

CUET-UG Sociology Sample Paper-12

Duration: 1 Hour

Maximum Marks: 250

Instructions

- This paper contains a total of 50 Multiple Choice Questions.
- Each correct answer carries **+5 marks**.
- Each incorrect answer carries **-1 mark**.
- No negative marking for unattempted questions.

Q1. The term 'Great Tradition' and 'Little Tradition', used to study the interaction between localized village rituals and the broader Sanskritic culture, was coined by:

- (A) M.N. Srinivas
- (B) Robert Redfield
- (C) Milton Singer
- (D) McKim Marriott

Q2. In the context of tribal classification, the distinction between 'Frontier Tribes' and 'Interior Tribes' is based on which of the following criteria?

- (A) Linguistic traits
- (B) Ecological and geographical location
- (C) Degree of assimilation with Hindu society
- (D) Racial features (Negrito vs Mongoloid)

Q3. Which of the following describes the 'Laissez-faire' system of market economy?

- (A) A market strictly regulated by the state to ensure equality
- (B) A system where the state has no role or minimal interference in economic activities
- (C) A market dominated by the Jajmani system of exchange



(D) A system where prices are fixed by religious institutions

Q4. According to the 'Purity and Pollution' concept discussed by Louis Dumont, which of the following acts would traditionally be considered most 'polluting' in a ritual sense?

- (A) Agricultural labor
- (B) Handling of dead bodies or leather
- (C) Trading in spices and textiles
- (D) Performance of Vedic chants

Q5. The process of 'Tribalisation' refers to:

- (A) Tribes adopting the customs of the Brahmanical fold
- (B) Non-tribal groups adopting tribal ways of life, often for political or social reasons
- (C) The forced migration of tribes to urban cities
- (D) The total isolation of tribes in protected national parks

Q6. A 'Commodity Chain' in the era of global markets involves:

- (A) The production of goods exclusively for village consumption
- (B) The link between raw materials, processing, and the final consumer across international borders
- (C) The bartering of goods at a local weekly haat
- (D) The government's monopoly over all essential food items

Q7. In many tribal societies, 'Matrilocal' residence means:

- (A) The couple lives with or near the husband's family
- (B) The couple lives with or near the wife's family
- (C) The couple establishes a completely new home in a city
- (D) The family lineage is traced through the male ancestors



- Q8.** The 'Creamy Layer' criterion is used to exclude certain sections from the benefits of reservation among which category?
- (A) Scheduled Castes (SC)
 - (B) Other Backward Classes (OBC)
 - (C) Scheduled Tribes (ST)
 - (D) Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- Q9.** The 'Stree Purush Tulana' was a pioneering feminist text. What was its primary focus regarding social exclusion?
- (A) Exclusion of tribes from political power
 - (B) The double standards of treatment between men and women in 19th-century society
 - (C) The exclusion of Indian laborers from British factories
 - (D) The lack of primary schools in rural India
- Q10.** Which act provides for a 4% reservation in government jobs for persons with benchmark disabilities?
- (A) The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
 - (B) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
 - (C) The Mental Health Act, 1987
 - (D) The National Trust Act, 1999
- Q11.** Who was the first chairperson of the First Backward Classes Commission established in 1953?
- (A) B.P. Mandal
 - (B) Kaka Kalelkar
 - (C) Jagjivan Ram
 - (D) V.P. Singh
- Q12.** The concept of 'Social Exclusion' is primarily 'structural' because:



- (A) It is based on an individual's personal choice to stay alone
- (B) It is built into the institutions and social norms of society
- (C) It is caused by a lack of personal intelligence
- (D) It is a temporary phenomenon that disappears with money

Q13. Which social reformer founded the 'Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha' to promote the welfare of the 'depressed classes'?

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
- (B) B.R. Ambedkar
- (C) Periyar E.V. Ramasamy
- (D) Jyotiba Phule

Q14. The 'Malthusian Theory' suggests that 'Positive Checks' on population include:

- (A) Late marriage and celibacy
- (B) Famines, wars, and natural disasters
- (C) Family planning and contraceptives
- (D) Educational awareness programs

Q15. If a country has a very low birth rate and a very low death rate, it is likely in which stage of the Demographic Transition?

- (A) Stage I (Primitive)
- (B) Stage II (Explosion)
- (C) Stage III (Maturing)
- (D) Stage IV (Post-industrial/Stable)

Q16. The 'Sex Ratio' in India is defined as:

- (A) The number of males per 1000 females
- (B) The number of females per 1000 males
- (C) The percentage of women in the total population



(D) The ratio of births to deaths in a year

Q17. What is 'Feminization of Agriculture' primarily caused by?

(A) Women's lack of interest in urban jobs

(B) Migration of men from rural to urban areas in search of work

(C) Government laws giving land only to women

(D) The growth of the IT sector in rural areas

Q18. According to the 2011 Census, which state has the lowest sex ratio in India?

(A) Kerala

(B) Punjab

(C) Haryana

(D) Bihar

Q19. A 'Youth Bulge' in a population pyramid indicates:

(A) A high percentage of elderly dependents

(B) A high proportion of young people entering the workforce

(C) A declining birth rate across all sections

(D) A high infant mortality rate

Q20. 'Authoritarianism' as a form of state is the opposite of:

(A) Monarchy

(B) Democracy

(C) Oligarchy

(D) Dictatorship

Q21. The 'Sons of the Soil' movement is an expression of which sociological concept?

(A) Secularism



- (B) Regionalism
- (C) Globalism
- (D) Casteism

Q22. Which scholar argued that 'Nation' is an 'Imagined Community'?

- (A) Benedict Anderson
- (B) Ernest Gellner
- (C) Eric Hobsbawm
- (D) Clifford Geertz

Q23. The 'States Reorganisation Commission' (1953) recommended the creation of states primarily on the basis of:

- (A) Religious majority
- (B) Linguistic homogeneity
- (C) Economic prosperity
- (D) Geographical size

Q24. In the context of the Nation-state, 'Cultural Diversity' is often seen as a challenge to:

- (A) Economic growth
- (B) National integration based on a single cultural identity
- (C) The development of technology
- (D) The judicial system

Q25. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a 'State' as defined by Max Weber?

- (A) A defined territory
- (B) Monopoly over the legitimate use of physical force
- (C) A common language spoken by all citizens



(D) A centralized administrative staff

Q26. M.N. Srinivas argued that Sanskritisation is a process of 'positional change' rather than 'structural change'. This means:

(A) The caste hierarchy itself is abolished

(B) An individual caste moves up, but the overall hierarchy remains the same

(C) The entire society becomes westernized

(D) Everyone becomes a Brahmin

Q27. The 'Great Tradition' usually refers to:

(A) Local folk songs and dances

(B) The written, elite, and Sanskritic cultural traditions

(C) Tribal customs and rituals

(D) Modern Bollywood cinema

Q28. Which of the following was a result of colonial 'Urbanisation' in coastal India?

(A) The rise of temple towns like Madurai

(B) The growth of port cities like Bombay and Madras for trade

(C) The decline of the English language

(D) The strengthening of the barter system

Q29. The concept of 'Westernisation' was criticized by some scholars because:

(A) It was too simple a concept

(B) It ignored the fact that even upper castes were modernizing in their own way

(C) It was value-loaded and suggested Western culture was superior

(D) It only applied to the rural population

Q30. According to M.N. Srinivas, which of the following is a precondition for a caste to become 'Dominant'?



- (A) Owning a factory in the city
- (B) Numerical strength and land-owning rights in a locality
- (C) Being the most educated group in the state
- (D) Following the Islamic faith

Q31. Social change that happens through the adoption of new technology and scientific rationalism is often termed as:

- (A) Sanskritisation
- (B) Modernisation
- (C) Traditionalisation
- (D) Secularisation

Q32. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act focuses on the empowerment of:

- (A) Village Panchayats
- (B) Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities)
- (C) The Judiciary
- (D) The Armed Forces

Q33. In India, 'Universal Adult Franchise' means that the right to vote is given to:

- (A) Only taxpayers
- (B) Only those with a university degree
- (C) All citizens above 18 years regardless of caste, creed, or gender
- (D) Only property owners

Q34. The 'Panchayati Raj' system is based on the principle of:

- (A) Centralization of power
- (B) Democratic Decentralization
- (C) Judicial Activism
- (D) Bureaucratic rule



- Q35.** The 'Right to Information' (RTI) is an example of:
- (A) A state secret
 - (B) A tool for transparency and accountability in a democracy
 - (C) A law that restricts the media
 - (D) A religious duty
- Q36.** The term 'Social Consequences of the Green Revolution' often includes:
- (A) The rise of a new class of 'gentleman farmers' or prosperous capitalist farmers
 - (B) The total disappearance of the caste system
 - (C) The complete equality between men and women in agriculture
 - (D) The ban on the use of machinery
- Q37.** Post-1991, the shift from 'Import Substitution' to 'Export Promotion' is a feature of:
- (A) Colonialism
 - (B) Liberalisation
 - (C) Feudalism
 - (D) Socialism
 - (E)
- Q38.** The 'Zamindari Abolition Act' was part of which broader reform process?
- (A) Industrial Reforms
 - (B) Land Reforms
 - (C) Educational Reforms
 - (D) Banking Reforms
- Q39.** The 'Knowledge Economy' is characterized by:
- (A) Production based primarily on physical manual labor



- (B) Production based on information, technology, and intellectual capital
- (C) A return to the Jajmani system
- (D) The dominance of the agricultural sector

Q40. The concept of 'Commodification' in a capitalist economy refers to:

- (A) Turning things that were not previously sold into items for sale in the market
- (B) Distributing goods for free to the poor
- (C) The government taking over all private property
- (D) The ritual use of water in temples

Q41. What is 'Transnationalism' in the context of globalization?

