

AISSEE Social Studies

Sample Paper – 8

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 script of the Indus Valley Civilisation is described by scholars as:

- (A) Fully deciphered and found to be an early form of Sanskrit
- (B) Not yet deciphered despite many attempts by researchers
- (C) Identical to the ancient Sumerian script of Mesopotamia
- (D) Composed entirely of numerical and mathematical symbols

Answer: (B)

Solution

The Indus Valley script remains undeciphered. Unlike Egyptian hieroglyphics or Mesopotamian cuneiform, scholars have not yet been able to read the Indus script, making it one of archaeology's great unsolved mysteries.

Q2. The Indus Valley Civilisation (Harappan Culture) belongs to which archaeological age?

- (A) Bronze Age
- (B) Iron Age
- (C) Neolithic Age
- (D) Chalcolithic Age only

Answer: (A)



Solution

The Indus Valley Civilisation (c. 3300–1300 BCE) is classified as a Bronze Age civilisation. People at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro used bronze extensively for tools, weapons, and ornaments.

Q3. Kanishka, the great Kushan emperor, is especially remembered for his patronage of:

- (A) Jainism
- (B) Islam
- (C) Hinduism
- (D) Buddhism

Answer: (D)

Solution

Kanishka I (c. 127–150 CE) was one of the most powerful Kushan rulers. He is famous for his patronage of Buddhism and convened the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir. He helped spread Buddhism across Central Asia.

Q4. Alberuni (Al-Biruni), the famous Arab scholar who wrote *Kitab-ul-Hind*, came to India with:

- (A) Timur
- (B) Babur
- (C) Mahmud of Ghazni
- (D) Muhammad bin Qasim

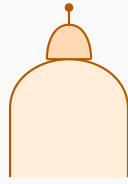
Answer: (C)

Solution

Alberuni (973–1048 CE) accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni on his raids into India. He spent many years studying Indian science, mathematics, and culture, and wrote the encyclopaedic work *Kitab-ul-Hind* (Book of India).



Q5. The magnificent Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri was built as a capital by which emperor?



Mughal Architecture

- (A) Babur
- (B) Akbar
- (C) Jahangir
- (D) Shah Jahan

Answer: (B)

Solution

Emperor Akbar built Fatehpur Sikri near Agra around 1571 CE to honour the Sufi saint Salim Chishti. It served as the Mughal capital for about 14 years before being abandoned. Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, built earlier, is another landmark of Mughal architecture.

Q6. Swami Vivekananda delivered his celebrated speech at the Parliament of World Religions in 1893 in the city of:

- (A) New York
- (B) London
- (C) Washington D.C.
- (D) Chicago

Answer: (D)

Solution

On 11 September 1893, Swami Vivekananda addressed the Parliament of World Religions held in Chicago, USA. His speech beginning with "Sisters and brothers of America" received a two-minute standing ovation and introduced Vedanta philosophy to the Western world.



Section B: Indian Geography

Q7. The Hirakud Dam, one of the world's longest earthen dams, is built across which river?



- (A) Mahanadi
- (B) Godavari
- (C) Damodar
- (D) Krishna

Answer: (A)

Solution

The Hirakud Dam is built across the river Mahanadi in Odisha. Completed in 1953, it is one of the longest dams in the world (about 26 km including dykes) and provides irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power.

Q8. The River Damodar was historically called the “Sorrow of Bengal” because of:

- (A) Its completely dry bed during summer
- (B) Its frequent and devastating floods every year
- (C) Its highly polluted industrial water
- (D) Its very slow flow rate causing waterlogging

Answer: (B)

Solution

The Damodar River was called the “Sorrow of Bengal” due to its annual floods that caused immense destruction in Bengal and Bihar. After the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) was established in 1948 and dams were built, flood damage reduced significantly.



