

UP Board Class 12 Nagrik Shastra 2026 (Set 323 CW) Question Paper with Solutions



General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 32 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 10 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. Who among the following gave the concept of 'Glasnost and Perestroika' for economic and political reform in the Soviet Union?

- (A) Stalin
- (B) Roosevelt
- (C) Mikhail Gorbachev
- (D) Leonid Brezhnev

Correct Answer: (C) Mikhail Gorbachev

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the terms:

Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring) were reform policies launched to revive the stagnating Soviet economy and open up its political system.

Step 2: Identifying the leader:

These policies were introduced in the mid-1980s by Mikhail Gorbachev, the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong:

Stalin (1920s-50s) and Brezhnev (1960s-82) predate these reforms and represent the era of central control the reforms tried to fix; Roosevelt was a US President, unconnected to Soviet policy.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Mikhail Gorbachev introduced Glasnost and Perestroika.



2. When was the European Economic Cooperation Organization formed?

- (A) 1948
- (B) 1992
- (C) 1940
- (D) 1950

Correct Answer: (A) 1948

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

The Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) was set up to administer American and Canadian aid under the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after the Second World War.

Step 2: Date:

It was established on 16 April 1948, in Paris.

Step 3: Why other options are wrong:

1940 falls during the war itself, before any reconstruction body could exist; 1950 and 1992 are both after the OEEC was already functioning

(1992 is instead associated with the Maastricht Treaty/European Union).

Step 4: Final Answer:

1948.



3. In which year was Nepal declared as a democratic republic?

- (A) 2008
- (B) 2009
- (C) 2010
- (D) 2011

Correct Answer: (A) 2008

Solution:

Step 1: Background:

After a decade-long Maoist insurgency and the 2006 people's movement that ended King Gyanendra's direct rule, Nepal's Constituent Assembly formally abolished the 240-year-old monarchy.

Step 2: Date:

This declaration was made on 28 May 2008, and Nepal became a federal democratic republic.

Step 3: Final Answer:

2008.



4. Which of the following countries is a permanent member of the United Nations' Security Council?

- (A) North Korea
- (B) Japan
- (C) China
- (D) India

Correct Answer: (C) China

Solution:

Step 1: The P5:

The UN Security Council has five permanent members, fixed since the UN's founding in 1945: the USA, Russia (successor to the USSR), the United Kingdom, France, and China.

Step 2: Checking the options:

China is the only country among the four listed that belongs to this group. North Korea, Japan, and India are all UN member states but none holds permanent Security Council membership.

Step 3: Note on India:

India has long sought permanent membership (referenced later in this same paper's Q27) but does not currently hold it — a common point of confusion, which is exactly why it is offered as a distractor here.

Step 4: Final Answer:

China.

5. What is 'SARS'?

- (A) Name of a nuclear weapon
- (B) Military organization
- (C) Regional organization
- (D) Name of a disease

Correct Answer: (D) Name of a disease

Solution:

Step 1: Expand the acronym:

SARS stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, a contagious viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus.

Step 2: Context:

It emerged in China in 2002-03 and spread internationally, becoming an early example of a non-traditional, health-based security threat studied in Contemporary World Politics.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong:

It has nothing to do with weapons or with any military or regional political organisation.

Step 4: Final Answer:

SARS is the name of a disease.



6. States Reorganization Commission was formed in

- (A) 1947
- (B) 1950
- (C) 1953
- (D) 1956

Correct Answer: (D) 1956

Solution:

Step 1: Background:

After Andhra state was carved out of Madras in 1953 following Potti Sriramulu's fast unto death, the government appointed the States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission) to reorganise state boundaries on a linguistic basis nationwide.

Step 2: Date:

The Commission was constituted in 1953 and submitted its report in 1955; the States Reorganisation Act, implementing it, was passed in 1956.

Step 3: Resolving the ambiguity:

The question asks when the Commission was 'formed' — that is 1953 — but this paper's printed options list only 1947/1950/1953/1956, and the marking on this scan shows 1956, which is actually the year of the resulting Act, not the Commission itself.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Following the standard NCERT phrasing that pairs 'States Reorganisation Commission' with the 1956 Act it produced, 1956 is treated as the intended answer here, though the Commission was technically appointed in 1953.

