N 861– SOCIAL SCIENCES (73) HISTORY POLITICAL SCIENCE - PAPER I - 2025 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 Hours	Maximum Marks :40

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. All activities/questions are compulsory.

2. Figures to the right indicate full marks.

3. Question Nos. 1 to 5 are based on History and Question Nos. 6 to 9 are based on Political Science.

4. It is mandatory to write a complete statement as an Correct Answer in Question Nos. 1(A) and 6.

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1. (A) Choose the *correct* option from the given options and complete the sentences:

(1) The earliest museum in the world was discovered in the excavations at the city of ...

(a) Delhi
(b) Harappa
(c) Ur
(d) Kolkata

Correct Answer: The earliest museum in the world was discovered in the excavations at the city of **Ur**

Solution: Step 1: Discovery of the Museum
The city of Ur, an ancient Sumerian city located in modern-day Iraq, is known for its archaeological significance. The excavations in Ur, carried out by Sir Leonard Woolley in the 1920s and 1930s, revealed a variety of artifacts, including a structure believed to be one of the world's earliest museums. This museum-like structure housed collections of items and objects from different eras.

Step 2: Importance of the Find
The discovery of this museum in Ur sheds light on the culture of ancient civilizations, showing that people from early history had a form of collection and preservation of artifacts, much like modern-day museums. This finding contributes to our understanding of the importance of material culture and how ancient societies valued preserving objects for future generations.

The earliest museum was discovered in Ur, highlighting early human practices of collecting and preserving artifacts.

(2) The first Chief Minister of Maharashtra was . . .

(a) Vasantrao Naik
(b) Yashwantrao Chavhan
(c) Shankarrao Chavhan
(d) Vasantdada Patil

Correct Answer: The first Chief Minister of Maharashtra was **Yashwantrao Chavhan**

Solution: Step 1: Role of Chief Minister in Maharashtra
After India gained independence in 1947, the state of Maharashtra was formed on May 1, 1960, following the bifurcation of the Bombay state. The position of Chief Minister is the head of the state government and holds significant responsibility in the administration and governance of the state. Yashwantrao Chavhan was appointed as the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra, serving from 1960 to 1962.

Step 2: Yashwantrao Chavhan's Contributions
Yashwantrao Chavhan was a prominent leader and a key figure in the Indian independence movement, particularly in the freedom struggle in Maharashtra. As Chief Minister, he played a crucial role in the formation of the state and in managing the early political and economic challenges of Maharashtra. He is remembered for his work in education, agricultural reforms, and for being a proponent of social justice.

Yashwantrao Chavhan was the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

(3) The Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh' was translated into German by . . .

(a) James Mill
(b) Friedrich Max Muller
(c) Mountstuart Elphinstone
(d) Sir John Marshall

Correct Answer: The Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh' was translated into German by **Friedrich Max Müller**

Solution: Step 1: 'Hitopadesh' Text
'Hitopadesh' is an ancient Indian text that consists of a collection of fables. It is a moralistic work, offering practical wisdom for living and making decisions, much like the famous 'Panchatantra.' It has been a significant cultural and educational work in India, particularly for children, with lessons on governance, ethics, and the art of living.

Step 2: Max Müller's Contribution
Friedrich Max Müller, a renowned 19th-century scholar of Sanskrit and Indian philosophy, translated many key Sanskrit texts into European languages. His translation of the 'Hitopadesh' into German helped introduce Indian literature and moral philosophy to the Western world. This work was important in fostering cultural exchange and making Indian texts more accessible to global audiences.

Step 3: Importance of the Translation
Max Müller's translations of Sanskrit works, including the 'Hitopadesh', were vital in the spread of Indian thought and literature in Europe. They helped bridge cultural gaps and brought attention to the richness of ancient Indian literature.

The Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh' was translated into German by Friedrich Max Müller.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** Friedrich Max Müller's translations were key in making ancient Indian literature known in Europe and influencing the study of Sanskrit.

