. The British government enacted the Vernacular Press Act in 1878 to suppress nationalist sentiment in Indian-language newspapers. Which of the following CORRECTLY describes a key provision of this Act?

- (A) All Indian newspapers were required to be published in English to ensure uniformity of reporting
- (B) Indian editors were given full freedom of the press and all pre-existing restrictions were removed
- (C) The government was empowered to seize printing presses and publications that printed material deemed to be seditious or likely to incite opposition to British rule
- (D) Every vernacular newspaper was required to obtain prior approval from a district court before publishing any political content



- Q5.** The Poona Pact of September 1932 was a significant agreement between Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. What was the central outcome of this pact?
- (A) Gandhi agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement in exchange for Ambedkar's political support
 - (B) Ambedkar agreed to join the Indian National Congress as a senior leader and contest elections on its behalf
 - (C) The British government agreed to grant dominion status to India within five years of the pact
 - (D) Depressed Classes (Scheduled Castes) would have reserved seats within the general electorate rather than a separate electorate, as the British had initially proposed under the Communal Award
- Q6.** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 with a dramatic act of defiance against British rule. Which of the following statements CORRECTLY describes the Dandi March?
- (A) Gandhi led a 240-mile march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi on the Gujarat coast, where he made salt from seawater to defy the British Salt Tax
 - (B) Gandhi marched from Delhi to Amritsar, protesting against the Rowlatt Act of 1919
 - (C) Gandhi led a mass procession from Calcutta to Lucknow to demand immediate and complete independence
 - (D) Gandhi marched from Bombay to Wardha to formally launch the Quit India Movement of 1942
- Q7.** Swami Vivekananda was one of India's greatest spiritual leaders and played a key role in reviving confidence in Indian culture and philosophy. Which of the following is CORRECTLY associated with him?
- (A) He founded the Brahmo Samaj and led a campaign to abolish child marriage and the caste system



- (B) He founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, dedicated to social service, education, and the ideal that service to humanity is service to God
- (C) He established the Arya Samaj to reform Hinduism by returning strictly to Vedic traditions and opposing idol worship
- (D) He led the Theosophical Society and promoted Hindu-Muslim unity through interfaith dialogues

Q8. The Singh Sabha movement emerged in Punjab in the late 19th century as a religious and social reform movement among the Sikhs. Its PRIMARY objective was to:

- (A) Unite all Sikh princely states into a single political confederation under the Maharaja of Patiala
- (B) Demand a separate legislature with reserved seats for Sikhs in the British Indian government
- (C) Purify Sikh religious practices, promote the Gurmukhi script and Punjabi literacy, and counter the spread of Christianity and Brahmanical influences within the Sikh community
- (D) Launch an armed uprising against British rule in Punjab to restore Sikh sovereignty

Q9. The idea of sustainable development became central to global environmental policy. Which of the following BEST defines sustainable development?

- (A) Development that maximises industrial output as rapidly as possible by using all available natural resources without restriction
- (B) Development that focuses exclusively on improving the economic conditions of urban centres and ignores rural areas
- (C) Development in which the current generation sacrifices all comforts and consumption so that future generations inherit more resources



- (D) Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Q10. Black soil, also called regur soil, is found mainly in the Deccan Plateau of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. It is considered ideal for cotton cultivation. Which of the following BEST explains why?

- (A) Black soil has a high moisture-retaining capacity, swells when wet, and is rich in calcium carbonate, iron, and magnesium — it holds water during dry spells and releases it slowly to the crop
- (B) Black soil drains water very rapidly, preventing waterlogging near the shallow roots of cotton plants
- (C) Black soil is almost completely free of nutrients, which forces cotton plants to develop stronger and deeper root systems
- (D) Black soil is very light and loose, making it extremely easy to plough with minimal machinery or draught animals

Q11. Water conservation is critical in semi-arid regions of India. Which of the following methods is MOST effective for conserving rainwater and recharging groundwater in such areas?

- (A) Constructing large reservoirs that store river water and distribute it through long irrigation canals across districts
- (B) Building check dams across seasonal streams to slow surface runoff, allow water to percolate gradually into the soil, and recharge local groundwater aquifers
- (C) Deepening existing wells by 50 metres to reach deeper underground water tables
- (D) Installing coastal desalination plants to convert seawater into fresh-water and pipe it to inland semi-arid regions

Q12. India produces crude oil and natural gas from several onshore and offshore regions. Which pair of states along with the offshore region is



MOST significant in India's petroleum production?

- (A) Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Punjab and Haryana
- (C) Gujarat and Assam, along with the Mumbai High offshore oilfield
- (D) Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

Q13. Indian agriculture encompasses different types of farming. Which of the following CORRECTLY states the KEY difference between subsistence farming and commercial farming?