- (A) Living strictly within one's own national borders
- (B) The process where people maintain social and economic ties in more than one nation
- (C) The rejection of foreign food
- (D) The expansion of the Indian army to other countries

Q42. The 'Mass Media' in India has contributed to 'Homogenization' by:

- (A) Promoting only local regional dialects
- (B) Creating a uniform national culture through popular TV shows and films
- (C) Banning the use of the internet
- (D) Encouraging everyone to live in villages

Q43. 'Electronic Colonialism' is a term used to describe:

- (A) The use of computers in colonial administration
- (B) The dominance of Western media and software in developing nations
- (C) The physical occupation of a country using robots
- (D) The invention of the telegraph



- Q44.** The 'Information Revolution' has led to the growth of which sector in India?
- (A) Primary (Agriculture)
 - (B) Secondary (Manufacturing)
 - (C) Tertiary (Services/IT)
 - (D) Quaternary (Mining)
- Q45.** The 'Dalit Panther' movement was founded in which state?
- (A) Uttar Pradesh
 - (B) Maharashtra
 - (C) Karnataka
 - (D) Tamil Nadu
- Q46.** The 'Silent Valley Movement' in Kerala was an example of:
- (A) A religious reform movement
 - (B) An environmental movement to protect a tropical forest
 - (C) A peasant movement for higher land prices
 - (D) A movement for women's suffrage
- Q47.** Which of the following is a characteristic of a 'Reformist' social movement?
- (A) It aims to overthrow the government through violence
 - (B) It seeks to change certain aspects of the system without destroying it
 - (C) It wants to return society to a primitive state
 - (D) It is always led by the military
- Q48.** The 'Self-Help Groups' (SHGs) are often seen as a part of which type of movement?
- (A) Workers' Movement
 - (B) Women's Empowerment Movement
 - (C) Nationalist Movement



(D) Religious Movement

Q49. Who led the 'Bhoodan Movement', urging landlords to donate land to the landless?

(A) Mahatma Gandhi

(B) Vinoba Bhave

(C) Jayaprakash Narayan

(D) Ram Manohar Lohia

Q50. A 'Redemptive' social movement aims at:

(A) Changing the entire economic structure of a country

(B) Bringing about a total change in the personal lives and beliefs of individuals

(C) Protesting against a specific tax law

(D) Demanding a separate country



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution**

Concept: The concepts of Great and Little Traditions were developed within the framework of civilizations studies to understand how local, unlettered traditions (Little) interact with the elite, literate, and reflective traditions (Great) of a civilization.

Solution: 1. Robert Redfield introduced these terms while studying Mexican communities. He argued that the Little Tradition is the culture of the unreflective many, while the Great Tradition is the culture of the reflective few, often maintained in schools or temples. 2. In the Indian context, these terms were later utilized and expanded upon by scholars like Milton Singer and McKim Marriott to explain the processes of 'Universalization' and 'Parochialization'. 3. M.N. Srinivas, while influential, used the term 'Sanskritization' for a similar but distinct process of upward mobility. 4. Therefore, the original coiner of these specific terms is the American anthropologist Robert Redfield.

Final Answer: Robert Redfield coined the terms.

Answer: (B)

Q2.**Solution**

Concept: Sociologists and anthropologists classify Indian tribes based on various criteria such as language, race, and geography to better understand their unique social structures and administrative needs.

Solution: 1. Frontier Tribes refer to those located in the international border areas, primarily in the North-East of India (like the Nagas or Mizos), often characterized by their geopolitical sensitivity. 2. Interior Tribes refer to the groups inhabiting the heartland of the country, such as Central India, West Bengal, and Odisha (like the Santhals, Gonds, or Bhils). 3. This specific categorization is purely based on the ecological and geographical location of the tribes relative to the borders and central plains of the country. 4. Other classifications, like those by Ghurye, focus more on assimilation (Option C), but 'Frontier vs Interior' is a spatial distinction.

Final Answer: Ecological and geographical location.

Answer: (B)



Q3.

Solution

Concept: Laissez-faire is a French term meaning 'leave to do' or 'let it be'. It is a core principle of classical liberal economic theory, most famously advocated by Adam Smith in the 18th century.

Solution: 1. In a Laissez-faire system, the economy is driven by the 'invisible hand' of market forces—supply and demand—without state-imposed barriers like tariffs, subsidies, or heavy regulations. 2. The role of the state is limited to maintaining law and order, protecting property rights, and providing a stable legal framework. 3. This stands in contrast to planned economies or socialist systems where the government regulates production and pricing to achieve social equity. 4. Option C (Jajmani system) refers to a traditional Indian rural reciprocal exchange system, which is social rather than a Laissez-faire market.

Final Answer: A system where the state has no role or minimal interference.

Answer: (B)

Q4.

Solution

Concept: In his work 'Homo Hierarchicus', Louis Dumont argues that the Indian caste system is built upon a fundamental ideological binary of purity and pollution, which dictates social hierarchy and distance.

Solution: 1. Purity and pollution are defined by contact with organic substances related to birth and death. 2. Handling of dead bodies (human or animal) and animal hide (leather) involves direct contact with 'death', which is considered the ultimate source of permanent ritual pollution. 3. Groups performing these tasks were traditionally categorized as 'untouchables' or Dalits to keep the 'pure' castes (like Brahmins) free from contagion. 4. Agricultural labor (Option A) and trading (Option C) are secular activities that carry significantly less ritual weight compared to the biological pollution of death.

Final Answer: Handling of dead bodies or leather.

Answer: (B)



Q5.

Solution

Concept: While 'Sanskritization' describes the movement of groups toward the 'Great Tradition', 'Tribalisation' is the reverse process where non-tribal or caste-based groups adopt tribal characteristics.

Solution: 1. Tribalisation occurs when people from the 'mainstream' or caste-based society move into tribal areas and adopt their customs, rituals, and social structures. 2. This can happen due to long-term proximity, intermarriage, or even strategically to claim certain social or political benefits associated with tribal status in specific regions. 3. This process highlights that cultural influence is not a one-way street; tribes also influence the larger society (as seen in the cult of Jagannath in Odisha). 4. Option A actually describes Sanskritization, whereas Tribalisation involves becoming more like a tribe.

Final Answer: Non-tribal groups adopting tribal ways of life.

Answer: (B)

Q6.

Solution

Concept: A commodity chain is a network of labor and production processes whose end result is a finished commodity. In the age of globalization, these chains are often global in scale, linking geographically dispersed activities.

Solution: 1. The concept explains how products are designed, sourced, manufactured, and distributed. For example, a smartphone might be designed in the US, use minerals from Africa, be assembled in China, and sold in India. 2. It highlights the interdependence of various economies and the flow of value from raw material extraction to the final consumer. 3. This is distinct from local village consumption or the traditional 'haat' (market), which operate on a localized or regional scale. 4. It reflects the shift toward a globalized economy where the manufacturing process is fragmented across multiple nations.

Final Answer: The link between raw materials, processing, and the final consumer across international borders.

Answer: (B)



Q7.

Solution

Concept: Residential patterns in sociology and anthropology describe where a newly married couple resides. 'Matrilocal' (or uxorilocal) is one such pattern found in specific tribal and social groups.

Solution: 1. In a matrilocal system, the groom leaves his own family home to live in or near the household of his wife's parents. 2. This is often associated with matrilineal societies (where descent is traced through females), such as the Khasis of Meghalaya or the Nairs of Kerala historically. 3. This stands in contrast to 'Patrilocal' residence (Option A), which is the dominant pattern in most of India, where the wife moves to the husband's home. 4. Option D refers to 'Patrilineal' descent, which is a matter of lineage rather than physical residence.

Final Answer: The couple lives with or near the wife's family.

Answer: (B)

Q8.