Q9. The Deccan Traps, covering much of central and western India, are a large igneous province composed mainly of:

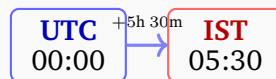
- (A) Granite rocks
- (B) Limestone deposits
- (C) Sandstone layers
- (D) Basaltic lava flows

Answer: (D)

Solution

The Deccan Traps are a massive volcanic feature formed by enormous outpourings of basaltic lava about 66 million years ago (end of Cretaceous period). They cover over 500,000 sq km across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, forming the black cotton soil (regur).

Q10. Indian Standard Time (IST) is ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT/UTC) by:



- (A) 5 hours 30 minutes
- (B) 4 hours 30 minutes
- (C) 6 hours 00 minutes
- (D) 5 hours 00 minutes

Answer: (A)

Solution

Indian Standard Time (IST) is UTC+5:30, i.e. 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of Coordinated Universal Time. India uses a single time zone for the entire country. The half-hour offset is unusual and is based on the Standard Meridian at 82.5°E.



Q11. The Standard Meridian of India (82.5°E longitude) passes through which city?

- (A) Varanasi
- (B) Lucknow
- (C) Prayagraj (Allahabad)
- (D) Kanpur

Answer: (C)

Solution

The Standard Meridian of India at 82.5°E longitude passes through Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh. This meridian was chosen as it lies roughly in the middle of India's east-west extent, and the time at this meridian is taken as IST.

Section C: Civics and Constitution

Q12. Who presides over the sessions of the Lok Sabha (House of the People)?

- (A) The President of India
- (B) The Speaker of Lok Sabha
- (C) The Prime Minister of India
- (D) The Vice President of India

Answer: (B)

Solution

The Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over its sessions, maintains order, and decides on procedural matters including whether a bill is a Money Bill. In the Speaker's absence, the Deputy Speaker takes charge. The Vice President presides over the Rajya Sabha.



Q13. The oath of office to the President of India is administered by:

- (A) The Prime Minister of India
- (B) The Vice President of India
- (C) The Chief Justice of India
- (D) The Attorney General of India

Answer: (C)

Solution

Under Article 60 of the Indian Constitution, the oath of office and secrecy to the President is administered by the Chief Justice of India. If the Chief Justice is unavailable, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court administers the oath.

Q14. The Supreme Court of India exercises which types of jurisdiction?

- (A) Original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction
- (B) Only appellate jurisdiction
- (C) Only original and appellate jurisdiction
- (D) Criminal jurisdiction only

Answer: (A)

Solution

The Supreme Court of India has three types of jurisdiction: (1) Original jurisdiction – disputes between states or between states and the Union; (2) Appellate jurisdiction – hears appeals from High Courts; and (3) Advisory jurisdiction – the President may seek its opinion on legal questions under Article 143.

Q15. The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is guaranteed under which Article of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Article 14
- (B) Article 17
- (C) Article 19
- (D) Article 21



Answer: (C)

Solution

Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression to all citizens. It is part of the broader Right to Freedom under Article 19. However, reasonable restrictions can be imposed by the state under Article 19(2) on grounds such as sovereignty, public order, and decency.

Q16. The National Commission for Women (NCW), a statutory body to protect women's rights, was established in the year:

- (A) 1985
- (B) 1990
- (C) 1992
- (D) 2000

Answer: (C)

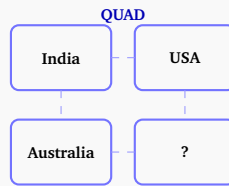
Solution

The National Commission for Women (NCW) was constituted in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. It reviews constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommends remedial legislative measures, and facilitates redressal of grievances.

Section D: Current Events and Famous Personalities



Q17. The QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) grouping consists of India, the USA, Australia, and:



- (A) France
- (B) Russia
- (C) United Kingdom
- (D) Japan

Answer: (D)

Solution

The QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) consists of four Indo-Pacific democracies: India, the United States, Australia, and Japan. Revived in 2017, it focuses on a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, addressing security, economic, and connectivity challenges.

