

# AISSEE Social Studies

## Sample Paper – 9

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 famous Ajanta Caves of Maharashtra, renowned for their exquisite Buddhist paintings and rock-cut sculptures, were carved and painted primarily during which historical period?

- (A) Mauryan Period (322–185 BCE)
- (B) Gupta and Vakataka Period (4th–7th century CE)
- (C) Mughal Period (16th–17th century CE)
- (D) Maratha Period (17th–18th century CE)

**Answer:** (B)

### Solution

The Ajanta Caves (in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra) were excavated in two phases: the earliest caves (circa 2nd–1st century BCE) and the main artistic phase during the Gupta-Vakataka era (circa 4th–7th century CE). The vibrant murals depicting Jataka tales and the life of the Buddha are among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art.



**Q2.** Who is the author of the *Arthashastra*, the ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economics, military strategy, and governance?

- (A) Vatsyayana
- (B) Kautilya (also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta)
- (C) Manu
- (D) Kalidasa

**Answer:** (B)

### Solution

The *Arthashastra* is an ancient Indian treatise attributed to Kautilya (also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta), the chief minister of Chandragupta Maurya. Written around the 3rd century BCE, it covers administration, diplomacy, war, economics, and law. It was rediscovered and published in 1909 by R. Shamasastri.

**Q3.** Who was the Governor-General of India when the First War of Independence (Sepoy Mutiny) broke out in 1857?

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

**Answer:** (D)

### Solution

Lord Canning was the Governor-General of India when the 1857 uprising began. After the revolt was suppressed, the British Crown took direct control of India from the East India Company under the Government of India Act 1858, and Lord Canning became the first Viceroy of India.



**Q4.** The magnificent Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built by which Chola ruler?

- (A) Rajaraja Chola I
- (B) Rajendra Chola I
- (C) Kulottunga Chola I
- (D) Vikrama Chola

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

The Brihadeeswarar Temple (also called the “Big Temple”) was built by Rajaraja Chola I around 1010 CE. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, it stands 66 metres tall and was built entirely of granite. Along with Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram temples, it forms the “Great Living Chola Temples” UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Q5.** Emperor Akbar’s policy of “Sulh-i-Kul” (Universal Peace or Absolute Peace) was aimed at promoting:

- (A) Religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence of all faiths in the empire
- (B) Conversion of all non-Muslims to Islam
- (C) Banning Hindu religious ceremonies and festivals
- (D) Military conquest of all neighbouring kingdoms

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

Akbar’s “Sulh-i-Kul” (meaning “peace with all”) was the cornerstone of his religious and administrative policy. It meant that the state would not favour any particular religion and that all subjects were equal before the law regardless of faith. This principle was also reflected in his abolition of jizya (tax on non-Muslims) and his encouragement of inter-faith dialogue at his court.



**Q6.** The “Vernacular Press Act” of 1878, which imposed strict censorship on Indian-language newspapers, was passed under which Viceroy of India?

- (A) Lord Curzon
- (B) Lord Ripon
- (C) Lord Lytton
- (D) Lord Dufferin

**Answer:** (C)

### Solution

The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was enacted by Lord Lytton to curb the growing nationalist sentiments being expressed in Indian-language newspapers (especially during the 1876–78 famine and the Second Afghan War). It was repealed by the very next Viceroy, Lord Ripon, in 1882. It was popularly called the “Gagging Act” by Indian nationalists.

## Section B: Indian Geography

**Q7.** Which of the following is a major characteristic that distinguishes Himalayan rivers from Peninsular rivers?

- (A) Himalayan rivers are perennial — they flow throughout the year, fed by both monsoon rains and glacial/snow melt
- (B) Himalayan rivers are seasonal — they carry water only during the monsoon season
- (C) Himalayan rivers flow entirely through flat plains, carrying very little sediment
- (D) Himalayan rivers drain into the Arabian Sea on the western coast

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

Himalayan rivers (such as the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus) are perennial because they receive water both from the monsoon rains and from the melting of Himalayan glaciers and snow throughout the year. In contrast, most Peninsular rivers (like the Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri) are largely seasonal, dependent mainly on monsoon rainfall.



**Q8.** The “Bhabar” is a narrow belt of coarse gravel and pebbles, where Himalayan rivers disappear underground. It lies at the foothills of the:

- (A) Aravalli Range
- (B) Himalayas (along the Shivalik foothills)
- (C) Vindhya Range
- (D) Western Ghats

**Answer: (B)**

### Solution

The Bhabar is a 8–16 km wide zone of coarse boulders and gravel deposited by fast-flowing Himalayan rivers as they descend onto the plains. The rivers disappear into this porous belt and re-emerge further south in the Terai belt. The Bhabar is mostly forested (Shivalik foothill forests) and not suitable for cultivation.