Solution

Concept: The 'Creamy Layer' is a term used in Indian politics to refer to the relatively wealthier and better-educated members of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who are not eligible for government-sponsored educational and professional benefit programs.

Solution: 1. The concept was introduced following the Supreme Court's judgment in the Indra Sawhney case (1992). 2. The rationale is to ensure that reservation benefits reach the truly underprivileged within the OBC category rather than being cornered by those who have already achieved significant social and economic progress. 3. Currently, this criterion does not apply to SCs and STs, as the court and government have traditionally viewed their exclusion as based on social untouchability and historical isolation rather than purely economic backwardness. 4. For EWS (Option D), the entire category is based on income, so a 'creamy layer' sub-exclusion is redundant.

Final Answer: Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Answer: (B)



Q9.

Solution

Concept: 'Stree Purush Tulana' (A Comparison Between Women and Men) was published in 1882 by Tarabai Shinde, a feminist activist from Maharashtra. It is considered one of the first modern feminist texts in India.

Solution: 1. Shinde wrote this pamphlet in response to the harsh criticism and double standards faced by women, particularly widows, in 19th-century patriarchal society. 2. The text challenges the male-dominated social order by questioning why women were punished for the same actions that were overlooked or even celebrated in men. 3. It specifically critiques the upper-caste Hindu patriarchy and the lack of agency granted to women within the domestic and social spheres. 4. It was a radical critique of the systemic exclusion of women from dignity and rights.

Final Answer: The double standards of treatment between men and women in 19th-century society.

Answer: (B)

Q10.

Solution

Concept: Legislation for the disabled in India has evolved from a medical model of rehabilitation to a rights-based model, ensuring social inclusion and equal opportunity.

Solution: 1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, replaced the older 1995 Act. It significantly expanded the number of recognized disabilities from 7 to 21. 2. Under this Act, 'benchmark disability' refers to having at least 40 percent of a specified disability. 3. The Act increased the reservation in government vacancies from 3 percent to 4 percent for persons with benchmark disabilities. 4. It also mandates 5 percent reservation in higher education institutions and focuses on making public buildings and transport accessible.

Final Answer: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Answer: (B)



Q11.

Solution

Concept: Article 340 of the Indian Constitution provides for the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes. The first such commission was appointed shortly after independence.

Solution: 1. The First Backward Classes Commission was set up by a presidential order on January 29, 1953, under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar. 2. It is popularly known as the Kaka Kalelkar Commission. It submitted its report in 1955, identifying 2,399 backward castes. 3. However, the commission's recommendations were not implemented at the national level as the government felt that using 'caste' as a criterion might perpetuate casteism and preferred economic criteria instead. 4. B.P. Mandal chaired the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979, while V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister who implemented the Mandal report.

Final Answer: Kaka Kalelkar was the chairperson.

Answer: (B)

Q12.

Solution

Concept: Social exclusion refers to the ways in which individuals or groups are cut off from full involvement in the wider society. It is a multidimensional process rather than a simple lack of resources.

Solution: 1. Social exclusion is considered 'structural' because it is not an accidental or individual choice; rather, it is a result of the way society is organized. 2. It is embedded in social institutions (like schools, hospitals, or the legal system) and cultural norms that systematically deny certain groups access to opportunities, resources, and rights. 3. For example, the caste system or racial segregation are structural forms of exclusion where the 'structure' of society dictates who can participate in which activities. 4. Even if an individual has the desire or the money to participate, structural barriers (like prejudice or discriminatory laws) may still prevent their inclusion.

Final Answer: It is built into the institutions and social norms of society.

Answer: (B)



Q13.

Solution

Concept: The movement for Dalit rights in India saw the rise of several organizations aimed at the socio-economic and political upliftment of the groups formerly known as 'untouchables'.

Solution: 1. The 'Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha' (Association for the Welfare of the Excluded) was founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1924 in Bombay. 2. The central motive of the Sabha was to create awareness, provide education, and improve the economic conditions of the depressed classes. 3. Its motto was 'Educate, Agitate, and Organize'. 4. While Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj and Gandhi started the Harijan Sevak Sangh, the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha remains a specific milestone in Ambedkar's early organizational work.

Final Answer: B.R. Ambedkar founded the organization.

Answer: (B)

Q14.

Solution

Concept: Thomas Robert Malthus, in his 'Essay on the Principle of Population', argued that population grows geometrically while food supply grows arithmetically, leading to an inevitable imbalance.

Solution: 1. Malthus identified two types of checks to bring the population back in line with the food supply: Preventive checks and Positive checks. 2. 'Preventive checks' are human-controlled methods like late marriage, celibacy, and moral restraint. 3. 'Positive checks' are natural or external forces that increase the death rate, such as famines, diseases, wars, and natural disasters. 4. Malthus believed that if humans did not apply preventive checks, nature would inevitably apply positive checks to reduce the population numbers.

Final Answer: Famines, wars, and natural disasters.

Answer: (B)

Q15.

Solution

Concept: The Theory of Demographic Transition describes the historical shift from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates as a society develops from a pre-industrial to an industrialized economic system.

Solution: 1. In Stage I, both rates are high, leading to a stable but small population. 2. In Stage II, death rates fall due to better health, but birth rates remain high, leading to a population explosion. 3. In Stage III, birth rates begin to fall alongside death rates. 4. In Stage IV (or sometimes V), both birth and death rates are very low. This leads to a stable or even declining population, typical of highly developed post-industrial nations like Japan or several European countries.

Final Answer: Stage IV (Post-industrial/Stable).

Answer: (D)



Q16.

Solution**Concept:**

The concept of the Sex Ratio is a vital demographic tool used to measure the gender balance within a specific population. In the context of Indian census and sociological studies, it serves as a primary indicator of the status of women in society and helps identify regions where gender discrimination or skewed birth patterns may be prevalent.

Solution:

1. The Sex Ratio in India is specifically defined as the number of females per 1000 males. This definition is standardized across the country's census operations and is used to track demographic shifts over decades. 2. Unlike many Western countries where the ratio might be expressed as the number of males per 100 females, the Indian methodology uses a base of 1000 males to provide a more granular view of the female population's relative size. 3. A balanced sex ratio is typically close to 1000, while a declining or "adverse" sex ratio (below 950) often signals underlying social issues such as female feticide, gender-based neglect, or higher mortality rates among women. 4. Historically, India has struggled with a skewed sex ratio. For instance, the 2011 Census recorded a national average of 943 females per 1000 males. These statistics allow the government to formulate targeted policies, such as the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign, to address regional imbalances like those found in states like Haryana. 5. Understanding this ratio is essential for analyzing labor force participation, marriage patterns, and the overall social health of the nation.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B).

Answer: (B)



Q17.

Solution**Concept:**

The Feminization of Agriculture is a significant sociological and economic trend observed in developing nations, particularly in India. It refers to the increasing proportion of women who operate as the primary workforce in the agricultural sector, often taking on roles traditionally held by men, such as farm management and decision-making.

Solution:

1. The primary driver of this phenomenon is the migration of men from rural areas to urban centers in search of better-paying jobs in the industrial and service sectors. This leaves the women behind in the villages to manage the ancestral farmlands while also handling household and care-giving responsibilities. 2. In many rural households, the income from small-scale farming is insufficient. Consequently, male members move to cities to earn a stable wage, leading to a "hollowing out" of the male rural workforce. 3. As a result, women have transitioned from being unpaid family helpers to becoming the backbone of the rural economy. They now perform intensive tasks including sowing, weeding, harvesting, and livestock management. 4. Despite their increased workload and responsibility, women in agriculture often face systemic challenges, such as the lack of land titles (land is usually registered in the names of male relatives), limited access to institutional credit, and restricted reach to modern farming equipment or government subsidies. 5. This trend highlights a paradox where women's participation in the labor force increases out of necessity rather than empowerment, often leading to a "double burden" of work where they manage both the field and the home without a commensurate increase in social or legal status.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Migration of men from rural to urban areas in search of work.

Answer: (B)



Q18.

Solution**Concept:**

The sex ratio is a critical demographic indicator used to assess the gender balance in a population, defined as the number of females per 1000 males. Data regarding this ratio is collected every ten years during the national census conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. This metric is a significant reflector of the socio-economic status of women and the prevalence of gender equality in various states.