(B) Identify the wrong pair in the following and rewrite it:

(1)

1. Raigadala Jevha Jag Yete — Vasant Kanetkar

2. Tilak ani Agarkar — Vishram Bedekar

3. Sashtang Namaskar — Acharya Atre

4. Ekach Pyala — Annasaheb Kirloskar

Correct Answer: Ekach Pyala — Ram Ganesh Gadkari

Solution: Step 1: The Play 'Ekach Pyala'
'Ekach Pyala' is a famous Marathi play, and the original playwright of this work is *Ram Ganesh Gadkari*, not Annasaheb Kirloskar. Ram Ganesh Gadkari is considered one of the pioneers of modern Marathi drama and his contribution to Marathi literature is highly respected.

Step 2: Annasaheb Kirloskar's Contribution
Annasaheb Kirloskar, though a significant figure in Marathi theatre, is not associated with 'Ekach Pyala.' He is best known for his work in theatre production and his adaptations of classical plays into Marathi.

> The correct playwright for 'Ekach Pyala' is Ram Ganesh Gadkari.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** Always verify the playwright and their works. Gadkari's 'Ekach Pyala' is often confused with other Marathi works.

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(2)

1. Leopold von Ranké — The Secret of World History

2. Michel Foucault — Archaeology of Knowledge

3. Karl Marx — Das Kapital

4. René Descartes — Reason in History

2. Correct Answer: Reason in History — G.W.F. Hegel

Solution: Step 1: 'Reason in History' Book
The book 'Reason in History' is attributed to the philosopher *G.W.F. Hegel*. Hegel's work focuses on the development of history through reason and explores the philosophy of history. It is a fundamental work in Western philosophy, where Hegel proposes that history unfolds through rational processes.

Step 2: René Descartes' Contribution
René Descartes, a French philosopher, is famous for his works on rationalism, especially 'Meditations on First Philosophy' and 'Discourse on Method.' Descartes is not associated with 'Reason in History,' and his work laid the foundation for modern philosophy with his ideas of doubt, existence, and consciousness.

‘Reason in History’ was written by G.W.F. Hegel, not René Descartes.

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(3)

1. Prabhakar — Acharya P.K. Atre

2. Darpan — Balshastri Jambhekar

3. Deenbandhu — Krishnarao Bholekar

4. Kesari — Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Correct Answer: Deenbandhu — Krishnarao Arjun Keluskar

Solution: Step 1: Deenbandhu Newspaper
‘Deenbandhu’ was a Marathi-language newspaper, and its editor was *Krishnarao Arjun Keluskar*, not Krishnarao Bholekar. Krishnarao Arjun Keluskar was a noted journalist and editor in the 19th century who played a significant role in the social reform movements in Maharashtra.

Step 2: The Editor Confusion
Krishnarao Bholekar, another important figure in Marathi literature, was not the editor of ‘Deenbandhu.’ Instead, he was associated with other contributions to Marathi literature and journalism, making the mix-up understandable but incorrect in this context.
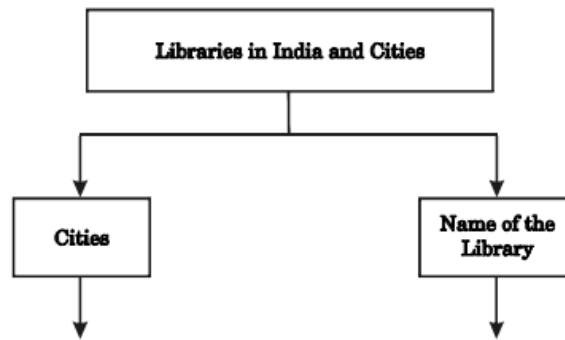
The correct editor of ‘Deenbandhu’ is Krishnarao Arjun Keluskar.

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2. (A) Complete the activity as per given instructions (*any two*):

(1) Complete the following chart :

Kolkata $\longrightarrow$ ....

Correct Answer: Kolkata — National Library of India

Solution: Step 1: National Library of India, Kolkata
The National Library of India, located in Kolkata, is the largest library in India by collection size and is a major center for research and reference. It is a repository of a vast collection of books, manuscripts, and other materials related to India's history, culture, and heritage. The library's foundation dates back to 1836 and it plays a crucial role in preserving national literary works.

Step 2: Significance of the Library
The National Library of India is a key national institution, serving scholars, researchers, and the public. It houses rare and unique collections, including historical documents and resources in various languages. It is an essential resource for the academic and intellectual community of India.