- (A) Subsistence farming uses advanced machinery while commercial farming relies entirely on human and animal labour
- (B) Subsistence farming is practised only on hilly terrain; commercial farming takes place exclusively on river plains
- (C) Subsistence farming requires irrigation throughout the year while commercial farming is entirely rain-fed
- (D) In subsistence farming, crops are grown mainly for the farmer's own household consumption, while in commercial farming, crops are produced specifically to be sold in the market for profit

Q14. Population density is calculated as the total population divided by the total land area (persons per square kilometre). According to the Census of India 2011, which state has the HIGHEST population density among the following?

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) West Bengal
- (D) Kerala

Q15. Mahatma Gandhi gave great importance to khadi (hand-spun, hand-woven cloth) and village industries during the freedom movement. Which of the following BEST explains why Gandhi promoted khadi?



- (A) Khadi was considered superior in quality to British mill cloth and could fetch higher export prices in European markets
- (B) Spinning khadi symbolised self-reliance and dignity, provided employment to millions of rural poor, boycotted British textile imports, and united Indians across caste and class distinctions
- (C) Gandhi believed that spinning khadi had proven health benefits and that wearing it prevented diseases
- (D) The British colonial government endorsed khadi production as a way to create rural employment and reduce urban migration

Q16. The Indian railway network, one of the world's largest, was developed mainly during the British colonial period. Which of the following BEST describes the role of railways in India's national integration?

- (A) Railways served only British merchants by transporting raw materials from the interior to ports for export and had no impact on Indian society
- (B) Railways created regional barriers because they connected only major cities, leaving rural areas completely isolated from the national mainstream
- (C) Railways connected distant parts of the country, enabled the movement of goods and people across regions, promoted cultural exchange, and strengthened India's economic and social unity
- (D) Railways caused the complete decline of coastal shipping and river transport, permanently isolating inland communities from each other

Q17. Article 14 of the Indian Constitution is one of the most important Fundamental Rights. Which of the following CORRECTLY states what Article 14 guarantees?

- (A) The government shall provide equal wages to all workers in every sector of the economy without any distinction
- (B) Every citizen shall have an equal right to contest elections for public office regardless of caste, class, or income



- (C) The government shall distribute land equally among all citizens as a fundamental right
- (D) The state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India

Q18. The Indian Constitution contains special provisions for the protection of religious and linguistic minorities. Under Articles 29 and 30, which of the following rights is guaranteed to minority communities?

- (A) Minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their own choice
- (B) Minority communities can demand that their language be included as one of the official languages of the Indian Union
- (C) Religious minorities are fully exempt from paying income tax if their income is derived from religious activities or religious trusts
- (D) Minority religions can lawfully prohibit members of other faiths from entering their places of worship

Q19. The Indian Constitution divides legislative subjects among the Union List, State List, and Concurrent List. Regarding the Concurrent List, which of the following statements is CORRECT?

- (A) Only the Central Government (Parliament) can make laws on subjects in the Concurrent List; state governments have no power whatsoever
- (B) Both Parliament and state legislatures can make laws on subjects in the Concurrent List, but if there is a conflict between a Central law and a state law, the Central law prevails
- (C) Only state governments can make laws on Concurrent List subjects; Parliament has no jurisdiction over them
- (D) No law on any Concurrent List subject can be enacted without the prior approval of the Supreme Court of India



- Q20.** The Consumer Protection Act (COPRA) 1986 established a three-tier quasi-judicial system to redress consumer complaints at different monetary levels. Which of the following CORRECTLY describes this three-tier structure?
- (A) Local panchayat (village level) → District civil court → Supreme Court of India
 - (B) Police station complaint cell → Civil court → High Court
 - (C) District Consumer Forum (claims up to Rs 20 lakh) → State Consumer Commission (Rs 20 lakh to Rs 1 crore) → National Consumer Commission (above Rs 1 crore)
 - (D) Consumer cooperative society → District Collector's office → High Court
- Q21.** The Right to Information (RTI) Act was enacted in India in 2005. Which of the following BEST explains how the RTI Act strengthens democracy?
- (A) RTI makes voting in elections mandatory for all adult citizens, ensuring higher voter participation and democratic legitimacy
 - (B) RTI gives the government the authority to collect and publish personal financial information about all citizens for transparency purposes
 - (C) RTI empowers the police to access private communications of individuals whenever they suspect a threat to national security or public order
 - (D) RTI empowers citizens to seek information about the decisions, expenditure, and actions of government offices, thereby promoting transparency and holding public officials accountable
- Q22.** The Indian Constitution provides specific safeguards for gender equality. Which of the following is a Constitutional provision DIRECTLY aimed at enabling the state to take special steps for the welfare and protection of women?



- (A) Article 15(3) permits the state to make special provisions for women and children, recognising the need to address historical disadvantage
- (B) Article 21 guarantees the right to vote exclusively to women in order to compensate for their historical exclusion from political life
- (C) The Constitution mandates that all states must reserve at least 50 per cent of government jobs for women as a matter of fundamental right
- (D) Article 19 grants women the exclusive freedom to form associations and cooperatives without any state interference

Q23. Money performs several essential functions in a modern economy. Which of the following CORRECTLY identifies the primary functions of money?