7. When was the constitution of India adopted?

- (A) 15 August, 1947
- (B) 26 January, 1950
- (C) 26 November, 1949
- (D) 30 January, 1952

Correct Answer: (C) 26 November, 1949

Solution:

Step 1: Distinguish adopted vs enforced:

The Constituent Assembly formally adopted and signed the Constitution of India on 26 November 1949, which is why that date is now observed as 'Samvidhan Divas' (Constitution Day).

Step 2: The other key date:

The Constitution came into force/effect on 26 January 1950 (Republic Day) — a different event from adoption, chosen to coincide with the 1930 Purna Swaraj declaration.

Step 3: Why the others are wrong:

15 August 1947 is Independence Day, and 30 January 1952 has no constitutional significance (it marks Gandhi's assassination anniversary observed as Martyrs' Day, unrelated).

Step 4: Final Answer:

26 November, 1949 — the date of adoption, as the question specifically asks.

8. Who is the founder of the Republican Party of India?

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
- (B) Bhagat Singh
- (C) J.B. Kriplani
- (D) Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Correct Answer: (D) Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Solution:

Step 1: Background:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had earlier founded the Scheduled Castes Federation to represent Dalit political interests.

Step 2: Formation of RPI:

Shortly before his death in December 1956, Ambedkar proposed converting this into a broader-based party, the Republican Party of India, which was formally launched by his followers in 1957 on his ideological vision.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

9. Which sector was given more emphasis in the Second Five Year Plan?

- (A) Agriculture
- (B) Industry
- (C) Education
- (D) Health

Correct Answer: (B) Industry

Solution:

Step 1: Background:

The Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) was designed by economist P.C. Mahalanobis and is often called the 'Mahalanobis Plan'.

Step 2: Core strategy:

It shifted priority from agriculture (the First Plan's focus) to rapid industrialisation, particularly building heavy and basic industries such as steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela, and Durgapur.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Industry received the greater emphasis in the Second Five Year Plan.



10. Who gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'?

- (A) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (B) Rajiv Gandhi
- (C) Morarji Desai
- (D) Indira Gandhi

Correct Answer: (D) Indira Gandhi

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

Ahead of the 1971 Lok Sabha election, Indira Gandhi's Congress (R) campaigned on the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' (Remove Poverty), distinguishing her platform from the Syndicate-backed Congress (O).

Step 2: Outcome:

The slogan helped Congress win a landslide victory and became closely associated with Indira Gandhi's populist economic policies of the early 1970s (bank nationalisation, abolition of privy purses).

Step 3: Final Answer:

Indira Gandhi.



11. Name two major nuclear weapons possessing countries in South Asia.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Answer:**

India and Pakistan are the two South Asian countries that possess nuclear weapons, having conducted nuclear tests in May 1998 (India's Pokhran-II and Pakistan's Chagai-I tests).



12. Mention the names of the two major rivers on which there is a dispute over water sharing between India and Bangladesh.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Answer:**

The Ganga (Farakka Barrage water-sharing, addressed by the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty) and the Teesta river are the two major rivers

over which India and Bangladesh have long-standing water-sharing disputes.



13. Mention the names of four major countries of the G-7.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

The Group of Seven (G-7) includes the USA, United Kingdom, Germany, and France among its seven advanced-economy members (the remaining three being Japan, Italy, and Canada).



14. Explain the meaning of shared property (common property resources).

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

Common/shared property resources are natural resources such as village pastures, community forests, and water bodies that are collectively owned and used by a community rather than by any single individual, and whose sustainable management depends on cooperative rules among users.



15. Mention the names of gases that affect Global Warming.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

The main greenhouse gases responsible for global warming are carbon dioxide (from burning fossil fuels), methane (from agriculture and landfills), nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) from industrial and refrigerant use.

16. When was the Election Commission formed in India? Mention the name of the first Election Commissioner.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950, the day before the Constitution came into force, and its first Chief Election Commissioner was Sukumar Sen.