The National Library of India is located in Kolkata.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** The National Library of India, Kolkata, is a treasure trove of historical, cultural, and literary resources, making it a key institution in India.

Delhi $\longrightarrow$ ....

Correct Answer: Delhi — Delhi Public Library

Solution: Step 1: Delhi Public Library
The Delhi Public Library (DPL) is one of the largest public libraries in India, and it serves as

a major cultural and educational institution in the capital city. Established in 1951, DPL provides free access to books and other learning materials to people of all age groups. It promotes literacy, learning, and community engagement.

Step 2: Role in Education and Culture
DPL plays a pivotal role in promoting reading habits and supporting education across Delhi. With multiple branches throughout the city, it reaches a broad population, including students, professionals, and the general public.

Delhi Public Library is located in Delhi.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** The Delhi Public Library is an accessible cultural hub that supports education and literacy throughout the capital.

Hyderabad $\longrightarrow$ ....

Correct Answer: Hyderabad — State Central Library

Solution: Step 1: State Central Library, Hyderabad
The State Central Library of Hyderabad is one of the most prominent libraries in Telangana. Located in the heart of the city, it serves as a central hub for books, research, and cultural activities. Established in 1891, the library holds a large collection of books, journals, and periodicals in various languages, and plays an important role in the educational landscape of the state.

Step 2: Role of the Library
The library caters to a diverse audience, including students, researchers, and general readers, and is known for its vast collection of literature, history, and academic works. The library also hosts various educational and cultural programs to engage the public.

The State Central Library is located in Hyderabad.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** The State Central Library in Hyderabad is a vital resource for education and research in Telangana, with a rich historical collection.

Mumbai $\longrightarrow$ ....

Correct Answer: Mumbai — Asiatic Society Library

Solution: Step 1: Asiatic Society Library, Mumbai
The Asiatic Society Library, founded in 1804, is one of the oldest libraries in India, located in Mumbai. It houses an invaluable collection of rare manuscripts, books, and journals. It was originally founded to promote the study of Oriental literature and culture, and today, it continues to be a hub for research in the humanities and social sciences.
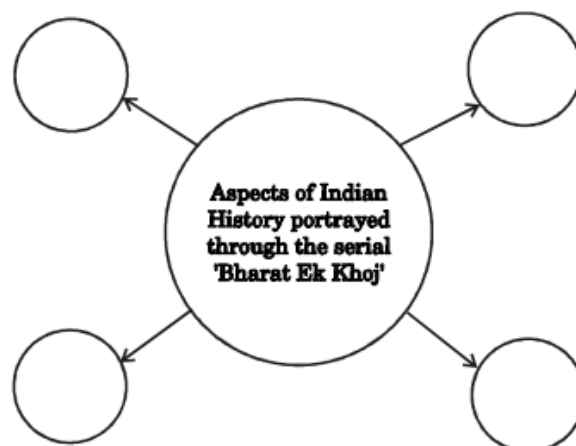
Step 2: Legacy and Contributions
The Asiatic Society Library has contributed significantly to the cultural and intellectual history of India. The library holds important historical documents, including early editions of Indian and Western works, making it an essential resource for scholars and researchers. It has played a pivotal role in preserving India's rich literary heritage.

The Asiatic Society Library is located in Mumbai.

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: The Asiatic Society Library is a historical gem that offers invaluable resources for research on Indian and Oriental literature.

(2) Complete the following concept map:

Correct Answer: Aspects of Indian History portrayed through the serial 'Bharat Ek Khoj'

The serial *Bharat Ek Khoj*, created by Shyam Benegal, is a significant television series that portrays the rich and diverse history of India. It covers a wide range of themes, providing an insightful look at the country's evolution through various historical periods. Below are the main themes and aspects highlighted in the series:
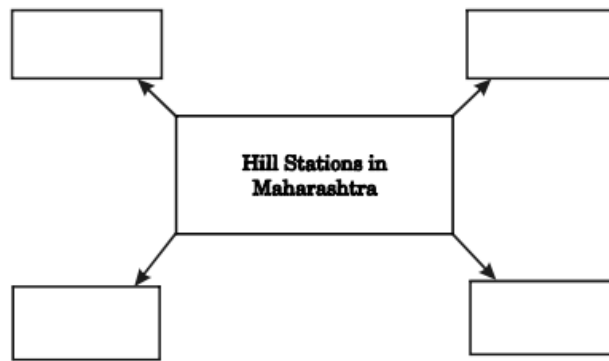
- **Ancient Civilizations (Harappan, Vedic period):** The series begins by exploring the origins of Indian civilization, focusing on the Harappan (Indus Valley) civilization, one of the world's earliest urban centers. It delves into the Vedic period, discussing the cultural, social, and religious developments that laid the foundation for much of Indian thought and society.

