

AISSEE Social Studies

Sample Paper – 2

Duration: 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 50

Instructions

- This paper has **25 questions** carrying **2 marks** each. Total: **50 marks**.
- All questions are MCQs with four options (A/B/C/D). Choose the single correct answer.
- **No negative marking**. Wrong or blank answers carry zero marks.
- Attempt all questions. Do not leave any answer blank.

Section A: Indian History

Q1. The capital city of the Mauryan Empire, one of the largest cities of the ancient world, was:

- (A) Taxila
- (B) Ujjain
- (C) Pataliputra
- (D) Vaishali

Answer: (C)

Solution

Pataliputra (modern Patna, Bihar) was the magnificent capital of the Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta Maurya, Bindusara, and Ashoka. It was described by Greek ambassador Megasthenes as one of the greatest cities of the world.

Q2. Who was the Viceroy of India when the Quit India Movement was launched in August 1942?

- (A) Lord Curzon
- (B) Lord Mountbatten
- (C) Lord Wavell
- (D) Lord Linlithgow



Answer: (D)

Solution

Lord Linlithgow served as Viceroy of India from 1936 to 1943. He arrested Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders after Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement on 8 August 1942, delivering the famous “Do or Die” call.

Q3. The Battle of Buxar (1764) was a decisive British victory. Which combination of rulers fought against the British in this battle?

- (A) Siraj ud-Daulah of Bengal alone
- (B) Mir Qasim of Bengal, the Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daula, and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II
- (C) Haider Ali of Mysore and the Nizam of Hyderabad
- (D) Maratha chiefs and the Nawab of Hyderabad

Answer: (B)

Solution

The Battle of Buxar (1764) saw a combined Indian resistance of Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal), Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh), and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II against the British East India Company. The British victory led to the Treaty of Allahabad (1765) and firm British control over Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.

Q4. The final transfer of power and Indian independence in August 1947 was carried out according to which plan?

- (A) Cripps Mission Proposal (1942)
- (B) Simon Commission Recommendations (1928)
- (C) Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)
- (D) Mountbatten Plan / June 3rd Plan (1947)

Answer: (D)

Solution

The Mountbatten Plan, announced on 3 June 1947 by Lord Mountbatten (the last Viceroy), provided for the partition of British India into two independent dominions



— India and Pakistan — and the transfer of power on 14–15 August 1947.

Q5. The Cripps Mission of 1942 ultimately failed primarily because:

- (A) The British government refused to send any representative to India
- (B) Both the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League rejected its proposals
- (C) A Japanese naval blockade prevented Sir Stafford Cripps from reaching India
- (D) Mahatma Gandhi was already imprisoned when the Mission arrived

Answer: (B)

Solution

The Cripps Mission offered dominion status after the war with the right to secede. The INC rejected it because it offered no immediate self-government and accepted the partition principle. The Muslim League also rejected it as insufficient. Gandhi famously called it “a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank.”

Q6. The first Indian newspaper, “Hickey’s Bengal Gazette,” was published in Calcutta in 1780 by:

- (A) James Augustus Hicky
- (B) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (C) William Jones
- (D) Warren Hastings

Answer: (A)

Solution

James Augustus Hicky published the *Hickey’s Bengal Gazette* (also called the *Calcutta General Advertiser*) starting 29 January 1780, making it the first newspaper printed in India. Hicky used it to criticise the British administration and was eventually imprisoned for it.

Section B: Indian Geography



Q7. The Chambal River, known for its famous ravines (badlands) in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, is a tributary of which major river?

- (A) Ganga
- (B) Godavari
- (C) Yamuna
- (D) Narmada

Answer: (C)

Solution

The Chambal River originates in the Vindhya Range and flows northward before joining the Yamuna near Etawah (Uttar Pradesh). It is famous for its deeply eroded ravines (badlands) and for being one of the cleanest rivers in India.

Q8. Which Indian state is the largest producer of tea in India, accounting for more than half of the country's total tea production?

- (A) West Bengal
- (B) Kerala
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Assam

Answer: (D)

Solution

Assam is the largest tea-producing state in India, contributing over 50% of the nation's total tea output. The Brahmaputra valley's alluvial soil, warm humid climate, and heavy rainfall make it ideal for tea cultivation. Darjeeling (West Bengal) and Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu) are also famous tea-growing regions.