Solution:

1. According to the official data from the 2011 Census, the state of Haryana recorded the lowest sex ratio in India among all states. The figure stood at 879 females per every 1000 males, which was significantly lower than the national average of 943. 2. The low sex ratio in regions like Haryana and Punjab is often attributed to a combination of deep-seated patriarchal social structures and the historical preference for male children. This preference frequently led to the misuse of medical technologies for sex-selective abortion, despite legal bans under the PCPNDT Act. 3. In contrast, Kerala represents the opposite end of the spectrum, consistently recording the highest sex ratio in the country (1084 in the 2011 Census). This is generally linked to higher literacy rates, better healthcare access, and a more equitable social status for women in the state. 4. The 2011 Census also highlighted a worrying trend in the Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years), which was even lower than the overall sex ratio in several northern states, prompting the government to launch initiatives like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme to improve these numbers. 5. While Union Territories like Daman and Diu had even lower ratios (618), among the full-fledged states, Haryana remained the most critical area of concern for demographers and policymakers during that census period.

Final Answer: The correct option is (C) Haryana.

Answer: (C)



Q19.

Solution**Concept:**

The Youth Bulge is a demographic phenomenon that occurs when a population experiences a significant increase in the proportion of individuals in the young adult age groups, typically between 15 and 24 years old. This is a specific stage within the demographic transition model, occurring when a country transitions from high to low mortality rates while fertility rates remain relatively high for a period.

Solution:

1. In a population pyramid, a Youth Bulge is represented by a prominent widening in the middle-lower section of the graph. This indicates that a large cohort of children has survived into adolescence and young adulthood, often due to improvements in public health, nutrition, and medical care. 2. This demographic structure is highly significant for a nation's economy. When a high proportion of the population consists of young people entering the workforce, it creates what economists call a Demographic Dividend. If the state can provide adequate education, vocational training, and employment opportunities, this large workforce can drive rapid industrialization and economic growth. 3. However, the Youth Bulge is also viewed through a lens of social stability. If a country fails to provide jobs for this massive influx of young workers, it can lead to widespread unemployment, social unrest, and political instability, as a large, frustrated young population may become susceptible to radicalization or protest movements. 4. It is distinct from a high dependency ratio of the elderly, which characterizes aging populations (like Japan). Instead, it reflects a period where the productive part of the population is at its peak relative to the dependent children and elderly. 5. In the context of India, the country has been experiencing a significant youth bulge over the last few decades, making it one of the youngest nations globally and providing a unique window of opportunity for economic transformation.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) A high proportion of young people entering the workforce.

Answer: (B)



Q20.

Solution**Concept:**

In political science, systems of governance are primarily categorized by how power is distributed and the level of freedom afforded to the citizenry. Authoritarianism and Democracy represent two ends of the political spectrum regarding the source of authority, the rule of law, and the protection of individual liberties.

Solution:

1. Authoritarianism is a form of government characterized by strong central power and limited political freedoms. Under an authoritarian regime, the state demands strict obedience to authority, often at the expense of personal liberty. Political plurality is suppressed, and the executive branch usually operates without constitutional accountability to the public. 2. Democracy is the functional and ideological opposite of authoritarianism. It is a system where power is vested in the people, exercised either directly or through freely elected representatives. It is built on the pillars of regular elections, the separation of powers, and the protection of fundamental human rights. 3. While Monarchy, Oligarchy, and Dictatorship describe specific ways power is held (by a single royal, a small elite group, or a single ruler respectively), they can all overlap with authoritarian traits. For example, a dictatorship is a specific type of authoritarian rule. 4. The fundamental distinction lies in the accountability of the rulers. In an authoritarian state, the government is not responsible to the people; in a democracy, the people hold the ultimate power to change the government through the ballot box. 5. Therefore, while a state can be both a monarchy and authoritarian, it cannot be truly democratic and authoritarian at the same time, as the two concepts are mutually exclusive in their approach to civil sovereignty.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Democracy.

Answer: (B)



Q21.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Sons of the Soil' movement is a key topic in Indian sociology and political science, falling under the study of regional identity and social movements. It explores the conflict between the constitutional right of all citizens to move and work anywhere in India and the specific demands of local populations for control over their regional resources and employment opportunities.

Solution:

1. The 'Sons of the Soil' movement is a classic expression of Regionalism. This concept refers to an ideology where people feel a deep-seated primary loyalty to their own region or state rather than the nation as a whole, often leading to political and social mobilization. 2. This movement is based on the claim that a specific state belongs primarily to the local people (the "natives") who speak the local language and share the local culture. It often arises in response to perceived competition for jobs or resources from migrants coming from other parts of the country. 3. In India, prominent examples include the Shiv Sena movements in Maharashtra during the 1960s targeting South Indians and later North Indians, and similar movements in Assam where the local population protested against the influx of "outsiders" whom they felt were encroaching on their land and employment. 4. Sociologists argue that these movements are often triggered by economic insecurity. When local youth face high unemployment, regionalist leaders use the "Sons of the Soil" rhetoric to direct frustration toward migrants, characterizing them as the cause of local economic hardship. 5. While the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to migrate and settle under Article 19, these regionalist movements challenge that national integration by asserting sub-national identities and demanding "mulki" (local) rules for recruitment in government and private sectors.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Regionalism.

Answer: (B)



Q22.

Solution**Concept:**

The definition of a 'Nation' has been a subject of intense academic debate. This question refers to the modernist perspective of nationalism, which views the nation not as an ancient, primordial entity, but as a relatively recent socio-cultural construct facilitated by specific historical and technological developments.

Solution:

1. The scholar Benedict Anderson famously argued that a nation is an 'Imagined Community' in his seminal 1983 work. He defined the nation as an imagined political community that is both inherently limited and sovereign. 2. It is "imagined" because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion. They feel a sense of horizontal comradeship with millions of strangers based on a shared national identity. 3. Anderson emphasized the role of "print capitalism" in this process. The mass production of books and newspapers in vernacular languages allowed people to read the same information simultaneously. This created a shared linguistic field and a sense of "meanwhile" time, helping individuals realize that thousands of others were participating in the same cultural rituals. 4. It is "limited" because every nation has finite, if elastic, boundaries beyond which lie other nations. It is "sovereign" because the concept matured during an era when the Enlightenment and Revolution were destroying the legitimacy of divinely-ordained, hierarchical dynastic realms. 5. This theory shifted the focus of sociology from looking at nations as objective biological or geographical facts to looking at them as mental constructs that are powerful enough to command the ultimate sacrifice from their citizens.

Final Answer: The correct option is (A) Benedict Anderson.

Answer: (A)



Q23.

Solution**Concept:**

The States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) was a pivotal body formed by the Central Government of India in 1953 to recommend the redrawing of state boundaries. Following the independence of India, there were intense grassroots movements, most notably in the Telugu-speaking regions, demanding that administrative boundaries align with the cultural and communicative realities of the people to ensure better governance and democratic participation.

Solution:

1. The Commission, consisting of Fazal Ali, K.M. Panikkar, and H.N. Kunzru, submitted its report in 1955. Its primary recommendation was that state boundaries should be reorganized based on linguistic homogeneity. 2. The logic was that a state functioning in the language of the local people would be more efficient, inclusive, and educationally accessible. This led to the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, which fundamentally transformed the internal map of India, moving away from the colonial-era 'Part A, B, C, and D' states. 3. While the commission also considered factors like administrative convenience, economic viability, and national security, language remained the "predominant considerations" because it provided a sense of shared identity and eased the interaction between the government and the governed. 4. This move was initially feared by some leaders as a threat to national unity, but it actually served to strengthen Indian federalism by accommodating the diverse cultural aspirations of various ethnic and linguistic groups within a single democratic framework. 5. The reorganization helped mitigate regional grievances and allowed for the flowering of regional literatures and cultures, proving that linguistic diversity could coexist with national integration.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Linguistic homogeneity.

Answer: (B)



Q24.

Solution**Concept:**

The modern nation-state is traditionally conceptualized as a political entity that seeks to coincide with a single cultural or ethnic unit. In sociology, the challenge of 'Cultural Diversity' arises when the state attempts to implement a "nation-building" project that emphasizes a monolithic identity, often ignoring or suppressing the pluralistic nature of its society.

Solution:

1. Within a nation-state, cultural diversity is often perceived by centralizing authorities as a challenge to national integration based on a single cultural identity. This is because the classical model of a nation-state often relies on the "one language, one religion, one culture" formula to foster a sense of unity. 2. In diverse societies like India, the state must navigate between "assimilationist" policies (which try to merge all cultures into one) and "integrationist" policies (which allow groups to maintain their identity while being part of the whole). 3. Diversity becomes a 'challenge' when minorities or regional groups demand recognition of their distinct cultural, linguistic, or religious rights, which may conflict with the state's efforts to standardize education, law, and language. 4. However, sociologists argue that diversity is not a threat to the state itself, but rather to the specific 'communitarian' or 'majoritarian' version of a nation-state that seeks cultural uniformity. 5. Successful modern democracies manage this by adopting multiculturalism or secularism, recognizing that national strength comes from a "salad bowl" or "mosaic" arrangement rather than a "melting pot" that erases differences.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) National integration based on a single cultural identity.

Answer: (B)



Q25.