**Q9.** India’s highest railway station, located at about 2,258 metres (7,408 feet) above sea level, is:

- (A) Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)
- (B) Ghum (West Bengal, near Darjeeling)
- (C) Kalka (Haryana)
- (D) Ooty/Udagamandalam (Tamil Nadu)

**Answer: (B)**

### Solution

Ghum (also spelled “Ghoom”) station near Darjeeling, West Bengal, is the highest railway station in India, standing at approximately 2,258 m above sea level. It is served by the UNESCO-listed Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (“Toy Train”). The nearby Batasia Loop is a famous spiral track and tourist attraction.



**Q10.** Indira Point, the southernmost tip of India (including islands), is located in which Union Territory?

- (A) Lakshadweep
- (B) Daman and Diu
- (C) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (D) Puducherry

**Answer:** (C)

### Solution

Indira Point (also called Pygmalion Point) on Great Nicobar Island, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Union Territory, is the southernmost point of India at approximately 6.7°N latitude. The southernmost point of the Indian mainland is Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu). Indira Point was partially submerged during the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

**Q11.** The Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola-Sadiya Bridge), one of India's longest river bridges connecting Assam to Arunachal Pradesh, is built over which river?

- (A) Brahmaputra
- (B) Barak
- (C) Subansiri
- (D) Lohit

**Answer:** (D)

### Solution

The Bhupen Hazarika Setu (9.15 km long), inaugurated in May 2017 by PM Narendra Modi, is built across the Lohit River (a major tributary of the Brahmaputra) near Dhola in Assam. It connects Dhola in Assam to Sadiya in Arunachal Pradesh and has significant strategic importance for movement of troops and supplies to the northeastern region.

## Section C: Civics and Constitution



**Q12.** The Eleventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution, added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992), deals with:

- (A) Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha for each state
- (B) Languages officially recognised by the Constitution
- (C) Subjects (29 functional items) placed under the Panchayati Raj institutions
- (D) Special provisions for tribal areas in certain states

**Answer:** (C)

### Solution

The Eleventh Schedule was added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992), which gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs). It lists 29 subjects (such as agriculture, land improvement, rural housing, primary education, poverty alleviation) that State Legislatures may entrust to the Panchayats.

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

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

**Answer:** (D)

### Solution

Under Article 69 of the Indian Constitution, the Vice President takes an oath before the President of India (or some person appointed by the President) before assuming office. The Vice President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament in a joint sitting and serves as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.



**Q14.** The doctrine of “Basic Structure” of the Indian Constitution — which holds that certain fundamental features cannot be amended by Parliament — was established by the Supreme Court in which landmark case?

- (A) A.K. Gopalan vs State of Madras (1950)
- (B) Golak Nath vs State of Punjab (1967)
- (C) Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India (1978)
- (D) Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973)

**Answer: (D)**

### Solution

The Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973) case is one of the most important judgements of the Indian Supreme Court. A 13-judge bench (by a 7:6 majority) held that while Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution, it cannot alter its “basic structure” — which includes features like democracy, federalism, separation of powers, judicial review, and fundamental rights.

**Q15.** The Right to Education (Article 21A), which makes free and compulsory education a fundamental right, applies to children of which age group?

- (A) 5 to 14 years
- (B) 6 to 16 years
- (C) 6 to 14 years
- (D) 5 to 16 years

**Answer: (C)**

### Solution

Article 21A, inserted by the 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002), guarantees the right to free and compulsory elementary education to all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 gives effect to this right and mandates neighbourhood schools, reservations for disadvantaged students, and a pupil-teacher ratio norm.





**Q16.** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 gave constitutional status to which level of governance in India?

- (A) The National Commission for Women
- (B) The Union Public Service Commission
- (C) Municipalities and urban local bodies (Nagar Palikas)
- (D) Panchayati Raj institutions (village-level self-governance)

**Answer: (D)**

### Solution

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) added Part IX (Articles 243–243O) and the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution, giving constitutional recognition and protection to the three-tier Panchayati Raj system (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti/Block, and Zila Parishad/District) for rural local self-governance. The 74th Amendment similarly covered urban local bodies.

## Section D: Current Events and Famous Personalities

**Q17.** The PM POSHAN scheme (formerly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme) provides nutritious cooked meals to school children primarily to:

- (A) Promote home-grown crops and reduce agricultural waste
- (B) Encourage privatisation of government schools
- (C) Build kitchen gardens in every school campus
- (D) Improve nutrition levels among school-going children and increase school enrolment and attendance

**Answer: (D)**

### Solution

The PM POSHAN Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) is the world's largest school feeding programme, providing hot cooked meals to over 11 crore children in government and government-aided schools (Classes I–VIII). Its objectives are to address classroom hunger, improve nutritional status, and incentivise attendance and enrolment of children from disadvantaged sections.



**Q18.** Kalpana Chawla became the first woman of Indian origin to travel to space. In which year did she make her first space flight on the NASA Space Shuttle?

