

Maharashtra Board Class 12, 2026 Political Science Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :100	Total questions :38
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The exam is of 100 marks and 3 hours duration.
2. The paper is divided into Section A (Compulsory) and Section B (Elective).
3. Section A includes objective-type, short answer, and essay-type questions from the syllabus.
4. Section B consists of elective questions based on the chosen topic.
5. Answers must be written in neat and legible handwriting, adhering to the word limit.
6. Unfair means or electronic devices are strictly prohibited.
7. Candidates must write their Roll Number and correct question number.
8. No candidate may leave the exam hall before the allotted time.

1. The right to information act came into force from _____ in India.

- (A) 1952
- (B) 1972
- (C) 2005
- (D) 2014

Correct Answer: (C) 2005

Solution:

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is a landmark legislation in India that was enacted to promote transparency in governance. The Act empowers citizens to request information from public authorities, enhancing the accountability of the government. The RTI Act was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2005 and came into force on October 12, 2005. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that the working of the government is open to public scrutiny. By enabling citizens to seek information about government operations, the RTI Act strengthens democracy and provides a means for the public to be involved in decision-making processes. The RTI Act allows any citizen to file an application seeking information from a government body, which is then required to respond within a certain period. The Act also mandates the proactive disclosure of information by public authorities and allows for penalties if the authorities fail to provide the information within the specified time frame. It is a powerful tool for citizens to hold the government accountable and ensure transparency.

Step 1: The RTI Act was passed in 2005 to promote transparency and reduce corruption in the public sector.

Step 2: The law came into force in India on October 12, 2005, marking the beginning of a new era of government accountability.

Step 3: The other options—1952, 1972, and 2014—are incorrect, as the RTI Act was not in force during those years.

Final Answer:

(C) 2005

Quick Tip

The RTI Act is an essential tool for promoting transparency in government and is an important mechanism for citizens to seek answers from public authorities.

2. In _____ GATT was replaced by WTO.

(A) 1948

(B) 1984

(C) 1992

(D) 1995

Correct Answer: (D) 1995

Solution:

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was an international trade agreement that aimed to promote global trade by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers. GATT, which was established in 1947, provided a framework for international trade negotiations.

However, over the years, it became evident that GATT was not equipped to address the complex and changing needs of global trade in the modern era. It lacked a comprehensive structure for addressing issues such as intellectual property, services, and dispute resolution. In 1995, GATT was replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) during the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. The establishment of the WTO marked a significant milestone in the history of international trade. The WTO was created to not only continue the work of GATT but also to expand its scope to include services, intellectual property rights, and agricultural subsidies, among other areas. The WTO also established a more robust dispute settlement mechanism to resolve trade disputes between member countries.

The transition from GATT to the WTO was a major step in the evolution of global trade. The WTO brought a more formalized structure to international trade relations and provided an institutional framework for managing trade issues. The WTO's role has since expanded to include trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS), trade in services, and dispute resolution, ensuring a more inclusive and transparent trade environment.

Step 1: GATT was an important trade agreement established in 1947, but it lacked comprehensive mechanisms to address modern trade challenges.

Step 2: The WTO replaced GATT in 1995, introducing new provisions for services, intellectual property, and dispute resolution.

Step 3: The other options—1948, 1984, and 1992—are incorrect because GATT was replaced by the WTO in 1995, following the Uruguay Round.

Final Answer:

(D) 1995

Quick Tip

The WTO replaced GATT in 1995 and introduced broader provisions for global trade, including services, intellectual property, and dispute resolution.

3. The concept of citizen charter is the activity of _____.

- (A) Good governance
- (B) NGO activity
- (C) Development administration
- (D) POSDCORB

Correct Answer: (A) Good governance

Solution:

The concept of a Citizen Charter was introduced to ensure transparency and accountability in public services. The charter outlines the rights of citizens and the responsibilities of public service providers. It primarily focuses on ensuring **good governance** by defining the services that a government body provides, the quality of these services, the time frame for delivery, and the standards citizens can expect. The idea is to make government bodies more accountable and responsive to the public.