- (A) Money primarily serves as a tool for government investment, taxation policy, and financing military expenditure
- (B) Money acts as a medium of exchange (facilitating transactions), a unit of account (measuring and comparing value), a store of value (preserving purchasing power over time), and a standard of deferred payment
- (C) Money mainly functions as a profit-generating instrument for banks through the collection of interest on loans
- (D) Money's sole function is to serve as an emergency store of value for governments during economic crises

Q24. Before money was invented, people traded goods and services through the barter system. What is the MOST significant limitation of the barter system that led to its replacement by money?

- (A) The barter system was geographically restricted to trade between neighbouring villages and could not function in cities
- (B) The barter system worked satisfactorily only for luxury goods such as jewellery and silk, making it useless for essential food items



- (C) The barter system required a double coincidence of wants — both parties had to want exactly what the other possessed at the same time — making exchange difficult and inefficient
- (D) The barter system could only operate between people belonging to the same caste or occupational community, limiting its scope

Q25. Multinational corporations (MNCs) have expanded into Indian agriculture by promoting contract farming and selling patented seeds and agri-inputs. Which of the following BEST describes a concern about the impact of MNCs on local farmers in India?

- (A) MNCs provide all farmers with free patented seeds and modern equipment every season, making Indian agriculture highly profitable
- (B) MNCs have increased crop diversity by encouraging farmers to cultivate a wider variety of traditional crops for domestic consumption
- (C) MNCs have independently financed rural roads, irrigation canals, and warehouses, making Indian agriculture fully self-sufficient
- (D) MNCs may compel farmers to purchase expensive patented seeds every season (since farmers cannot save and replant them), creating debt cycles, while profits are repatriated abroad rather than benefiting local rural communities



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Subsidiary Alliance: Lord Wellesley (Governor-General 1798–1805) devised the Subsidiary Alliance as a tool for rapid expansion of British power without the need to conquer every state by war. It cleverly made Indian rulers financially and militarily dependent on the British.

Step 1 — Key terms of the Alliance: The Indian ruler had to (i) keep a British military contingent within their state, (ii) pay for its maintenance (subsidy) from their own treasury, (iii) accept a British Resident at their court who monitored all affairs, and (iv) give up the right to conduct independent foreign relations.

Step 2 — Effect of the policy: Rulers who could not pay the subsidy had to cede territory to the British. Over time, the British acquired vast amounts of revenue-generating land. Hyderabad, Mysore, and Awadh all came under the alliance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Tribute to Parliament in London was not part of the Subsidiary Alliance; payments went to the East India Company to maintain troops.
- Option B: There was no requirement to adopt English as a court language under this system.
- Option C: Surrender of foreign trade rights was not a stated condition; the key was surrender of foreign policy and hosting British troops.

Final Answer: Indian rulers maintained British troops at their expense and accepted a British Resident, surrendering foreign policy control. ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Doctrine of Lapse: The Doctrine of Lapse stated that if a ruler of a princely state died without a natural (biological) male heir, the state would automatically be annexed by the British East India Company. Adopted sons were not recognised as legal heirs for purposes of succession.

Step 1 — Who introduced it: Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General from 1848 to 1856, introduced and aggressively applied this doctrine. He used it to annex



Satara (1848), Jhansi (1853), Nagpur (1854), and Awadh (1856).

Step 2 — Significance: The doctrine was widely resented by Indian rulers. The annexation of Jhansi, for example, led the Rani of Jhansi (Lakshmibai) to join the 1857 revolt. The doctrine contributed directly to the causes of the Revolt of 1857.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Lord Wellesley introduced the Subsidiary Alliance; he did not introduce the Doctrine of Lapse.
- Option C: Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement of 1793; he was not associated with the Doctrine of Lapse.
- Option D: Lord Canning was the Governor-General during and after the 1857 Revolt; the doctrine had already been in place before his tenure.

Final Answer: The Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by Lord Dalhousie. ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Indentured Labour System: After slavery was formally abolished across the British Empire in 1833, sugar, rubber, and tea plantation owners in the Caribbean, Fiji, Mauritius, and South Africa desperately needed cheap labour. The British replaced slavery with indentured labour, mainly recruiting from poverty-stricken regions of India.

Step 1 — How the system worked: Indian workers signed contracts (indentures) that bound them to work for a plantation owner, typically for five years, for very low wages. They were transported to distant colonies and had virtually no freedom to leave or change employers during the contract period.

Step 2 — Conditions: Workers lived in cramped quarters on plantations, faced physical punishment, and were heavily fined for missing work. Many never returned to India. This system has been called a “new form of slavery.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The system was not voluntary employment in Indian factories; workers were transported abroad under binding contracts.
- Option C: Workers were not skilled artisans sent to learn techniques in England; they were agricultural labourers sent to foreign plantations.



- Option D: Workers were not granted free land; they worked as bound labourers for a plantation owner and rarely received land in the end.