Solution**Concept:**

Max Weber, a foundational figure in sociology, provided one of the most widely cited definitions of the 'State'. His definition focuses on the institutional and legal nature of political power rather than the cultural or linguistic attributes of the people living within that power structure.

Solution:

1. According to Max Weber, a state is a human community that successfully claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory. This definition contains three essential pillars: territory, legitimacy, and the use of force. 2. Weber emphasizes that the state is characterized by a centralized administrative staff (a bureaucracy) that carries out the daily functions of governance and enforces the legal order. 3. Having a defined territory is crucial because the state's authority is geographically bounded; its laws and its "monopoly of violence" apply only within specific borders. 4. A common language spoken by all citizens is NOT a characteristic of a state in Weber's definition. While many nation-states strive for linguistic unity, Weber's definition is purely political and functional. Many historical and modern states (like Switzerland, Canada, or India) are recognized as legitimate states despite being multilingual. 5. Weber's focus was on the "means" specific to the state (force and administration) rather than its "ends" or cultural characteristics. A state exists as long as its administrative body can maintain order and its right to use force is accepted as 'legitimate' by the population or other states.

Final Answer: The correct option is (C) A common language spoken by all citizens.

Answer: (C)



Q26.

Solution**Concept:**

M.N. Srinivas introduced 'Sanskritisation' to explain how lower castes seek upward mobility by adopting the rituals, ideologies, and way of life of upper castes, particularly Brahmins. This concept is central to understanding social mobility within the rigid Indian caste system, distinguishing between moving within a system versus changing the system itself.

Solution:

1. Srinivas famously described Sanskritisation as a process of positional change rather than structural change. This means that while a specific caste or group may successfully move to a higher "position" within the local hierarchy through the adoption of Sanskritic rites (such as vegetarianism or wearing the sacred thread), the "structure" of the caste system itself remains perfectly intact. 2. In a structural change, the fundamental rules of the hierarchy would be altered or abolished, such as the total removal of the Varna system. However, in Sanskritisation, the hierarchy persists; one group simply displaces another or wedges itself into a higher tier, leaving the vertical arrangement of society unchanged. 3. This process often involves the emulation of the "twice-born" castes. By adopting these customs, the emulating group claims a higher status, which may eventually be recognized by the local community over several generations. 4. It is important to note that Sanskritisation does not lead to a more egalitarian society. Instead, it reaffirms the prestige of the upper-caste lifestyle, as the lower group validates the hierarchy by trying to climb it rather than dismantling it. 5. Therefore, while the "position" of a group improves, the "structure" of inequality and the ideology of purity and pollution that sustain the caste system remain unchallenged.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) An individual caste moves up, but the overall hierarchy remains the same.

Answer: (B)



Q27.

Solution**Concept:**

The distinction between 'Great Tradition' and 'Little Tradition' was popularized by anthropologists like Robert Redfield and Milton Singer to study Indian civilization. It provides a framework for understanding how localized, oral cultures interact with the overarching, codified, and pan-Indian cultural forms.

Solution:

1. The 'Great Tradition' refers to the cultural heritage that is written, codified, and practiced by the elite or learned members of a society. In the Indian context, this is largely associated with Sanskrit civilization, including the Vedas, Upanishads, and the classical legal and philosophical texts. 2. This tradition is typically preserved in urban centers, temples, and educational institutions (Pathshalas). It is characterized by its broad, often national or civilizational reach, providing a sense of unity across different geographic regions of the subcontinent. 3. Conversely, the 'Little Tradition' consists of the localized, oral, and folk customs practiced by the unlettered peasantry in villages. These include local deities, folk songs, and specific regional rituals that may not be found in the classical Sanskrit texts. 4. The two traditions are not isolated; they exist in a state of constant interaction. Elements of the Little Tradition often get absorbed into the Great Tradition (universalization), while elements of the Great Tradition filter down to the local level (parochialization). 5. Understanding the Great Tradition is essential for studying the historical and religious continuity of Indian society, as it represents the standardized cultural norms that have been transmitted across generations through formal literature and high-culture rituals.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) The written, elite, and Sanskrit cultural traditions.

Answer: (B)



Q28.

Solution**Concept:**

Colonial urbanization in India represented a fundamental shift in the country's spatial and economic organization. Unlike traditional Indian urban centers, which were often inland and centered around administrative or religious power, British colonial cities were designed to serve the interests of global trade and imperial control.

Solution:

1. One of the most significant results of colonial rule was the rise of the great port cities of Bombay (Mumbai), Madras (Chennai), and Calcutta (Kolkata). These cities were strategically located along the coast to facilitate the export of raw materials to Britain and the import of finished European goods. 2. This process led to the relative decline of older, inland manufacturing and administrative centers like Surat, Murshidabad, and Dhaka. This shift is often referred to as "de-urbanization" of traditional towns and "colonial urbanization" of the new coastal hubs. 3. These coastal cities were built with a distinct European architectural style and were divided into "White Towns" (for Europeans) and "Black Towns" (for the native population), reflecting the racial and social hierarchies of the colonial era. 4. These cities became the primary nodes of the modern economy, hosting the first railways, banks, and modern educational institutions. They served as the gateway for Western ideas, legal systems, and the English language to enter the Indian subcontinent. 5. The growth of these ports was essential for the "drain of wealth" theory, as they acted as the exit points through which India's resources were funneled into the global British trade network, fundamentally altering India's economic geography.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) The growth of port cities like Bombay and Madras for trade.

Answer: (B)



Q29.

Solution**Concept:**

The concept of Westernisation, as introduced by M.N. Srinivas, refers to the changes brought about in Indian society and culture as a result of over 150 years of British rule. This encompasses changes at various levels—technology, institutions, ideology, and values. However, the term has faced significant academic scrutiny due to its Eurocentric underpinnings and the implicit bias it carries regarding social evolution.

Solution:

1. A major criticism of the concept of Westernisation is that it is often perceived as value-loaded. Many scholars argue that the term suggests a linear progression where Western culture is viewed as inherently superior, "advanced," or "modern," while indigenous Indian traditions are labeled as "backward" or "stagnant." 2. Critics point out that using the West as the sole benchmark for progress ignores the diverse ways in which non-Western societies can develop. It implies that for a society to improve, it must necessarily imitate Western lifestyles, clothing, and social norms. 3. Furthermore, the term is seen as imprecise. Western culture itself is not a monolith; the British, French, and American versions of "the West" differ significantly. Therefore, labeling all such changes under a single umbrella of "Westernisation" oversimplifies the complex interactions between different cultures. 4. Scholars also argue that Westernisation does not always lead to egalitarianism. For instance, while it may introduce modern education, it can simultaneously create new class divisions between the English-speaking elite and the rest of the population. 5. In contemporary sociology, many prefer the term "Modernisation" over Westernisation, as the former focuses on rationalism, science, and universalistic values rather than just the imitation of a specific geographic region's cultural habits.

Final Answer: The correct option is (C) It was value-loaded and suggested Western culture was superior.

Answer: (C)



Q30.

Solution**Concept:**

The concept of a 'Dominant Caste' is one of the most influential contributions of M.N. Srinivas to Indian sociology. It was developed to explain the power dynamics within rural India, shifting the focus from the theoretical Varna hierarchy (where Brahmins are at the top) to the actual socio-political power exercised by specific groups on the ground in local villages.

Solution:

1. According to Srinivas, a caste is considered "Dominant" when it possesses certain key attributes that allow it to exercise significant power over other groups in a specific locality. 2. The primary precondition is numerical strength. A caste that has a large number of members in a village can exert influence through sheer voting power and physical presence, which is especially crucial in a democratic political setup. 3. Another essential factor is land-owning rights. In rural India, land is the primary source of wealth and status. Castes that own the majority of the cultivable land in a village effectively control the local economy and can dictate terms to landless laborers or tenant farmers. 4. Additional factors include a relatively high place in the traditional local hierarchy (though not necessarily at the top) and access to modern education and administrative jobs, which provide "bridge" connections to the state and bureaucracy. 5. The presence of a Dominant Caste often leads to the settlement of local disputes within the caste council rather than through the formal legal system, as other groups look to the dominant caste for mediation and leadership.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Numerical strength and land-owning rights in a locality.

Answer: (B)



Q31.

Solution**Concept:**

Modernisation is a multidimensional process of social change that involves the transformation of traditional, agrarian societies into industrial and rational ones. It is characterized by a shift in worldview—moving from a reliance on religious dogma and inherited customs toward a reliance on empirical evidence, scientific inquiry, and secular reasoning.