Q9. The Lakshadweep Islands, a Union Territory of India situated in the Arabian Sea, are formed by:

- (A) Volcanic activity
- (B) Continental shelf erosion
- (C) Coral reefs and coral limestone
- (D) Sedimentary rock formations

Answer: (C)

Solution

The Lakshadweep Islands are coral islands — they are formed from coral reefs built up on the peaks of a submerged ridge. This makes them flat, low-lying islands (atolls, lagoons, and reefs) that are ecologically fragile and at risk from rising sea levels.

Q10. India's only active volcano is located on:

- (A) Barren Island (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
- (B) Neil Island (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
- (C) Havelock Island (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
- (D) Lakshadweep (Agatti Island)

Answer: (A)

Solution

Barren Island in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is India's only active volcano and the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia. It last erupted in 2017. Narcondam, also in the Andaman Islands, is the only other volcanic island in India but is considered dormant.



Q11. The Western Ghats, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012, run parallel to India's western coast. The highest peak of the Western Ghats is:

- (A) Anamudi (Kerala)
- (B) Doddabetta (Tamil Nadu)
- (C) Mahendragiri (Odisha)
- (D) Kalsubai (Maharashtra)

Answer: (A)

Solution

Anamudi (2,695 m) in the Eravikulam National Park, Kerala, is the highest peak of the Western Ghats and also the highest peak in South India. It is home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr.

Section C: Civics and Constitution

Q12. Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains the list of languages officially recognised by the Constitution?

- (A) Fifth Schedule
- (B) Sixth Schedule
- (C) Eighth Schedule
- (D) Tenth Schedule

Answer: (C)

Solution

The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution originally listed 14 languages. Today it recognises 22 languages, the most recent addition being Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santali (added in 2003 by the 92nd Amendment). Any language included gets special constitutional status and official recognition.



Q13. The Finance Commission of India, which recommends the distribution of tax revenue between the Centre and the States, is constituted by the President under which Article of the Constitution?

- (A) Article 264
- (B) Article 280
- (C) Article 300
- (D) Article 360

Answer: (B)

Solution

Article 280 of the Indian Constitution provides for the constitution of a Finance Commission every five years. It recommends the principles for distributing tax revenues between the Union and States, and also the grants-in-aid to States. The 16th Finance Commission is currently in operation.

Q14. In the context of the Indian Constitution, the term “Secular” (added by the 42nd Amendment, 1976) implies that:

- (A) The government promotes Hinduism as the official religion
- (B) Citizens are prohibited from practising any religion
- (C) The state has no official religion and treats all religions equally
- (D) Only government-approved religious practices are permitted

Answer: (C)

Solution

India’s secularism means the state has no state religion — it neither promotes nor discriminates against any religion. The government treats all faiths equally, guaranteeing every citizen the freedom to practice, profess, and propagate any religion. “Secular” was added to the Preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976.



Q15. Under the Indian Constitution, the power to amend the Constitution is vested in:

- (A) The President of India alone
- (B) The Supreme Court of India
- (C) The Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
- (D) The Parliament of India (as per Article 368)

Answer: (D)

Solution

Article 368 of the Indian Constitution vests the power to amend the Constitution in Parliament. Some amendments require a special majority (two-thirds of members present and voting, and majority of total membership), while others also require ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures.

Q16. The National Green Tribunal (NGT), which adjudicates cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of natural resources in India, was established under the:

- (A) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- (B) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- (C) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- (D) National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

Answer: (D)

Solution

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. It is a specialised body for fast disposal of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and enforcement of environmental laws. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

Section D: Current Events and Famous Personalities



Q17. ISRO launched the Aditya-L1 mission in September 2023. What is the primary objective of this mission?

- (A) To explore the Moon's permanently shadowed south-polar craters
- (B) To study the Sun, particularly its outermost layer (corona) and solar wind
- (C) To land a rover on Mars and study its soil composition
- (D) To establish a permanent space station in low Earth orbit

Answer: (B)

Solution

Aditya-L1 is India's first solar observatory mission, launched by ISRO on 2 September 2023. It is positioned at the Sun-Earth Lagrangian point 1 (L1) and studies the Sun's corona, solar wind, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections — phenomena that affect space weather and Earth's communications.