Final Answer: Indentured workers signed contracts and were transported abroad to work on plantations under strict, exploitative conditions. ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Vernacular Press Act 1878: Passed by Lord Lytton, the Vernacular Press Act gave the British government sweeping powers over Indian-language newspapers. It was intended to silence newspapers such as *Amrit Bazar Patrika* and *Som Prakash* that were openly criticising colonial rule.

Step 1 — Key provision: Under the Act, magistrates could call upon printers and publishers of vernacular newspapers to sign a bond, agreeing not to publish anything that could excite feelings of disaffection toward the government. If they refused or violated the bond, the government could confiscate their printing press and paper.

Step 2 — Impact: The Act was bitterly resented as a blow to press freedom. It applied only to vernacular-language papers, not English papers — a clear double standard. It was repealed in 1882 by Lord Ripon.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: There was no requirement to publish in English; the Act targeted vernacular papers precisely because they were influential in local languages.
- Option B: The Act did the opposite of granting freedom — it imposed restrictions and penalties.
- Option D: While prior restraint was a feature, it was exercised through executive (government) bonds and seizure, not court approval for each article.

Final Answer: The Vernacular Press Act empowered the government to seize presses and papers that published seditious material. ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

Solution

Concept — Poona Pact 1932: In August 1932, British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald announced the Communal Award, which granted Depressed Classes (Scheduled Castes) separate electorates — they would vote in their own constituencies, separate from Hindus. Gandhi, who was in Poona's Yerawada jail, began a fast unto death in protest, arguing that a separate electorate would permanently divide Hindu society.

Step 1 — Gandhi's objection: Gandhi feared that a separate electorate would sever Dalits from the Hindu community and entrench untouchability. He opposed separation, not reservation itself.

Step 2 — The Pact: Ambedkar, who had initially supported separate electorates as the only way to secure Dalit political power, agreed in September 1932 to give them up. In exchange, the number of reserved seats for Scheduled Castes within the general (joint) electorate was significantly increased. This agreement is the Poona Pact.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Gandhi did not suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement as part of the Poona Pact; this was a separate matter.
- Option B: Ambedkar did not join the Congress; he remained an independent leader and continued to advocate for Dalit rights outside the Congress.
- Option C: The British did not offer dominion status in the Poona Pact; it was a settlement between Gandhi and Ambedkar about electoral arrangements.

Final Answer: Scheduled Castes got reserved seats in the general electorate instead of a separate electorate. ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Salt March (Dandi March) 1930: Gandhi chose salt as the symbol of protest because salt was a daily necessity used by every Indian and the British Salt Tax made it illegal for Indians to collect or sell salt without paying a tax. By breaking the salt law, Gandhi could mobilise people across all classes and regions.

Step 1 — The march: On 12 March 1930, Gandhi and 78 followers left Sabarmati



Ashram in Ahmedabad. They walked approximately 240 miles (385 km) over 24 days, reaching the coastal village of Dandi in Gujarat on 5 April 1930.

Step 2 — The act of defiance: On 6 April 1930, Gandhi picked up a handful of salt from the seashore, thereby breaking the Salt Law. This triggered mass civil disobedience across India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The march from Delhi to Amritsar describes no specific historical event; protests against the Rowlatt Act in 1919 included the Jallianwala Bagh gathering, not a march of this kind.
- Option C: There was no mass Calcutta-to-Lucknow march during this period.
- Option D: The Quit India Movement was launched in August 1942 in Bombay; it was not connected to the Dandi March.

Final Answer: Gandhi led a 240-mile march from Sabarmati to Dandi to make salt in defiance of the British Salt Tax. ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission: Swami Vivekananda (1863–1902) was the chief disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He electrified the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 with his speech beginning “Sisters and Brothers of America,” presenting Hinduism as a universal, tolerant religion.

Step 1 — Ramakrishna Mission: Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission in Belur Math near Calcutta in 1897. The Mission combined spiritual practice with practical service — running schools, hospitals, and disaster relief operations. Its motto is “Atmano mokshartham jagad-hitaya cha” (for one’s own liberation and for the welfare of the world).

Step 2 — Core philosophy: Vivekananda taught that serving the poor is equivalent to worshipping God (“Daridra Narayana” — the poor as God). He revived pride in Indian culture and is regarded as a key figure in Hindu renaissance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Brahmo Samaj was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1828; Vivekananda had no role in it.



- Option C: The Arya Samaj was founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1875; it opposed idol worship, which Vivekananda did not.
- Option D: The Theosophical Society was co-founded by Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott (not Vivekananda); Annie Besant later led it.

Final Answer: Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 for social service and universal religious harmony. ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Singh Sabha Movement: The Singh Sabha movement was founded in Amritsar in 1873, partly in response to conversions of Sikhs to Christianity and to a perceived drift away from Sikh teachings. A second more reform-oriented Sabha was established in Lahore in 1879. Together they formed the backbone of Sikh religious and social revival in the late 19th century.