Solution:

1. Modernisation is the term used to describe social change driven by the adoption of new technology and scientific rationalism. Unlike Sanskritisation, which is a change within the traditional caste framework, Modernisation introduces entirely new frameworks based on universalism and achievement. 2. At its core, Modernisation involves "rationalisation," which is the process of organizing social and economic life according to principles of efficiency and technical knowledge. This is visible in the transition from subsistence farming to industrial production and the use of digital technology in governance. 3. Scientific rationalism plays a crucial role as it encourages people to question traditional beliefs and look for logical causes and effects. This leads to the decline of superstitions and the rise of a "scientific temper," as envisioned by leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru. 4. Modernisation also brings about structural changes in society, such as increased urbanization, higher literacy rates, and the growth of the middle class. It emphasizes "achieved status" (what a person earns) over "ascribed status" (what a person is born with). 5. While it is often associated with the West, Modernisation is increasingly seen as a global process that each society adapts to its own cultural context, often resulting in "multiple modernities" where technology and tradition coexist in unique ways.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Modernisation.

Answer: (B)



Q32.

Solution**Concept:**

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, passed in 1992, represents a milestone in the evolution of local self-government in India. It was designed to provide a constitutional foundation for urban local governance, ensuring that municipalities are recognized as a distinct tier of government with the power to manage local urban affairs effectively.

Solution:

1. While the 73rd Amendment empowered rural local bodies (Panchayats), the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act focused exclusively on the empowerment of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), commonly known as Municipalities. This act added Part IXA to the Constitution and introduced the 12th Schedule, which lists 18 functional items for municipalities. 2. The act provides for three types of municipalities: Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition from rural to urban, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas, and Municipal Corporations for larger urban areas. 3. A critical feature of this amendment is the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women (not less than one-third of the total seats), which aims to make urban governance more inclusive and representative of the social fabric. 4. The amendment ensures democratic continuity by mandating regular elections every five years and providing for the establishment of State Finance Commissions to recommend the financial distribution between the State and the local bodies. 5. By giving constitutional status to these bodies, the act moved urban governance away from being a mere administrative extension of the state government toward being a self-governing political unit capable of planning for economic development and social justice.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities).

Answer: (B)



Q33.

Solution**Concept:**

Universal Adult Franchise is the cornerstone of Indian democracy. It reflects the egalitarian principle that every adult citizen, regardless of their socio-economic background, possesses the same political value. This concept was a radical inclusion during the drafting of the Indian Constitution, especially given the high rates of poverty and illiteracy at the time of independence.

Solution:

1. In the Indian context, Universal Adult Franchise means that the right to vote is granted to all citizens who have attained the age of 18 years. This right is absolute in the sense that it cannot be denied based on caste, creed, religion, gender, literacy, or wealth. 2. Originally, the Constitution set the voting age at 21, but this was reduced to 18 years by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act in 1988 to encourage greater youth participation in the democratic process. 3. This system stands in stark contrast to colonial-era voting rights or early Western democracies, where the franchise was often restricted to property owners, taxpayers, or those with specific educational qualifications. 4. By adopting this principle, India's founding fathers signaled their immense faith in the wisdom of the common person, ensuring that the government remains accountable to the widest possible cross-section of the population. 5. The Universal Adult Franchise acts as a powerful tool for social change, as it forces political parties to address the needs and aspirations of marginalized groups who hold the power to decide the outcome of elections through their collective vote.

Final Answer: The correct option is (C) All citizens above 18 years regardless of caste, creed, or gender.

Answer: (C)



Q34.

Solution**Concept:**

The Panchayati Raj system is the practical application of the vision of 'Gram Swaraj' (village self-rule). It is rooted in the idea that for a democracy to be successful, power must not be concentrated in the hands of a few at the center or state levels but should be distributed down to the village level where people can participate directly in governance.

Solution:

1. The Panchayati Raj system is fundamentally based on the principle of Democratic Decentralization. This involves the devolution of powers and responsibilities from the central and state governments to local elected bodies at the village, block, and district levels. 2. Unlike a bureaucratic rule where officials are appointed from above, the Panchayati Raj system ensures that decision-makers are elected by the local community. This makes the administration more responsive to local needs, such as the construction of roads, management of primary schools, and distribution of water resources. 3. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act gave this system a formal structure, mandating a three-tier system: the Gram Panchayat (village), Panchayat Samiti (block), and Zila Parishad (district). 4. A vital aspect of this decentralization is the role of the Gram Sabha, which includes all adult members of the village. The Gram Sabha acts as the foundation of the system, allowing for direct participation and transparency in how local funds are utilized. 5. This shift from centralization to decentralization is intended to promote "bottom-up" planning, where development projects are designed based on the actual requirements of the rural population rather than being imposed by distant urban planners.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Democratic Decentralization.

Answer: (B)



Q35.

Solution**Concept:**

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, enacted in 2005, is a seminal piece of legislation that empowers citizens to request information from public authorities. It is rooted in the democratic principle that since the government is funded by the people and serves the people, the people have a right to know how decisions are made and how public funds are utilized.

Solution:

1. The RTI is a primary tool for ensuring transparency and accountability in a democracy. Before its enactment, government functioning was often shrouded in secrecy under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act. RTI shifted the default position of the state from secrecy to openness. 2. By allowing citizens to inspect government works, documents, and records, it acts as a deterrent against corruption and the arbitrary exercise of power. It enables a "participatory democracy" where citizens are informed enough to engage in meaningful dialogue with the state. 3. The process is designed to be accessible; any citizen can file a request with a Public Information Officer (PIO), and the information must typically be provided within 30 days. This time-bound nature ensures that the bureaucracy remains responsive. 4. RTI has been used by activists and common citizens alike to uncover scams, verify the distribution of welfare benefits (like PDS rations), and ensure that public servants perform their duties diligently. 5. In essence, it transforms the relationship between the citizen and the state from one of "subject and ruler" to one of "shareholder and management," strengthening the foundations of democratic governance.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) A tool for transparency and accountability in a democracy.

Answer: (B)



Q36.

Solution**Concept:**

The Green Revolution, introduced in the late 1960s, involved the use of High-Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilizers, and controlled irrigation to increase food grain production. While it achieved food self-sufficiency for India, it also brought about profound "Social Consequences" that altered the traditional rural social structure, particularly in states like Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh.

Solution:

1. A major social consequence was the rise of a new class of prosperous capitalist farmers, often referred to as "gentleman farmers." Because the Green Revolution required significant capital investment (for seeds, tractors, and pumps), it primarily benefited those who already owned large tracts of land and had access to credit. 2. This led to increased social inequality in rural areas. Small and marginal farmers, who could not afford the expensive inputs, often fell into debt or were forced to sell their land, leading to a process of "proletarianisation" where they became agricultural laborers. 3. The traditional "Jajmani" system—a reciprocal relationship between different castes—further declined as agriculture became more commercialized and cash-oriented. Farmers preferred hiring seasonal migrant labor over traditional local ties. 4. The technological shift also led to regional imbalances, as areas with assured irrigation prospered while dryland regions lagged behind, creating new geographic social hierarchies within the country. 5. While production increased, the environmental and social costs included the displacement of tenant farmers and a widening gap between the rich "surplus-producing" farmers and the rural poor, which subsequently influenced regional politics and the rise of powerful agrarian lobbies.

Final Answer: The correct option is (A) The rise of a new class of 'gentleman farmers' or prosperous capitalist farmers.

Answer: (A)



Q37.

Solution**Concept:**

In 1991, India faced a severe Balance of Payments crisis, which prompted a fundamental shift in its economic policy. The government moved away from the "license-permit-quota raj" and the protectionist model of 'Import Substitution' (producing goods locally to avoid imports) toward a more open, market-oriented economy.

Solution:

1. The shift from 'Import Substitution' to 'Export Promotion' is a central feature of Liberalisation. This policy aimed to make Indian industries globally competitive by reducing government interference, lowering trade barriers, and encouraging the export of Indian goods to international markets. 2. Liberalisation involved the dismantling of the "License Raj," allowing private companies to expand without seeking multiple government approvals. It opened up sectors that were previously reserved for the public sector to private and foreign investment. 3. Along with Privatisation and Globalisation (the LPG reforms), Liberalisation sought to integrate India with the global economy. By focusing on Export Promotion, the state encouraged industries to adopt international quality standards to earn foreign exchange. 4. This shift was marked by the devaluation of the Rupee, the reduction of import duties, and the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to provide an environment conducive to export-oriented manufacturing. 5. This transition fundamentally changed the Indian middle class's consumption patterns and led to the rapid growth of the service sector, particularly Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), which became India's primary export strength.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Liberalisation.

Answer: (B)



Q38.

Solution**Concept:**

Land reforms were a major socio-economic initiative undertaken by the Indian government immediately after independence. The primary goal was to dismantle the exploitative agrarian structures inherited from the British colonial era, ensuring that the ownership of land was more equitable and that the "tiller of the soil" was protected from intermediaries.