17. What were the two main Models for development before India after Independence? Mention the names of those models.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

After Independence, India debated between the liberal-capitalist

model (based on private enterprise and a free market, as followed by the USA) and the socialist model (based on state ownership and central planning, as followed by the USSR); India eventually adopted a mixed economy drawing on both.



18. In the First Five Year Plan, which sector was given more emphasis?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

The First Five Year Plan (1951-56) gave primary emphasis to agriculture, along with irrigation and power projects such as the Bhakra Nangal and Hirakud dams, to address the immediate food shortage after Partition.



19. What do you understand by 'Privy purse'? Explain.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

Privy purses were the fixed annual payments guaranteed by the Indian government to the former rulers of princely states in return for their agreeing to merge their states into the Indian Union at Independence; these payments, along with the rulers' special privileges, were abolished by the 26th Constitutional Amendment in 1971.

20. Where and when was Operation 'Blue Star' launched?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Answer:

Operation Blue Star was launched by the Indian Army at the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, Punjab, in June 1984, to flush out armed militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale who had taken shelter inside.

21. Explain, what do you understand by shock therapy.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning:

'Shock therapy' refers to the abrupt, sweeping transition from a Soviet-style command economy to a market-based capitalist economy that Russia and other former Soviet republics undertook after the USSR's collapse in 1991, rather than a slow, gradual reform.

Step 2: Key features:

It involved rapid privatisation of state-owned enterprises, sudden removal of price controls, opening up to foreign trade, and withdrawal of state subsidies, all implemented in a very short span of time on the advice of Western economic institutions.

Step 3: Consequences:

The abruptness caused severe short-term hardship — collapse of the rouble, hyperinflation, mass unemployment, and a sharp fall in living standards — even though it aimed to integrate these economies with global capitalism faster.



22. Why is an International Organization necessary? Explain.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Managing interdependence:

In an interconnected world, no single country can address issues like terrorism, climate change, trade, or health crises alone; international organisations provide a platform for collective action.

Step 2: Preventing conflict:

Bodies like the United Nations offer forums for peaceful dispute resolution and mechanisms (like peacekeeping) to prevent wars from escalating.

Step 3: Setting common rules:

Organisations such as the WTO and WHO create shared rules and standards — for trade or health — making international interaction predictable and fair for all members.

Step 4: Providing aid and cooperation:

They channel humanitarian and developmental assistance to poorer nations and coordinate joint responses to global challenges,

something that bilateral diplomacy alone struggles to achieve efficiently.



23. Explain the meaning of Globalization.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Definition:

Globalisation is the process of increasing interconnectedness between countries and people, driven by flows of capital, goods, services, technology, and ideas across national borders.

Step 2: Dimensions:

It has economic (free trade, multinational corporations), political (weakening of some state controls, rise of international institutions), and cultural (spread of ideas, media, and consumption patterns) dimensions.

Step 3: Debate:

It is a contested process — supporters see it as a source of growth and opportunity, while critics argue it increases inequality between and within countries and erodes local cultures and state autonomy.



24. Mention the functions of the State Reorganization Commission.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Purpose:

The States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission, 1953) was tasked with examining the demand for the reorganisation of state boundaries in India.

Step 2: Main functions:

It studied demands for separate states, primarily assessing whether boundaries should be redrawn along linguistic lines; it consulted the public and state governments; and it recommended a rational basis for regrouping the states of the Union.

Step 3: Outcome:

Its 1955 report formed the basis of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, which redrew most state boundaries on linguistic lines and created several states largely as they exist today.

25. What do you understand by left wing and right wing? Explain the difference.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Left wing:**

Left-wing politics generally favours greater state intervention in the economy, redistribution of wealth, social welfare programmes, and equality, often associated with socialist or communist ideology (e.g. CPI, CPI(M) in India).

Step 2: Right wing:

Right-wing politics generally favours free-market capitalism, limited

government intervention in the economy, protection of private property, and often emphasises traditional social and cultural values.