Step 1 — Aims of the movement: The Singh Sabha worked to restore Sikh doctrines as taught in the Guru Granth Sahib, eliminate superstitions and practices borrowed from Brahmanical Hinduism, promote education through Gurmukhi script, and establish Khalsa schools and colleges.

Step 2 — Outcomes: The movement eventually led to the Gurdwara Reform Movement and the establishment of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) in 1920, which took over management of Sikh shrines from hereditary priests (mahants).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Political confederation of Sikh princely states was not an objective of the Singh Sabha; it was a religious and social reform movement.
- Option B: Demands for separate legislative seats were associated with later political organisations; the Singh Sabha was focused on religious and educational reform.
- Option D: The Singh Sabha explicitly used peaceful, educational, and literary means; it was not an armed movement.

Final Answer: The Singh Sabha movement aimed to purify Sikh practices, promote Gurmukhi literacy, and counter external religious influences. ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Sustainable Development: The term was popularised by the Brundtland Commission report “Our Common Future” (1987), published by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. It recognises that economic development and environmental protection must go hand in hand.

Step 1 — Core definition: Sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This means using resources efficiently, avoiding permanent environmental degradation, and distributing benefits equitably.

Step 2 — Why it matters: Non-renewable resources (coal, oil) take millions of years to form. If the current generation exhausts them, future generations will have nothing. Sustainable development requires switching to renewables, reducing waste, and preserving ecosystems.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Maximising industrial output without regard for resource depletion is unsustainable — the opposite of sustainable development.
- Option B: Focusing only on urban economic growth ignores rural needs and environmental limits; it is not sustainable development.
- Option C: The current generation does not have to sacrifice all comforts; sustainable development seeks a balance between present needs and future capacity.

Final Answer: Sustainable development meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Black Soil (Regur) and Cotton: Black soil covers large parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. It is the product of weathering of basaltic (volcanic) Deccan Trap rocks. Its dark colour comes from iron, aluminium, and magnesium compounds.

Step 1 — Properties of black soil: Black soil is rich in minerals such as calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, potash, and lime. Its most distinctive property



is its ability to retain moisture: it swells and becomes sticky when wet, and cracks when dry, allowing deep aeration of roots.

Step 2 — Why it suits cotton: Cotton needs warm temperatures and moderate rainfall, but it cannot tolerate waterlogging. Black soil's ability to hold moisture between rains and release it slowly is ideal for cotton, which has a long growing season. This is why the Deccan cotton belt coincides with black soil regions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Black soil does NOT drain quickly; it holds water strongly. Rapid drainage would actually stress cotton during dry spells.
- Option C: Black soil is not nutrient-poor; it is rich in minerals. Poor soil would reduce yields, not improve them.
- Option D: Black soil is heavy and clay-rich, making it harder to plough, not easier; this is not the reason it suits cotton.

Final Answer: Black soil retains moisture and is mineral-rich, making it ideal for cotton cultivation. ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Check Dams and Watershed Management: In semi-arid regions (Rajasthan, Gujarat, parts of the Deccan), rainfall is seasonal and surface water flows away quickly. Check dams are small barriers built across streams or gullies to slow water flow, allowing it time to seep into the ground and recharge groundwater.

Step 1 — How check dams work: By impeding the rapid flow of water, check dams reduce soil erosion, hold water temporarily, and allow gradual infiltration into the soil. Over time, wells and springs in the watershed area show higher water levels.

Step 2 — Watershed management: Watershed management involves treating an entire drainage basin — planting trees, bunding fields, and building check dams — to maximise the proportion of rainfall that enters the groundwater rather than running off to rivers and the sea.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Large reservoirs and long canals are expensive and require large rivers; they do not directly recharge local groundwater aquifers in semi-arid



areas.

- Option C: Deepening wells extracts more groundwater but does not add to or recharge the aquifer; it accelerates depletion.
- Option D: Desalination is feasible only near coasts; it is extremely expensive and energy-intensive, not appropriate for semi-arid inland areas.

Final Answer: Check dams slow runoff, allow percolation, and recharge local groundwater in semi-arid areas. $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Petroleum and Natural Gas in India: India has onshore oilfields in Assam (Digboi, the oldest oilfield in Asia), Gujarat (Ankleshwar, Khambhat), and Rajasthan (Barmer field), as well as offshore production in the Mumbai High field in the Arabian Sea, which is the largest single source of crude oil in India.

Step 1 — Major producing regions: Gujarat has been a significant oil and gas producer since the 1960s. Assam (Digboi) has the oldest oilfield. The Mumbai High offshore field (operated by ONGC) produces the largest volume of crude oil.

Step 2 — The correct pair: Gujarat (onshore) and Assam (onshore) together with the Mumbai High offshore oilfield account for the bulk of India's petroleum production. The NCERT Class 8 Geography textbook specifically names these regions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Rajasthan has some oil (Barmer), but Uttar Pradesh is not a significant oil-producing state; and this pair is less important than Gujarat and Assam.
- Option B: Punjab and Haryana are not oil-producing states; they are primarily agricultural states.
- Option D: Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are not significant petroleum-producing states.