Solution:

1. The Zamindari Abolition Act was a cornerstone of the Land Reforms process in India. During the colonial period, the Zamindari system involved powerful intermediaries who collected land revenue for the British while often oppressing the actual cultivators. 2. The abolition of this system aimed to remove these intermediaries and establish a direct relationship between the state and the farmer. This was intended to incentivize agricultural production and provide social justice to the rural poor. 3. Other components of Land Reforms included tenancy reforms (to provide security to those who rented land), land ceiling acts (to limit the maximum amount of land one individual could own), and the consolidation of holdings to make farming more efficient. 4. While the Zamindari Abolition Act was legally successful in many states, its implementation faced challenges as many former landlords used legal loopholes to retain large portions of land or evicted tenants before the laws took effect. 5. Despite these hurdles, land reforms fundamentally altered the rural power structure in India, shifting influence from hereditary landlords to a new class of middle-ranking, productive farmers.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Land Reforms.

Answer: (B)



Q39.

Solution**Concept:**

The Knowledge Economy represents a shift in the global economic paradigm, where the traditional factors of production—land, labor, and capital—are increasingly supplemented or replaced by information and expertise. This transition is a hallmark of post-industrial societies and is a key driver of contemporary globalization.

Solution:

1. A Knowledge Economy is characterized by production based on information, technology, and intellectual capital. In this system, the value of a product or service is derived more from the "intangible" assets like research, design, software, and specialized skills than from the raw materials or manual labor involved. 2. The rise of the Information Technology (IT) sector, biotechnology, and high-end services in India is a prime example of this transition. Instead of manufacturing physical goods, a large portion of the GDP is generated through the processing and management of data and intellectual property. 3. In a knowledge economy, continuous learning and innovation become the primary drivers of competitive advantage. This requires a strong emphasis on higher education and digital infrastructure to ensure the workforce can adapt to rapidly changing technological landscapes. 4. This economic model often leads to the growth of "white-collar" jobs and creates a high demand for "knowledge workers" who possess specialized technical or creative expertise. 5. However, it also presents challenges, such as the "digital divide," where those without access to technology or advanced education risk being excluded from the primary engines of economic growth.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Production based on information, technology, and intellectual capital.

Answer: (B)



Q40.

Solution**Concept:**

Commodification is a central concept in Marxist and capitalist theory. It describes the process by which social domains, objects, or services—which were previously managed through social bonds, tradition, or shared use—are incorporated into the market system and treated as products with a specific "exchange value."

Solution:

1. Commodification in a capitalist economy refers to the process of turning things that were not previously sold into items for sale in the market. In this process, the "use value" of an object (its practical utility) is superseded by its "exchange value" (what it can be sold for). 2. A classic example of commodification is the sale of bottled drinking water. Historically, providing water was considered a social or religious duty in many cultures, but under capitalism, it has been packaged and transformed into a global multi-billion dollar industry. 3. Labor itself is commodified in a capitalist system; a worker sells their time and skills as a commodity in the labor market in exchange for a wage, separating the person's creative potential from the product of their work. 4. Modern examples include the commodification of traditional knowledge, where ancestral medicinal secrets are patented by corporations, or the commodification of social interaction through data-mining on social media platforms. 5. Critics of commodification argue that it can lead to the "dehumanization" of social relationships, as everything is reduced to a monetary transaction, potentially eroding the community values that once governed those non-market interactions.

Final Answer: The correct option is (A) Turning things that were not previously sold into items for sale in the market.

Answer: (A)



Q41.

Solution**Concept:**

Transnationalism is a key sociological concept within the study of globalization that describes the weakening of the traditional importance of national borders. Unlike older models of migration that emphasized permanent relocation and assimilation into a single new culture, transnationalism focuses on the fluid, ongoing connections that migrants maintain across multiple nation-states, facilitated by modern transport and digital communication.

Solution:

1. In the context of globalization, Transnationalism refers to the process where people maintain social, economic, and political ties in more than one nation. It creates a "transnational social field" where individuals live their lives across borders, identifying with both their home country and their host country simultaneously. 2. Economically, this is most visible through remittances, where migrants send money back to their families, significantly impacting the development of their home nations. Socially, it involves "transnational families" where parents and children remain connected through real-time digital interaction despite physical distance. 3. This process challenges the traditional concept of the "nation-state" as a closed container of society. It suggests that identity is no longer geographically fixed but is instead multi-layered and fluid. 4. It also manifests in "dual citizenship" or the ability of diaspora communities to influence the politics and culture of their origin country from abroad, effectively participating in the civic life of two or more societies. 5. Therefore, transnationalism is not about isolation or rejection of foreign influence; rather, it is about the intense, interconnected web of relationships that define the modern migrant experience in a globalized world.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) The process where people maintain social and economic ties in more than one nation.

Answer: (B)



Q42.

Solution**Concept:**

Cultural Homogenization is a process associated with globalization where diverse local cultures are gradually replaced by a more uniform, standardized culture. In India, mass media acts as a powerful agent of this change, disseminating common symbols, values, and consumption patterns across a vast and varied population, often reducing regional distinctiveness in favor of a pan-Indian identity.

Solution:

1. The Mass Media in India, encompassing television, cinema, and digital streaming platforms, has contributed significantly to homogenization by creating a uniform national culture. Popular TV shows, reality programs, and Bollywood films project standardized lifestyles, dialects, and social norms that are consumed simultaneously by millions across different states. 2. For instance, specific festivals or wedding rituals that were once regional have become "national" standards because of their repeated depiction in high-budget films and television serials. This leads to a "Bollywoodization" of Indian culture where local traditions are often modified to mimic what is seen on screen. 3. Economically, mass media promotes global and national brands through pervasive advertising. This leads to a convergence in consumption habits, where people from different linguistic and geographic backgrounds begin to desire and buy the same products, wear the same fashion, and share similar aspirations. 4. While this process can foster a sense of national unity and integration, sociologists often critique it for causing the marginalization of local "Little Traditions" and regional dialects, which may struggle to survive against the dominance of high-gloss, standardized media content. 5. In essence, the mass media provides a "common cultural language" that bridges the gap between diverse groups but simultaneously threatens to flatten the rich cultural diversity that has historically defined the Indian subcontinent.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Creating a uniform national culture through popular TV shows and films.

Answer: (B)



Q43.

Solution**Concept:**

Electronic Colonialism, also known as Digital or Media Colonialism, is a theoretical framework used to analyze the power imbalances in the global flow of information. It posits that although physical colonization (the occupation of territory) has largely ended, a new form of cultural and economic influence is exerted through the dominance of technology, software, and media content from powerful Western nations.

Solution:

1. Electronic Colonialism refers to the dominance of Western media and software in developing nations. It describes a situation where the values, worldviews, and ideologies of the West (primarily the United States) are exported globally through digital platforms, movies, and internet services, potentially overwhelming indigenous cultures. 2. The term highlights that the infrastructure of the digital world—ranging from operating systems and search engines to social media giants—is largely controlled by a few massive corporations based in the West. This allows these entities to set global agendas and determine how information is curated and consumed. 3. This dominance often leads to "cultural imperialism," where consumers in developing nations are conditioned to prefer Western lifestyles and products over local ones. When children in diverse parts of the world grow up more familiar with American superheroes than their own folklore, it is seen as an effect of electronic colonialism. 4. Beyond culture, it creates an economic dependency. Developing nations must pay significant licensing fees for Western software and have little control over how their citizens' data is harvested and used by foreign tech companies. 5. In the modern era, electronic colonialism suggests that power is no longer just about controlling land or resources, but about controlling the "mental space" of a population through the screens and devices that have become central to daily life.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) The dominance of Western media and software in developing nations.

Answer: (B)



Q44.

Solution**Concept:**

The Information Revolution refers to the explosion of information availability and the technological capability to process and transmit it. In the Indian context, this revolution began in the late 1980s and accelerated after the 1991 economic reforms. It represents a structural shift in the economy where knowledge-based activities become the primary engine of growth, bypassing the traditional industrial path taken by many Western nations.

Solution:

1. The Information Revolution has been the primary driver behind the exponential growth of the Tertiary sector, specifically the Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industries. India's service sector now contributes more than 50 percent of the national GDP. 2. This shift was facilitated by the convergence of telecommunications and computing, allowing India to become the "back office of the world." The ability to move data instantaneously across borders allowed Indian professionals to provide services to global clients in real-time. 3. Unlike the Primary sector (agriculture) or the Secondary sector (manufacturing), the Tertiary sector relies on intellectual capital and digital infrastructure. This has led to the rise of "tech hubs" in cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune. 4. The growth of this sector has created a massive demand for skilled labor, leading to significant changes in urban demographics and the rise of a new middle class with global consumption patterns. 5. Furthermore, the Information Revolution has "tertiarized" other sectors as well; for instance, e-commerce (services) has transformed how manufactured goods are sold, and digital advisory services (services) are now helping farmers in the primary sector.