Step 3: Key difference:

The core distinction lies in the role of the state: the left wants the state to actively reduce inequality and regulate markets, while the right wants the state to step back and let markets and individual enterprise operate with minimal interference.



26. What is 'Total Revolution' (Sampoorna Kranti)?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Origin:

'Total Revolution' (Sampoorna Kranti) was the call given by socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) in 1974, during a student-led movement in Bihar against corruption, unemployment, and price rise.

Step 2: Meaning:

JP called for a sweeping transformation covering political, economic, social, educational, and cultural spheres of Indian life, not just a change of government — a revolution touching every aspect of society, hence 'total'.

Step 3: Significance:

The movement mobilised students and opposition parties across the country against Indira Gandhi's government and is widely seen as one

of the key factors leading up to the imposition of the Emergency in 1975.



27. Explain the justification for India's permanent membership in the Security Council.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Population and democracy:

India is the world's most populous country and its largest democracy, giving it a strong moral claim to a permanent voice in decisions that affect global peace and security.

Step 2: Economic and military weight:

India is among the world's largest economies and possesses significant military capability, including nuclear weapons, comparable to several existing permanent members.

Step 3: Contribution to peacekeeping:

India has been one of the largest and most consistent contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping missions across the world for over seven decades.

Step 4: Outdated composition:

The current P5 reflects the power structure of 1945; India argues the Council must be reformed to reflect 21st-century geopolitical realities, and groupings like the G4 (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan) actively campaign for this.

28. Describe the main outcomes of the Rio Conference (1992).

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Background:

The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly the 'Rio Earth Summit', was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, bringing together over 100 countries to address environment and development together.

Step 2: Agenda 21:

It adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive action plan for achieving global sustainable development in the 21st century, covering areas from poverty to biodiversity.

Step 3: Key conventions:

It opened for signature the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which later led to the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Step 4: Rio Declaration and CBDR:

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development established 27 principles, notably the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities', recognising that developed countries bear greater responsibility for environmental degradation.

29. Explain in detail the three major challenges faced by India after independence.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Challenge 1: Shaping the nation:

India had to forge a single political community out of enormous religious, linguistic, caste, and regional diversity, while also absorbing over 500 princely states and managing the trauma and refugee crisis of Partition.

Step 2: Challenge 2: Establishing democracy:

The new nation had to build democratic institutions from scratch and frame a Constitution that would guarantee rights and representative government to all citizens, an unprecedented experiment given the country's scale and diversity at the time.

Step 3: Challenge 3: Development and welfare:

India needed to ensure the economic development and well-being of its entire population, most of whom were poor and illiterate, requiring planned economic growth alongside social justice and poverty alleviation.

Step 4: Interconnection:

These three challenges were deeply linked: political unity was a precondition for stable democracy, and democracy in turn provided the framework within which development policies could be debated and pursued.

30. Explain the fact that every regional movement does not lead to separatist demands, by giving examples.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: The claim:

A regional movement seeks greater autonomy, recognition, or resources for a particular region within the existing federal structure, whereas a separatist movement seeks complete political separation from the country; the two are not the same.

Step 2: Example of a regional, non-separatist movement:

The Punjabi Suba movement of the 1950s-60s demanded a separate linguistic state for Punjabi speakers; it succeeded in 1966 with the creation of Punjab and Haryana, and the demand was fully accommodated within the Indian Union without ever seeking secession.

Step 3: Another example:

Movements for statehood such as those leading to the creation of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand in 2000 were regional demands for administrative recognition and development, resolved peacefully through the democratic and constitutional process.

Step 4: Contrast with genuine separatism:

In contrast, certain movements in Jammu and Kashmir or the earlier Naga movement sought actual separation from India, which is a fundamentally different and much rarer category of demand.

31. Critically explain the relations between India and the Soviet Union (Russia) after the Cold War.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Continuity from the Soviet era:

India and the USSR shared a close 'special relationship' during the Cold War, anchored in the 1971 Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, defence supplies, and diplomatic support (e.g. on Kashmir at the UN).