- (A) 1997
- (B) 2001
- (C) 2003
- (D) 1984

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

Kalpana Chawla first flew to space on 19 November 1997 aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia (STS-87 mission), becoming the first woman of Indian origin to travel to space. She tragically perished on her second mission (STS-107) when the Columbia disintegrated during re-entry on 1 February 2003. (Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian citizen in space, flying on a Soviet Soyuz mission in 1984.)

**Q19.** The Indian Armed Forces' highest peacetime gallantry award, given for acts of courage and self-sacrifice in non-wartime situations, is the:

- (A) Param Vir Chakra
- (B) Vir Chakra
- (C) Ashoka Chakra
- (D) Kirti Chakra

**Answer:** (C)

### Solution

The Ashoka Chakra is India's highest peacetime gallantry award, conferred for "the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice" not in the face of the enemy. The Param Vir Chakra is its wartime equivalent — the highest military honour for battlefield bravery. The Ashoka Chakra is awarded on Republic Day (26 January).



**Q20.** Mithali Raj, India's greatest women's cricketer, achieved a historic milestone in Women's One-Day International (ODI) cricket. What was this milestone?

- (A) She was the first woman to score 6,000 ODI runs
- (B) She was the first woman to score 7,000 ODI runs
- (C) She was the first woman to take 100 ODI wickets
- (D) She was the first woman to play 200 ODI matches

**Answer:** (B)

### Solution

Mithali Raj (born 1982, Jodhpur) became the first woman cricketer in history to score 7,000 runs in Women's ODI cricket. She led the Indian women's team to two ICC Women's Cricket World Cup finals (2005 and 2017). She retired from all forms of international cricket in June 2022 as the highest run-scorer in Women's ODIs.

## Section E: Environment and Society

**Q21.** The "Green Revolution" in India led to dramatic increases in food grain production but also caused negative environmental impacts. Which of the following was a major negative consequence of the Green Revolution?

- (A) Excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, leading to soil degradation, water pollution, and loss of traditional crop varieties
- (B) A sharp reduction in the total area of agricultural land in India
- (C) Widespread adoption of organic farming practices
- (D) A decrease in the use of irrigation water

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

While the Green Revolution (1960s–70s, associated with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Norman Borlaug) enabled India to achieve food self-sufficiency, it also brought negative consequences: excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides degraded soil health,



contaminated groundwater (particularly in Punjab and Haryana), depleted water tables due to intensive irrigation, and reduced agro-biodiversity by replacing traditional varieties with a few high-yielding varieties.

**Q22.** The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), launched by the Government of India to address climate change challenges, has how many national missions?

- (A) Five
- (B) Six
- (C) Eight
- (D) Ten

**Answer:** (C)

### Solution

The NAPCC, launched in 2008, has eight national missions: (1) National Solar Mission, (2) National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, (3) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, (4) National Water Mission, (5) National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, (6) National Mission for a “Green India,” (7) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, and (8) National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

**Q23.** “Carbon neutrality” (or “net-zero carbon emissions”) means:

- (A) Balancing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted with an equivalent amount removed or offset, achieving net-zero emissions
- (B) Generating all electricity exclusively from nuclear power
- (C) Banning the use of all carbon-based fuels permanently
- (D) Using only solar energy for all energy needs

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

Carbon neutrality means that the total carbon dioxide (and equivalent greenhouse gases) emitted by an entity (country, company, or person) equals the amount removed from the atmosphere through natural sinks (forests) or technological means (carbon



capture), resulting in net-zero emissions. India has committed to achieving net-zero by 2070 under the Paris Agreement commitments announced at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021).

**Q24.** The Bishnoi community of Rajasthan is known for their deep, centuries-old commitment to protecting nature and wildlife, particularly which animal?

- (A) Bengal Tiger
- (B) Blackbuck (Indian Antelope)
- (C) Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros
- (D) Asian Elephant

**Answer: (B)**

### Solution

The Bishnoi community, founded by Guru Jambheshwar in 1485 CE in Rajasthan, follows 29 principles (“Bish-noi” means 29 rules) that include a strict prohibition on killing animals and cutting trees. They are especially known for protecting the Blackbuck (Indian antelope). In 1730 CE, 363 Bishnois sacrificed their lives in Khejarli village to protect Khejri trees, inspiring the modern Chipko movement.

**Q25.** The concept of “sustainable development” — “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” — was defined by which international report?

- (A) “Our Common Future” (Brundtland Report, 1987) by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)
- (B) The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (2014) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (C) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Outlook (1997)
- (D) The World Bank’s World Development Report (1992)

**Answer: (A)**



**Solution**

The Brundtland Report (“Our Common Future,” 1987), produced by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) chaired by Norwegian PM Gro Harlem Brundtland, gave the most widely accepted definition of sustainable development. It set the stage for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and influenced global environmental policy, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015.