Step 1: The Citizen Charter aims at improving the relationship between government and citizens by making service delivery more efficient and transparent.

Step 2: The other options, such as NGO activity, development administration, and POSDCORB, are not as closely related to the concept of a citizen charter, which is specifically tied to the idea of good governance.

Final Answer:

(A) Good governance

Quick Tip

A Citizen Charter is an essential part of good governance, ensuring accountability, transparency, and citizen participation in public service delivery.

4. _____ is a sense of political identity.

- (A) Freedom
- (B) State
- (C) Nation
- (D) Nationalism

Correct Answer: (D) Nationalism

Solution:

Nationalism is the sense of political identity that binds people together under a shared national identity, culture, and history. It is a belief that individuals' loyalty and allegiance should be directed towards their nation, which is seen as a unified political entity.

Nationalism can shape political movements and influence the policies of a state.

Step 1: Nationalism defines a sense of belonging to a particular nation, with shared culture, values, and goals.

Step 2: The other options, such as freedom, state, and nation, are related to political identity but do not emphasize the collective sense of belonging to a political entity as strongly as nationalism does.

Final Answer:

(D) Nationalism

Quick Tip

Nationalism fosters a sense of unity among people, promoting the idea of a shared identity, culture, and political destiny.

5. India needs capital investment in _____ for its development.

- (A) Defence
- (B) Agriculture
- (C) Infrastructure
- (D) Health

Correct Answer: (C) Infrastructure

Solution:

For the development of India, a strong and efficient infrastructure is essential. This includes the construction of roads, bridges, ports, railways, and other critical infrastructure that can facilitate economic growth and improve the standard of living for the citizens.

Step 1: Infrastructure development plays a crucial role in supporting economic activities, facilitating trade, and improving connectivity.

Step 2: While defence, agriculture, and health are also important for the development of a nation, infrastructure serves as the backbone for all other sectors. A strong infrastructure framework facilitates overall economic and social development.

Final Answer:

(C) Infrastructure

Quick Tip

Infrastructure development is key to economic growth as it facilitates trade, movement, and provides access to essential services.

6. Identify the incorrect group or factor.

- (A) Panchayati Raj - 73rd Amendment
- (B) Azadi Movement - West Bengal
- (C) IAS - All India Services

(D) Civil Disobedience Movement - Salt March

Correct Answer: (B) Azadi Movement - West Bengal

Solution:

In this set, the incorrect pair is **Azadi Movement - West Bengal**. The Azadi Movement, also known as the Indian independence movement, was a pan-Indian struggle for independence from British colonial rule and was not specific to West Bengal. It was a nationwide movement that involved various regions, leaders, and ideologies.

Step 1: The Azadi Movement is not linked to any specific state, it was a national struggle led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and others.

Step 2: The other pairs, Panchayati Raj - 73rd Amendment and IAS - All India Services, are correct because Panchayati Raj refers to a system introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, and the IAS (Indian Administrative Service) is indeed part of the All India Services.

Step 3: The correct pair for the Azadi Movement should be **Indian Independence Movement** instead of West Bengal.

Final Answer:

(B) Azadi Movement - Indian Independence Movement

Quick Tip

The Azadi Movement was a national movement, not specific to any one state, aiming for the independence of India from British rule.

7. State the appropriate concept for the given statement:

Terrorist organisation in Sri Lanka.

Solution:

The appropriate concept for the given statement is the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). The LTTE was a separatist terrorist organization that operated in Sri Lanka from the

early 1980s until its defeat in 2009. The group fought for an independent Tamil state, Tamil Eelam, in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka.

The LTTE was led by Velupillai Prabhakaran and was responsible for numerous violent acts, including bombings, assassinations, and suicide attacks. One of the most notable attacks was the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The organization was known for its innovative use of suicide bombings, which made it one of the most feared and notorious terrorist groups of its time.