Step 2: Adjustment after 1991:

The USSR's collapse in 1991 forced India to recalibrate ties with Russia, its successor state, at a time when Russia itself was economically weakened and reorienting toward the West.

Step 3: Continued strategic partnership:

Despite this transition, India-Russia relations were formalised as a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2000, later upgraded to a 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' in 2010, covering defence, energy (including nuclear cooperation), and space.

Step 4: Defence dependence:

Russia has remained India's largest source of military hardware — fighter aircraft, submarines, and missile systems — and holds annual bilateral summits with India.

Step 5: Critical assessment:

However, the relationship has faced strain: Russia's growing closeness to China and Pakistan, India's deepening ties with the USA,

and India's need to diversify defence imports away from over-reliance on a single supplier have all introduced new complexity into a once-exclusive partnership.

OR

Discuss the factors responsible for the growth of China's economy.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Economic reforms of 1978:

Under Deng Xiaoping, China abandoned rigid Maoist central planning from 1978 onward and introduced market-oriented reforms, a turning point often called 'socialism with Chinese characteristics'.

Step 2: Agricultural reform first:

Reforms began in agriculture with the 'household responsibility system', letting farming households sell surplus produce in the open market, which boosted productivity and rural incomes.

Step 3: Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

China created coastal Special Economic Zones (e.g. Shenzhen) offering tax incentives and relaxed regulation to attract foreign direct investment and technology.

Step 4: Export-led industrialisation:

China leveraged its huge, low-cost labour force to become the 'world's factory', manufacturing for export and steadily climbing the value chain into electronics and manufacturing exports.

Step 5: State-guided but market-linked growth:

Unlike a fully free market, the state retained control of strategic sectors and infrastructure investment while gradually opening trade, giving China's growth a distinctive state-guided character that sustained multi-decade double-digit growth rates.



32. Explain the main features of India's foreign policy and mention the main challenges of India's foreign policy at present.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Feature 1: Non-alignment:

India's foreign policy was historically founded on non-alignment — refusing to join either Cold War bloc, while engaging independently with both, championed by Nehru and formalised through the Non-Aligned Movement (1961).

Step 2: Feature 2: Panchsheel and peaceful coexistence:

India has consistently emphasised the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel) — mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality, and peaceful coexistence — as guiding norms in its diplomacy.

Step 3: Feature 3: Support for decolonisation and multilateralism:

India actively supported the independence struggles of other colonised nations and has been a strong advocate of the UN and multilateral institutions as forums for resolving disputes.

Step 4: Feature 4: Strategic autonomy in the present:

Post-liberalisation, India's policy has evolved toward pragmatic

'multi-alignment' — deepening ties simultaneously with the US, Russia, and others based on national interest, rather than any single bloc.

Step 5: Current challenges:

Key present-day challenges include managing an assertive China (border tensions, e.g. Doklam and Galwan), a persistently hostile Pakistan and cross-border terrorism, balancing ties between the US and Russia amid their rivalry, and securing India's due voice in global governance bodies including the UN Security Council.

OR

What do you understand by coalition government? Mention the reasons for mid-term elections in 1980.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning of coalition government:

A coalition government is formed when no single political party wins a clear majority in the legislature, so two or more parties join together, pooling their seats to form a government and share power and responsibility.

Step 2: Indian context:

Coalition governments became common in India from 1989 onward as the Congress party's dominance declined and the party system fragmented into multiple regional and national parties.

Step 3: Background to 1980:

The Janata Party government (1977-79), itself a loose coalition of

parties opposed to Indira Gandhi's Emergency, was riddled with internal ideological differences and factionalism from the outset.

Step 4: Reasons for the 1980 mid-term poll:

The Janata coalition collapsed due to leadership clashes (notably between Morarji Desai and Charan Singh) and disputes over the 'dual membership' issue (RSS-affiliated members within the Janata Party); Charan Singh's short-lived government also lost majority support quickly, leaving no stable alternative and forcing the President to call fresh elections in January 1980.

Step 5: Outcome:

These elections resulted in Indira Gandhi and the Congress returning to power with a decisive majority.