Final Answer: Gujarat and Assam (along with Mumbai High offshore) are India's most significant petroleum-producing regions. $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Subsistence vs Commercial Farming: Agricultural systems are broadly classified by their purpose. The distinction is fundamentally about who benefits from the harvest.

Step 1 — Subsistence farming: The farmer grows just enough food to feed the family. Little or no surplus is produced for sale. The farm is small, technology is basic, and manual labour is used. The primary goal is family survival.

Step 2 — Commercial farming: Crops are grown specifically to sell in markets. Farmers use modern inputs (HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, machinery) to maximise yield. Examples include wheat farming in Punjab, cotton in Maharashtra, and sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh for agro-industries.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: This is reversed. Subsistence farming typically uses simple tools, while commercial farming uses machinery.
- Option B: Both types of farming occur in plains and hills; geography alone does not define the distinction.
- Option C: Both types can be rain-fed or irrigated; irrigation is not the key differentiator.

Final Answer: The key difference is purpose — subsistence farming is for self-consumption; commercial farming is for market sale. $\Rightarrow$ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Population Density: Population density = Total Population $\div$ Total Area (persons per sq km). It measures how crowded a region is, independent of its absolute population size.

Step 1 — Compare densities (Census 2011):

- Bihar: population $\approx$ 104 million; area $\approx$ 94,163 sq km; density $\approx$ **1,106 persons/sq km** — highest among all large states.
- West Bengal: density $\approx$ 1,028 persons/sq km.
- Kerala: density $\approx$ 860 persons/sq km.
- Uttar Pradesh: density $\approx$ 828 persons/sq km (large area dilutes its high



population).

Step 2 — Reason for Bihar's high density: Bihar is a small, landlocked state with historically high birth rates, limited out-migration from rural areas, and an agrarian economy that keeps people tied to the land. Its small size combined with a large population gives it the highest density.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Uttar Pradesh has the largest population but also a much larger area (240,928 sq km), giving it a lower density than Bihar.
- Option C: West Bengal has a high density (second in this list) but is still lower than Bihar's.
- Option D: Kerala has good literacy and low birth rates; its density is lower than Bihar's and West Bengal's.

Final Answer: Bihar has the highest population density among the given states (per Census 2011). ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q14](#)

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Khadi and Village Industries: Gandhi's promotion of khadi was both an economic strategy and a political symbol. It was central to the Swadeshi movement and the Non-Cooperation Movement, linking daily life to the independence struggle.

Step 1 — Economic reason: Britain's textile mills wove cheap cloth from Indian cotton and sold it back to India, destroying the livelihoods of millions of Indian weavers. By spinning khadi on the charkha (spinning wheel), Indians could clothe themselves without buying British goods, dealing a direct economic blow to colonialism.

Step 2 — Political and social reason: Spinning khadi required no capital or skill barrier; a landless labourer and a wealthy professional could both spin. Gandhi used it as a unifying act that transcended caste, religion, and class. It symbolised dignity, self-reliance, and the rejection of colonial economic domination.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Khadi was not superior in quality to mill cloth; mill cloth was



cheaper and more uniform. Export value was not the argument.

- Option C: Gandhi's advocacy was economic and moral, not based on medical or health claims about the fabric.
- Option D: The British colonial government actively opposed khadi promotion as it threatened the market for British textiles; they certainly did not endorse it.

Final Answer: Khadi symbolised self-reliance, provided rural employment, and challenged British economic dominance. ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Railways and National Integration: The British built India's railway network primarily for military and commercial purposes (to move troops quickly and transport raw materials to ports). However, railways had unintended and powerful consequences for Indian society.

Step 1 — Economic integration: Railways allowed goods to be transported cheaply across long distances. A farmer in Punjab could sell wheat in Calcutta. A textile mill in Ahmedabad could access markets across India. This created a single, integrated national market.

Step 2 — Social and cultural integration: Railways enabled ordinary people to travel to distant regions for the first time. Pilgrims could visit holy sites far from home. Workers migrated for employment. People from different castes sat in the same compartments, gradually eroding some traditional barriers. National leaders could address audiences across India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: While the British did use railways for commerce and military purposes, saying railways had "no impact on Indian society" is factually wrong; they profoundly reshaped it.
- Option B: Railways actually connected many towns and villages; they did not create regional barriers.
- Option D: While railways reduced some river and road traffic, they did not cause the complete decline of all other transport or permanently isolate communities.

Final Answer: Railways connected distant parts of India, promoted trade, enabled



people's movement, and strengthened national unity. $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q16](#)

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Article 14: Equality Before Law: Article 14 is part of Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Indian Constitution. It is based on the British concept of “rule of law” and the American concept of “equal protection of laws.”