The LTTE was designated a terrorist organization by many countries, including India, the United States, and Canada, due to its use of violence and its separatist agenda. Despite its defeat in 2009 by the Sri Lankan government, the legacy of the LTTE continues to affect Sri Lanka and the broader region.

Quick Tip

LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) was a major separatist group in Sri Lanka that used terrorism to achieve its goal of an independent Tamil state.

8. State the appropriate concept for the given statement:

International order that emerged with the decline of the dominance of the USA.

Solution:

The appropriate concept for the given statement is the Multipolar World Order. After the Cold War, the USA emerged as the sole global superpower, leading a unipolar world for several decades. However, following the end of the Cold War and particularly the 2008 global financial crisis, the world began to shift toward a more multipolar system, where power is distributed more evenly among multiple global players.

This transition began as countries like China, India, and the European Union gained significant influence, both economically and politically. The rise of these emerging powers reduced the dominance of the United States in global affairs. For example, China's rapid economic growth and India's increasing geopolitical importance have led to their active involvement in global decision-making processes. Similarly, the European Union has

asserted itself as a key actor in international diplomacy and trade.

The Multipolar World Order is marked by the decline of US dominance and the emergence of several powerful nations with independent global strategies. This system is different from the Cold War era, where the world was divided into two superpowers (the USA and the USSR) and their respective spheres of influence. In the multipolar order, multiple states hold significant political, military, and economic power, leading to a more complex and diverse global system.

Quick Tip

The Multipolar World Order is a global system where multiple powers, including the US, China, India, and the European Union, share influence, as opposed to the unipolar dominance of the USA.

9. State the appropriate concept for the given statement:

Disintegration of Yugoslavia and the emergence of new nations.

Solution:

The appropriate concept for this statement is the Balkanization of Yugoslavia. Balkanization refers to the fragmentation or division of a region or state into smaller, often hostile, entities. The disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s is a prime example of this process. Yugoslavia, once a unified socialist state in Southeast Europe, underwent a violent and tumultuous breakup as various ethnic groups and republics sought independence.

Key events that contributed to the disintegration of Yugoslavia include:

- The rise of nationalism in the individual republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Kosovo.
- Ethnic tensions, particularly between the Serbs, Croats, and Bosniaks, led to violent conflicts, including the Bosnian War (1992-1995), which resulted in significant loss of life and atrocities.
- The eventual establishment of independent nations after the wars and political upheaval, with countries like Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, North Macedonia, and

Kosovo emerging as separate states.

The disintegration of Yugoslavia led to the creation of several new nations and had a significant impact on the political, social, and economic landscape of the region.

Quick Tip

The disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, driven by ethnic nationalism and conflict, resulted in the emergence of several new independent nations, a process known as Balkanization.

10. State the appropriate concept for the given statement:

Modernisation of Indian economy.

Solution:

The appropriate concept for this statement is Economic Liberalization or Economic Reforms of 1991. In 1991, India underwent a series of economic reforms aimed at modernizing the economy and improving its integration with the global market. These reforms were introduced in response to a balance of payments crisis and included both short-term measures and long-term structural changes.

The key aspects of India's economic liberalization include:

- 1. Deregulation and Privatization:** India shifted from a state-controlled, centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one. The government reduced its role in the industrial sector, deregulated industries, and allowed private companies to play a larger role. The privatization of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) became a key feature of the reforms.
- 2. Trade Liberalization:** India lowered import tariffs and reduced trade barriers, allowing for greater foreign investment and global competition. This made India more attractive to foreign investors and enabled Indian companies to enter the global market.
- 3. Financial Sector Reforms:** The financial sector, including banking and capital markets, was reformed to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also took steps to modernize the banking system and promote financial inclusion.
- 4. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** The reforms allowed greater foreign direct investment

in various sectors, leading to a significant inflow of foreign capital, technology, and expertise. FDI contributed to the growth of industries such as telecommunications, automotive, and information technology (IT).

These reforms were instrumental in transforming India's economy, leading to high growth rates, technological advancements, and a more integrated global presence.