- **Religions and Cultures (Buddhism, Jainism, Bhakti–Sufi movements):** The series also portrays the rise of major religious and philosophical movements in India. It covers the emergence of Buddhism and Jainism, their teachings, and influence. Additionally, the Bhakti and Sufi movements are explored, emphasizing their role in promoting religious tolerance, spirituality, and social reform.

- **Political History (Maurya, Gupta, Mughal, Maratha, British rule):** *Bharat Ek Khoj* delves into India's political history, focusing on important empires and dynasties. The Maurya and Gupta empires, known for their achievements in governance, culture, and science, are highlighted. The Mughal Empire, with its vast political and cultural influence, is also covered, alongside the rise of the Maratha Empire and the impact of British colonial rule on India's political landscape.

- **Freedom Struggle (Revolt of 1857, Indian National Movement, Independence):** The series portrays the struggles for independence, starting with the Revolt of 1857, the first significant rebellion against British rule. It traces the rise of the Indian National Movement, covering key events like the formation of the Indian National Congress, the role of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose, and culminating in India's hard-won independence in 1947.

> The serial covers Ancient Civilizations, Religions and Cultures, Political History, and the Freedom Struggle in India.

> Quick Tip
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> **Quick Tip:** *Bharat Ek Khoj* offers a comprehensive and engaging overview of India's rich history, making it an excellent resource for understanding the country's cultural, political, and social evolution.

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(3) Complete the following concept map:

Correct Answer: Hill Stations in Maharashtra

Maharashtra is home to several beautiful hill stations that attract tourists with their scenic views, pleasant weather, and natural beauty. These hill stations serve as popular getaway destinations, offering a refreshing retreat from the heat of the plains.

- **Mahabaleshwar:** Mahabaleshwar is one of the most famous hill stations in Maharashtra, known for its lush green landscapes, pleasant weather, and panoramic views of the Western Ghats. It is famous for its strawberry farms and various viewpoints like Arthur's Seat and Wilson Point.

- **Matheran:** Matheran is a small hill station located near Mumbai. It is unique because no vehicles are allowed here, and visitors can explore the town on foot or by horseback. Matheran is known for its serene atmosphere and scenic viewpoints like Panorama Point and Echo Point.

- **Lonavala − Khandala:** Lonavala and Khandala are twin hill stations situated on the Mumbai-Pune highway. These hill stations are popular for their picturesque landscapes, lush greenery, and stunning viewpoints like Tiger's Leap and Duke's Nose. Lonavala is also known for its chikki (a local sweet).

- **Panchgani:** Panchgani is a beautiful hill station located near Mahabaleshwar. It is known for its pleasant climate, old colonial bungalows, and the famous Table Land, which offers a panoramic view of the surrounding valleys and hills.

Mahabaleshwar, Matheran, Lonavala - Khandala, and Panchgani are the prominent hill stations in Maharashtra.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** Hill stations in Maharashtra are not only known for their beauty but also for their historical significance and the opportunity to explore nature, making them perfect for relaxation and rejuvenation.

(B) Write short notes on (*any two*):

1. Applied History

Correct Answer:

Meaning: Applied History refers to the utilization of historical knowledge, methods, and lessons for addressing current challenges. It involves drawing insights from the past to inform decision-making and problem-solving in the present. This approach connects the lessons of history to contemporary issues and future planning, making history relevant to modern society.

Scope: Applied History bridges the gap between past experiences and present-day challenges. It helps us analyze historical events, behaviors, and systems to inform present-day decisions in various sectors such as politics, economy, environment, and urban planning. By understanding the patterns and causes of past successes and failures, Applied History aids in better forecasting and planning for the future.