Step 1 — Two components of Article 14:

- (a) **Equality before law:** Every person — rich or poor, powerful or ordinary — is subject to the same law. No one is above the law.
- (b) **Equal protection of laws:** Among equals, the law must operate equally. The state can make reasonable classifications (e.g., laws protecting children), but cannot arbitrarily discriminate.

Step 2 — Exact constitutional text: “The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.” Note that it says “any person,” not just citizens, so it applies to foreigners within India’s territory too.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Equal wages are addressed under Article 39(d) (Directive Principles), not Article 14.
- Option B: Equal right to contest elections is covered separately under Articles 325 and 326 and election laws.
- Option C: Land distribution is not a matter of fundamental right under Article 14; land reform is covered by Directive Principles.

Final Answer: Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws within India. $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q17](#)



Q18.

Solution

Concept — Rights of Linguistic and Religious Minorities (Articles 29–30): The Constitution recognises that minorities need special protections to preserve their culture, language, and religion in a diverse, pluralist democracy.

Step 1 — Article 29: Any section of citizens with a distinct language, script, or culture has the right to conserve it. No citizen can be denied admission to educational institutions maintained by the state or receiving state aid on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or language.

Step 2 — Article 30: All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. The state cannot, while granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against a minority institution.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: While the Constitution recognises scheduled languages, minority communities cannot demand that their language become an official language of India; this is not guaranteed under Articles 29–30.
- Option C: There is no provision in the Constitution exempting any group from income tax on religious grounds; taxation is governed by separate legislation.
- Option D: Neither Article 29 nor Article 30 permits any religious group to restrict entry of other faiths; freedom of religion is individual and does not extend to excluding others from religious spaces in this manner.

Final Answer: Religious minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice (Article 30). ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q18](#)

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Concurrent List in Indian Federalism: The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution divides all subjects into three lists. The Concurrent List (List III) currently has 52 subjects, including education, forests, trade unions, criminal law, and marriage.

Step 1 — Meaning of “Concurrent”: “Concurrent” means both the Centre and



the states can legislate on these subjects simultaneously. This is different from the Union List (only Centre) and the State List (only states).

Step 2 — Conflict resolution: If a state law on a Concurrent List subject conflicts with a Central law on the same subject, the Central (Parliament's) law prevails — this is called the doctrine of repugnancy (Article 254). However, a state law that received Presidential assent before the Central law was enacted can continue in that state.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: This describes the Union List (List I), not the Concurrent List; on Union List subjects, only Parliament can legislate.
- Option C: This describes the State List (List II), on which only states can legislate.
- Option D: No list requires Supreme Court approval before laws are enacted; courts review laws after enactment, not before.

Final Answer: Both Parliament and state legislatures can legislate on Concurrent List subjects; Central law prevails in case of conflict. ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Three-Tier Consumer Dispute Redressal under COPRA 1986: The Consumer Protection Act created a dedicated quasi-judicial mechanism to resolve consumer complaints quickly and inexpensively, without requiring consumers to go to regular civil courts.

Step 1 — The three tiers:

- District Consumer Forum:** Handles complaints where the value of goods/services and compensation claimed is up to Rs 20 lakh (note: later amendments under the 2019 Act raised this limit, but for Class 8 NCERT purposes the original COPRA 1986 figure of Rs 20 lakh is used).
- State Consumer Commission:** Handles complaints between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- National Consumer Commission (NCDRC):** Handles complaints above Rs 1 crore. Its judgements can be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Step 2 — Why this matters: Before COPRA, consumers had to fight cases in civil



courts — expensive, slow, and out of reach for ordinary people. COPRA made redressal accessible and fast.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Panchayats and the Supreme Court are not part of the COPRA consumer redressal chain.
- Option B: Police stations and High Courts are part of criminal/civil law; COPRA created its own separate quasi-judicial forums.
- Option D: Consumer cooperatives and District Collectors have no role in the COPRA redressal mechanism.

Final Answer: The three tiers are District Forum → State Commission → National Commission. ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q20](#)

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Right to Information Act 2005 and Media's Role in Democracy: A strong democracy requires that citizens can monitor what the government does in their name. The RTI Act, 2005 was a landmark law that gave citizens a legal tool to demand information from government offices.

Step 1 — What RTI empowers citizens to do: Under the RTI Act, any citizen can file an application asking for specific information held by any public authority (government office, ministry, public sector enterprise, etc.). The office must reply within 30 days. If denied, the citizen can appeal to an Information Commissioner.

Step 2 — Impact on democracy: RTI has enabled citizens and journalists to expose corruption, irregularities in public works contracts, and misuse of public funds. It is a direct tool of accountability, making the government work transparently. It is therefore a cornerstone of media freedom and democratic governance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: RTI does not make voting mandatory; compulsory voting is a separate policy debate not enacted in India.
- Option B: RTI gives citizens the right to seek government information, not the government's right to collect citizens' personal data.
- Option C: Allowing police to access private communications is covered by laws such as the Indian Telegraph Act, not RTI.