Final Answer: The correct option is (C) Tertiary (Services/IT).

Answer: (C)



Q45.

Solution**Concept:**

The Dalit Panther movement was a radical social movement that emerged as a response to the continued oppression and violence faced by the Dalit community despite constitutional protections. Drawing inspiration from the Black Panther Party in the United States, it sought to move beyond the moderate politics of older Dalit organizations toward a more assertive and militant stance against the caste system and social inequality.

Solution:

1. The Dalit Panther movement was founded in the state of Maharashtra in 1972. It was spearheaded by a group of young, educated Dalit writers and activists including Namdeo Dhasal, J.V. Pawar, and Raja Dhale. 2. The movement was centered in the slums of Bombay (now Mumbai) and spread rapidly through the urban centers of Maharashtra. It was unique because it utilized literature—specifically "Dalit Literature"—as a weapon of protest, expressing the pain and rage of the marginalized through raw and powerful poetry and prose. 3. The Panthers criticized the existing political leadership for being too conciliatory toward the upper-caste establishment. They called for a total revolutionary change in the social structure and demanded the strict implementation of the Untouchability (Offences) Act. 4. Beyond caste, the movement also addressed class issues, identifying "Dalit" not just as a caste category but as a broader group of oppressed people, including landless laborers, poor peasants, and workers. 5. Although the movement faced internal divisions and a heavy crackdown by the state, it succeeded in bringing the issue of Dalit identity and human rights to the forefront of national politics, forcing a change in the socio-cultural consciousness of the country.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Maharashtra.

Answer: (B)



Q46.

Solution**Concept:**

The Silent Valley Movement was a landmark ecological protest that changed the course of environmental history in India. It represents the clash between traditional "development" (infrastructure projects) and "conservation" (protecting biodiversity). It was one of the first successful grass-roots movements where public opinion and scientific evidence forced the government to abandon a major industrial project.

Solution:

1. The Silent Valley Movement in Kerala was an environmental movement launched in the 1970s to protect the Silent Valley Tropical Evergreen Forest from being flooded by a proposed hydro-electric dam project across the Kunthipuzha River. 2. The movement was led by the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP), a popular science organization, along with local activists and environmentalists. They argued that the dam would destroy a 50-million-year-old rainforest that is home to several endangered species, most notably the Lion-tailed Macaque. 3. This movement was significant because it was not just about local livelihoods, but about the preservation of an entire ecosystem. It raised the fundamental question: "Must we destroy nature to generate power?" 4. After a decade of intense campaigning, lobbying, and legal battles, the project was eventually scrapped. In 1984, the area was officially declared as the Silent Valley National Park, and the movement paved the way for the creation of stricter environmental laws in India. 5. It remains a classic example of how a well-organized, science-based civil society movement can successfully challenge state-led development projects to protect the environment for future generations.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) An environmental movement to protect a tropical forest.

Answer: (B)



Q47.

Solution**Concept:**

Social movements are classified based on the scope and the target of the change they intend to bring about. The reformist model is one of the most common forms of collective action in democratic societies, where citizens organize to improve the existing system from within rather than attempting a total rupture with the past.

Solution:

1. A Reformist social movement seeks to change certain aspects of the system without destroying it. This means the movement accepts the basic legitimacy of the existing social or political order but believes that specific laws, policies, or social practices are unjust and need to be modified. 2. Unlike revolutionary movements, which demand a complete overhaul of the state or the social hierarchy—often through radical or violent means—reformist movements utilize existing institutional channels such as petitions, protests, legal challenges, and lobbying to achieve their goals. 3. Classic examples of reformist movements include the Right to Information (RTI) movement in India, which sought to make the government more transparent without overthrowing the democratic framework, or movements seeking to amend labor laws to ensure better working conditions. 4. These movements rely on the idea of gradual progress and incremental change. They believe that society can be perfected over time through a series of specific, targeted reforms that address the grievances of marginalized or affected groups. 5. By working within the law, reformist movements often gain wider social acceptance and can build broad coalitions, although they are sometimes criticized by radicals for being too slow or for compromising with the power structures they seek to change.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) It seeks to change certain aspects of the system without destroying it.

Answer: (B)



Q48.

Solution**Concept:**

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as a powerful tool for social and economic transformation in rural India. While they function as financial intermediaries, their sociological impact extends far beyond money, serving as a platform for collective agency and the dismantling of traditional gender-based barriers.

Solution:

1. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are primarily seen as a part of the Women's Empowerment Movement. An SHG typically consists of 10 to 20 local women who voluntarily come together to save small amounts of money regularly, which is then used to provide interest-bearing loans to members. 2. The fundamental goal of these groups is to promote financial independence among women, many of whom lack access to formal banking systems. By controlling their own finances, women gain a stronger voice in household decision-making and reduce their dependence on male relatives or exploitative moneylenders. 3. Beyond economics, SHGs act as a space for social mobilization. Women meet regularly to discuss common problems, ranging from domestic violence and health issues to local village infrastructure. This builds a sense of solidarity and collective strength. 4. In many parts of India, SHGs have evolved into political actors. Members often participate in Gram Sabhas and contest local elections, representing a significant shift from the private sphere of the home to the public sphere of community leadership. 5. Consequently, SHGs are recognized not just as micro-finance units, but as the structural backbone of a grassroots movement aimed at achieving gender equality and social justice for women in rural and semi-urban areas.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Women's Empowerment Movement.

Answer: (B)



Q49.

Solution**Concept:**

The Bhoodan Movement was a unique experiment in post-independence India that sought to address the critical issue of land inequality through moral persuasion rather than coercive legislation or violent revolution. It was based on the Gandhian philosophy of "Sarvodaya" (the welfare of all) and the concept of trusteeship.

Solution:

1. The Bhoodan Movement, or the Land Gift Movement, was led by Acharya Vinoba Bhave. It began in 1951 in the village of Pochampally (now in Telangana) when Bhave successfully persuaded a local landlord to donate land to landless Dalit families. 2. Vinoba Bhave, a dedicated disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, traveled across the country on foot—a journey known as a 'Padayatra'—covering thousands of kilometers. During these travels, he urged wealthy landlords to view land not as private property but as a gift of nature to be shared with those who tilled it. 3. The movement aimed to collect 50 million acres of land—one-sixth of India's total cultivable land—to distribute among the landless. It was a voluntary effort intended to foster a sense of social responsibility and brotherhood among the rich and the poor. 4. Over time, the movement expanded into 'Gramdan,' where entire villages would theoretically pool their land for collective use and benefit, aimed at creating self-sufficient village republics. 5. While the movement ultimately faced challenges in distributing the collected land and ensuring its quality, it remains a significant historical example of a non-violent social movement that attempted to solve deep-rooted structural inequalities through a change of heart and moral appeal.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Vinoba Bhave.

Answer: (B)



Q50.

Solution**Concept:**

Redemptive social movements focus on the "inner world" of the individual. In the typology of social movements, they are distinguished by their desire for total change, but that change is targeted at the individual's character and worldview rather than the legal or political framework of the state.

Solution:

1. A Redemptive social movement aims at bringing about a total change in the personal lives and beliefs of individuals. The core philosophy of such a movement is that social problems are a reflection of individual failings, and therefore, society can only be improved if individuals are "redeemed" or "reborn." 2. These movements often demand a high level of commitment from their members. Adherents are expected to adopt new lifestyles, which may include changes in diet, strict moral codes, specific religious practices, and the rejection of their previous social identities. 3. The goal is to provide individuals with a new sense of meaning, purpose, and belonging. By changing the individual's consciousness, these movements believe they are creating a more virtuous community from the ground up. 4. Redemptive movements are frequently religious or spiritual. For example, many "New Religious Movements" or revivalist sects in India focus on transforming the devotee's life through disciplined meditation, prayer, and service, promising a path to salvation or enlightenment. 5. It is important to distinguish this from a "Revolutionary" movement. While both seek "total" change, the revolutionary movement looks outward at the government and economy, whereas the redemptive movement looks inward at the soul and the mind.

Final Answer: The correct option is (B) Bringing about a total change in the personal lives and beliefs of individuals.

Answer: (B)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	B	3	B	4	B	5	B
6	B	7	B	8	B	9	B	10	B
11	B	12	B	13	B	14	B	15	D
16	B	17	B	18	C	19	B	20	B
21	B	22	A	23	B	24	B	25	C
26	B	27	B	28	B	29	C	30	B
31	B	32	B	33	C	34	B	35	B
36	A	37	B	38	B	39	B	40	A
41	B	42	B	43	B	44	C	45	B
46	B	47	B	48	B	49	B	50	B