Q18. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), India's landmark financial inclusion scheme to provide bank accounts to every household, was launched in:

- (A) 2014
- (B) 2016
- (C) 2018
- (D) 2012

Answer: (A)

Solution

PMJDY was launched on 28 August 2014 (the inaugural day saw over 1.5 crore accounts opened). It provides a zero-balance savings account, a RuPay debit card, and access to insurance and overdraft facilities, bringing millions of unbanked Indians into the formal banking system.



Q19. Mary Kom, the legendary Indian boxer and six-time World Amateur Boxing Champion, competed primarily in which weight category?

- (A) Light Flyweight (48 kg / 46 kg)
- (B) Flyweight (51 kg)
- (C) Lightweight (60 kg)
- (D) Bantamweight (54 kg)

Answer: (A)

Solution

M.C. Mary Kom from Manipur won the majority of her World Championship golds in the 46/48 kg (light flyweight) category. She is also an Olympic bronze medallist (London 2012, 51 kg category) and is the only woman to have won the World Amateur Boxing Championship six times.

Q20. The “Khelo India” initiative, launched by the Government of India, primarily aims to:

- (A) Train athletes exclusively for the Olympic Games
- (B) Revive sports culture at the grassroots level and identify and nurture young sporting talent
- (C) Build a sports university in every state capital
- (D) Fund only cricket and field-hockey development

Answer: (B)

Solution

Khelo India, launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, aims to build a strong sporting culture across India. It identifies talented young athletes (Khelo India Athletes/KIAs) and provides them scholarships, coaching, equipment, and exposure to national-level competition through annual Khelo India Games.

Section E: Environment and Society



Q21. A “biodiversity hotspot” is defined as a region that:

- (A) Is exceptionally rich in endemic species (found nowhere else) but has lost a significant portion of its original habitat
- (B) Has the highest density of tree cover in the world
- (C) Is prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes
- (D) Records the world’s highest average annual temperature

Answer: (A)

Solution

A biodiversity hotspot (as defined by Conservation International) must meet two criteria: it must contain at least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species, and it must have lost at least 70% of its original habitat. India has four biodiversity hotspots: the Himalayas, Indo-Burma region, Western Ghats with Sri Lanka, and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands).

Q22. The Chipko Movement, in which villagers protected trees from commercial felling by hugging them, began in which state?

- (A) Himachal Pradesh
- (B) Uttarakhand (then part of Uttar Pradesh)
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Rajasthan

Answer: (B)

Solution

The Chipko Movement began in 1973 in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand (then part of Uttar Pradesh), when villagers under the leadership of Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt embraced trees to prevent their felling by contractors. It became a landmark environmental and social movement in India.



Q23. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly called the “Earth Summit,” was held in 1992 in which city?

- (A) Stockholm
- (B) Johannesburg
- (C) Rio de Janeiro
- (D) Nairobi

Answer: (C)

Solution

The Earth Summit (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. It produced landmark agreements including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Agenda 21 — a global action plan for sustainable development.

Q24. The greenhouse effect and global warming are caused primarily by the excessive accumulation of which gas in the Earth’s atmosphere?

- (A) Oxygen
- (B) Nitrogen
- (C) Argon
- (D) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

Answer: (D)

Solution

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas responsible for global warming. It is released by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas), deforestation, and industrial processes. Other greenhouse gases include methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and water vapour. The increasing concentration of CO₂ traps heat in the atmosphere, raising Earth’s average temperature.



Q25. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission), one of the largest sanitation and hygiene campaigns in the world, was launched in India on:

- (A) 2 October 2014 (Gandhi Jayanti)
- (B) 26 January 2016 (Republic Day)
- (C) 15 August 2019 (Independence Day)
- (D) 2 October 2012 (Gandhi Jayanti)

Answer: (A)

Solution

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2 October 2014 — the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi — by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Its goals include eliminating open defecation, constructing household and community toilets, and ensuring solid/liquid waste management across urban and rural India.