Q18. India became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the year:

- (A) 2017
- (B) 2015
- (C) 2010
- (D) 2019

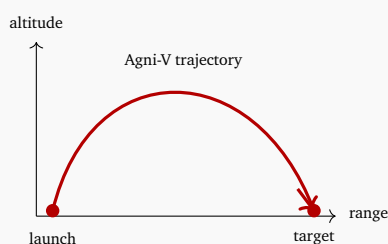
Answer: (A)

Solution

India (along with Pakistan) became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in June 2017 at the Astana Summit in Kazakhstan. The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, and India's membership enhances regional connectivity and cooperation.



Q19. India's Agni-V is a surface-to-surface missile. It is classified as a/an:



- (A) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)
- (B) Short-range cruise missile
- (C) Anti-tank guided missile
- (D) Surface-to-air missile

Answer: (A)

Solution

Agni-V is India's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km (some estimates suggest up to 8,000 km). Developed by DRDO, it can carry a nuclear warhead. Its successful test in 2012 made India a member of the exclusive club of nations with ICBM capability.

Q20. The Digital India initiative launched by the Government of India primarily aims to:

- (A) Promote digital art and culture in rural areas
- (B) Transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy
- (C) Build digital museums across all state capitals
- (D) Provide digital cameras to school children

Answer: (B)

Solution

Launched in July 2015, the Digital India initiative aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Its three key vision areas are digital infrastructure as a core utility, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.



Section E: Environment and Society

Q21. Project Elephant, launched by the Government of India in 1992, aims to protect which animal?

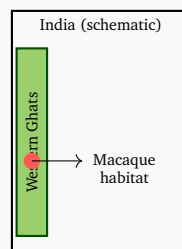
- (A) Royal Bengal Tiger
- (B) Indian One-horned Rhinoceros
- (C) Snow Leopard
- (D) Asian Elephant

Answer: (D)

Solution

Project Elephant was launched in 1992 to protect the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and its habitat. It provides financial and technical support to states having wild elephant populations. India has the world's largest population of Asian elephants.

Q22. The lion-tailed macaque, a critically endangered primate listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, is found in:



- (A) Eastern Himalayas
- (B) Andaman Islands
- (C) Sundarbans delta
- (D) Western Ghats

Answer: (D)

Solution

The lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*) is found exclusively in the rainforests of the Western Ghats in southern India (mainly Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu). It is an endangered species due to habitat loss and fragmentation, and is the flagship species of



the Western Ghats rainforest.

Q23. Coral bleaching has been a major environmental threat to the coral reefs of which Indian island territory?

- (A) Andaman and Nicobar Islands only
- (B) Gulf of Kutch
- (C) Lakshadweep
- (D) Gulf of Mannar only

Answer: (C)

Solution

Lakshadweep, India's smallest Union Territory in the Arabian Sea, has coral atoll reefs that are highly vulnerable to coral bleaching caused by rising sea-surface temperatures. Mass bleaching events have been recorded in Lakshadweep, threatening its rich marine biodiversity. Climate change is the primary driver.

Q24. Mangrove forests in India are found along:

- (A) Coastal and estuarine areas
- (B) Himalayan foothills
- (C) Deccan Plateau interiors
- (D) Desert regions of Rajasthan

Answer: (A)

Solution

Mangrove forests grow in coastal and estuarine (river-mouth) areas where saltwater and freshwater meet. India has about 4,992 sq km of mangrove cover. The Sundarbans in West Bengal is the world's largest mangrove forest. Other mangrove areas are found in Odisha (Bhitarkanika), Andaman Islands, and Gujarat.



Q25. Eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) are declared around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries primarily to:

- (A) Promote commercial tourism and resort construction
- (B) Act as a buffer zone that regulates human activities near protected areas
- (C) Allow mining and quarrying just outside the sanctuary boundary
- (D) Facilitate large-scale agricultural expansion near forests

Answer: (B)

Solution

Eco-sensitive zones (ESZs), notified under the Environment Protection Act 1986, are buffer zones around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. They regulate or prohibit certain activities (mining, quarrying, large industries) while permitting others in a controlled manner. The Supreme Court directed a minimum 1 km ESZ around all protected areas.

Answer Key

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