Quick Tip

The Economic Liberalization of 1991 was a turning point in India's economy, focusing on deregulation, trade liberalization, privatization, and attracting foreign investment to modernize the country's economic structure.

11. Explain the co-relationship between the following:

Economic interest and formation of Trade blocs.

Solution:

Economic interest plays a key role in the formation of trade blocs. A trade bloc is a group of countries that form an agreement to promote trade between themselves by reducing or eliminating tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers. The formation of trade blocs is motivated primarily by the economic interests of the member countries, which include:

- 1. Trade Expansion:** Countries often form trade blocs to expand their trade opportunities. By removing tariffs and reducing trade barriers within the bloc, member countries can increase exports and imports, leading to more efficient markets and a wider range of products. This helps in boosting the overall economic growth of the region.
- 2. Enhanced Competitiveness:** By participating in a trade bloc, countries can gain access to a larger market, which increases competition. This competition leads to the innovation of new products and services, making the member countries' industries more competitive on the global stage. For example, the European Union (EU) has helped its member countries achieve greater efficiency and productivity through market integration.
- 3. Economic Cooperation:** Trade blocs allow countries to share economic benefits, such as resources, technology, and expertise. This economic cooperation helps to address regional

challenges such as poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and improving employment opportunities. For instance, the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) bloc focuses on economic integration and promoting sustainable development among its member nations.

4. Political and Strategic Interests: In addition to economic benefits, trade blocs often serve political and strategic interests. Countries in a trade bloc can strengthen their global influence by negotiating as a single entity, which can be particularly advantageous when dealing with non-member countries or large economies like the United States or China. In summary, the economic interests of countries lead them to form trade blocs that promote free trade, enhance competitiveness, and enable cooperation among member nations to create stronger regional economies.

Quick Tip

Trade blocs are formed to enhance economic growth by promoting trade, improving competitiveness, and fostering economic cooperation among member nations.

12. Explain the co-relation between the following:

Empowerment of women and Sustainable Development.

Solution:

The empowerment of women and sustainable development are closely related concepts, and the progress in one can significantly enhance the success of the other. Empowering women is essential for achieving long-term, sustainable development, as it brings about positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes. Here's how they are connected:

1. Economic Empowerment and Growth: When women are empowered economically, they are able to contribute more actively to the workforce and to their communities. Access to equal economic opportunities, such as education, job opportunities, and financial resources, enables women to become entrepreneurs, increase household incomes, and improve their families' living standards. This directly contributes to economic growth, which is a key element of sustainable development. For example, the World Bank has highlighted

that increasing women's participation in the workforce can result in higher national income levels and improved poverty reduction.

2. Social Development and Gender Equality: Empowering women promotes gender equality, which is essential for social development. When women have access to education and healthcare, they are better equipped to make informed decisions, care for their families, and improve the overall well-being of their communities. This contributes to healthier, more educated populations, which directly supports the achievement of social and economic goals in sustainable development. Gender equality also encourages more inclusive decision-making, leading to policies and actions that consider the needs and rights of all members of society.

3. Environmental Sustainability: Women play a crucial role in environmental sustainability. In many developing regions, women are the primary managers of natural resources, such as water, food, and energy. Empowering women with education and resources enables them to make more informed decisions about sustainable farming, water conservation, and environmental protection. Women's leadership in these areas can significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental policies, which is key to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those related to climate action and clean water and sanitation.

In conclusion, empowering women is not just a matter of human rights but also a fundamental driver of sustainable development. When women are empowered, societies experience greater economic growth, improved social conditions, and enhanced environmental sustainability, leading to a more prosperous and equitable future for all.

Quick Tip

Empowering women directly contributes to sustainable development by promoting economic growth, improving social conditions, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

13. Express your opinion.

India's role in the Indian Ocean.