Final Answer: RTI empowers citizens to seek government information, promoting transparency and accountability of public officials. ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Constitutional Provisions for Gender Equality: The Indian Constitution addresses gender equality through multiple articles. Article 14 guarantees equality before law to all persons. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

Step 1 — Article 15(3): Article 15(1) generally prohibits state discrimination on the listed grounds. Article 15(3) carves out an exception: “Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.” This enables affirmative provisions such as reservation of seats for women in local bodies, special labour protections, and maternity benefits.

Step 2 — Why this is necessary: Women have historically faced social and economic disadvantage. Article 15(3) recognises that formal equality alone (treating everyone the same) is insufficient; substantive equality sometimes requires special provisions that specifically benefit women.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty to all persons — not an exclusive voting right for women. Universal adult franchise (including women) is Article 326.
- Option C: While many states have 33–50% reservation for women in local bodies, the Constitution does not mandate 50% reservation in all government jobs as a fundamental right.
- Option D: Article 19 gives all citizens (not only women) the right to form associations; it is not gender-specific.

Final Answer: Article 15(3) permits the state to make special provisions for women and children. ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

Solution

Concept — Functions of Money: Money was invented to overcome the severe limitations of barter. Economists identify four classic functions of money, each solving a specific problem.

Step 1 — The four functions:

- (a) **Medium of exchange:** Money is universally accepted in buying and selling, eliminating the need for the double coincidence of wants.
- (b) **Unit of account:** Prices of all goods and services are expressed in money, enabling comparison of value.
- (c) **Store of value:** Money can be saved and used later without losing its value quickly (unlike perishable goods).
- (d) **Standard of deferred payment:** Debts and future contracts are expressed in money, enabling borrowing and lending.

Step 2 — Why Option B is correct: It accurately lists all four functions. The others describe only one narrow use or an incorrect use.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Investment, taxation, and military spending are uses to which money is put, not functions of money as a medium or measure.
- Option C: Generating bank profit through interest is a consequence of the financial system, not a function of money itself.
- Option D: Claiming money's "only function" is as a government emergency reserve ignores all other uses and is factually wrong.

Final Answer: Money functions as medium of exchange, unit of account, store of value, and standard of deferred payment. ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q23](#)



Q24.

Solution

Concept — Limitations of the Barter System: In a barter economy, goods and services are exchanged directly for other goods and services without using money. While it worked in small, close-knit communities, it became increasingly impractical as economies grew.

Step 1 — Double coincidence of wants: The most critical problem with barter is that for an exchange to take place, both parties must simultaneously want what the other has. For example, if a farmer has excess rice and wants a pair of shoes, she must find a shoemaker who (a) has shoes to spare AND (b) wants rice — at the same time. Such a “double coincidence” is difficult to find in a large economy.

Step 2 — Other limitations: Barter also has problems of divisibility (you cannot pay half a cow for a shirt), storage of value (perishable goods cannot be saved as wealth), and lack of a common unit of account. Money solved all these problems.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Barter was not geographically restricted to villages; it was practised wherever markets existed, including ancient cities. Its failure was practical, not geographical.
- Option B: Barter had no such restriction on type of goods; both necessities and luxuries could in principle be bartered. The problem was the matching requirement.
- Option D: Barter had no caste-based restriction; the double coincidence of wants is the economic problem, not a social one.

Final Answer: The most significant limitation was the double coincidence of wants — both parties needed to want what the other had. ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q24](#)

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Multinational Companies (MNCs) and Indian Farmers: MNCs like seed companies and agri-input corporations have entered India’s agricultural sector, selling hybrid and genetically modified (GM) seeds, pesticides, and fertilisers. While they bring technology, there are serious concerns about their impact on small farmers.



Step 1 — Patented seeds and debt: MNCs sell patented seeds (e.g., Bt cotton seeds) that produce high yields in the first season but cannot be saved and re-planted. Farmers must buy fresh seeds every season at prices set by the company. For small and marginal farmers who previously saved seeds, this creates a recurring expenditure. If credit is taken to buy seeds and the crop fails (due to pest attack, drought), farmers can fall into debt cycles.

Step 2 — Profit repatriation: MNCs are headquartered outside India. Profits from selling seeds and agri-inputs are repatriated to their home countries rather than being reinvested in Indian rural communities. This represents a net outflow of resources from already-poor agricultural regions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: MNCs sell seeds at commercial prices; they do not provide free seeds or equipment to farmers.
- Option B: MNCs typically promote monocultures of their proprietary varieties, which reduces crop biodiversity rather than increasing it.
- Option C: MNCs generally do not independently finance rural infrastructure like roads or canals; such investments come from government or public-private partnerships.

Final Answer: MNCs may create debt dependency by selling patented seeds and repatriate profits instead of benefiting local communities. ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q25](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	D	2	A	3	B	4	C	5	D
6	A	7	B	8	C	9	D	10	A
11	B	12	C	13	D	14	A	15	B
16	C	17	D	18	A	19	B	20	C
21	D	22	A	23	B	24	C	25	D