Solution:

India's strategic location along the Indian Ocean has given it a significant role in both regional and global affairs. The Indian Ocean has been historically important for trade, cultural exchanges, and geopolitical power dynamics, and India's position as a prominent country along its coastline makes it a key player in shaping the region's future. India's role in the Indian Ocean can be discussed through several perspectives:

1. Geopolitical Influence: India's location at the center of the Indian Ocean allows it to control key maritime trade routes that are crucial for global commerce. The Strait of Malacca and the Hormuz Strait are vital chokepoints for the transport of oil, goods, and other commodities. By securing these routes, India plays a significant role in ensuring global trade stability and energy security. Furthermore, India's involvement in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and its bilateral relations with countries in the region reflect its active geopolitical engagement.

2. Naval Power and Security: India has one of the most powerful navies in the region, which plays a critical role in maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean. India actively participates in multilateral maritime security operations, ensuring the safety of shipping lanes, combating piracy, and addressing maritime threats. India has also been involved in humanitarian operations, such as disaster relief in the region, strengthening its role as a regional leader.

3. Trade and Economic Cooperation: India's ports, such as Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, are vital hubs for trade, connecting the country to Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and beyond. India's economic initiatives such as the Act East Policy and the Sagarmala Project aim to further enhance India's maritime infrastructure, boost trade, and improve connectivity with other Indian Ocean countries.

4. Environmental and Sustainable Practices: India has also increasingly recognized the importance of sustainability and environmental protection in the Indian Ocean. With growing concerns about climate change, overfishing, and environmental degradation, India has taken steps to engage with other nations in the region to promote marine conservation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean.

In conclusion, India's role in the Indian Ocean is multifaceted and vital for both regional stability and global trade. By strengthening its maritime capabilities, enhancing economic

cooperation, and ensuring environmental sustainability, India is positioning itself as a key player in the Indian Ocean region.

Quick Tip

India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean enhances its role in trade, security, and environmental sustainability, making it a vital player in regional and global affairs.

14. Express your opinion.

Elaborate the concept of environment.

Solution:

The term environment refers to the surrounding conditions that affect the life and well-being of organisms. It encompasses both the natural environment (air, water, land, and ecosystems) and the built environment (infrastructure, cities, and human-made systems). The environment plays a crucial role in supporting life by providing essential resources and conditions for survival. The concept of the environment can be discussed from various perspectives:

- 1. Natural Environment:** The natural environment includes all the physical surroundings that exist naturally without human intervention. It consists of landforms (mountains, rivers, forests), ecosystems (forests, oceans, grasslands), and the atmosphere (air, climate). Natural resources such as water, soil, and minerals are part of this environment and are essential for the survival of plants, animals, and humans. The balance of the natural environment is delicate, and any significant disruption, such as deforestation or climate change, can lead to long-term ecological imbalances.
- 2. Human Interaction with the Environment:** Humans interact with the environment through activities such as agriculture, industry, urbanization, and resource extraction. These activities often result in environmental degradation such as pollution, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. Human actions have a profound impact on the environment, and as the global population grows, these effects become more pronounced. As a result, the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development has gained significant attention.
- 3. Sustainable Development and Conservation:** Sustainable development refers to the

process of meeting human needs while ensuring that the environment is protected for future generations. It involves using resources efficiently, reducing waste, and promoting practices that reduce environmental damage. Conservation involves preserving natural habitats, protecting endangered species, and reducing human impact on ecosystems. Protecting the environment is crucial for maintaining the earth's health and ensuring that future generations have access to the resources they need to survive.

4. Global Challenges and Solutions: One of the major challenges facing the environment today is climate change, driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation. Climate change affects weather patterns, sea levels, and ecosystems. Other challenges include water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and pollution. Addressing these issues requires global cooperation and innovative solutions, including the use of renewable energy, reforestation, and sustainable agricultural practices.

In conclusion, the environment is not only the basis of life on Earth, but it is also an essential component in human well-being and development. Efforts to preserve and restore the environment are essential to achieving a sustainable future.

Quick Tip

The environment includes both natural and human-made systems. Protecting it through sustainable practices is essential for ensuring the health and well-being of future generations.