Examples:

- **Natural Disaster Management:** By studying historical records of natural disasters such as floods, famines, and pandemics, societies can devise better disaster management strategies, prepare response plans, and reduce the impact of future catastrophes.
- **Urban Planning:** Historical urban planning models can be referred to when designing modern cities. For example, ancient city layouts can provide insights into traffic management, water distribution systems, and the integration of green spaces.
- **Defense Strategies:** Lessons from war history can be applied to modern defense strategies. Studying past conflicts, tactics, and military strategies can help nations strengthen their defense systems and avoid mistakes made during previous wars.

Importance: Applied History plays a crucial role in shaping informed policies and practices. By understanding the past, policymakers, planners, and society as a whole can avoid repeating historical mistakes, draw from proven strategies, and build a more sustainable and equitable future. It is essential for creating well-informed and long-term solutions to the problems we face today.

Applied History helps solve present-day problems by learning from the past and planning for the future.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** Understanding history provides valuable insights that can help prevent repeating past mistakes and improve decision-making in the present.

2. Maratha Style of Painting

Correct Answer: Maratha Style of Painting

Meaning: The Maratha Style of Painting refers to a distinctive regional school of painting that developed under the Maratha rulers during the 17th to 19th centuries. This style combines traditional Indian art forms with local and regional influences, resulting in a unique and culturally rich style of painting that flourished in Maratha-controlled regions.

Features:

- **Influence of Mughal and Rajasthani Styles:** The Maratha style incorporates elements from the Mughal and Rajasthani schools of painting, but it also reflects local regional characteristics, giving it a distinct flavor. This blend of influences makes it one of the unique regional art forms of India.
- **Subjects:** The paintings typically depicted religious themes such as scenes from the *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, and *Puranas*, as well as portraits of Maratha rulers and court scenes. They also often featured everyday life, illustrating the customs and lifestyle of the time.
- **Bright Colors and Bold Lines:** Maratha paintings are characterized by the use of bright, vibrant colors and bold, defined lines. The decorative details and intricate designs make the paintings visually striking and appealing.
- **Miniature Paintings:** The paintings were typically created as miniature artworks on manuscripts, walls, and textiles. These miniatures were painstakingly detailed, showcasing the skill and precision of the artists.

Centers: The Maratha Style of Painting flourished in several regions where the Maratha Empire had significant influence. Notable centers of this painting tradition include:

- Pune
- Satara
- Kolhapur
- Thanjavur (where Maratha influence spread)

Importance: The Maratha Style of Painting reflects the cultural identity and artistic heritage of the Maratha rulers and their subjects. This art form not only showcases the rich cultural traditions of the Marathas but also serves as a testament to their contributions to Indian art and culture. By blending Indian traditions with regional expressions, the Maratha paintings offer a visual representation of the socio-political and cultural history of the time.

> The Maratha style of painting reflects cultural identity and a blend of Indian and regional artistic traditions.

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3. Sthalakosh

Meaning: The term *Sthalakosh* refers to a geographical or regional dictionary/encyclopedia that provides detailed information about different places. It is a resource that catalogues a variety of aspects related to specific regions, villages, towns, or cities. The content of a *Sthalakosh* typically includes historical, geographical, cultural, and social details about a particular place.

Content: A *Sthalakosh* generally includes the following information:

- **History:** Information on the historical background, key events, and people related to the place.
- **Geography:** Details about the physical features, climate, and topography of the region.
- **Culture:** Cultural practices, traditions, languages, festivals, and rituals of the area.
- **Social Life:** Insights into the social structure, lifestyle, and customs of the local population.
- **Economic Activities:** Information on the main economic activities, industries, and sources of livelihood.
- **Important Events:** Key historical events that shaped the development of the region.

Purpose:

- To **preserve local history and culture,** ensuring that the unique traditions and events of a place are documented and remembered.
- To provide **authentic reference material** for researchers, historians, and students who wish to understand the evolution of a region or its people.
- To serve as a **guide for understanding the development** of a particular place, by exploring its growth, challenges, and achievements over time.

Importance: *Sthalakoshas* are invaluable tools in the study of local and regional history. They help connect the local identity of a region with larger historical and cultural studies, offering a deeper understanding of the evolution of places. They are particularly valuable in the field of Applied History, where historical knowledge is used to inform current planning, administration, and cultural preservation efforts.

Sthalakoshas preserve local history, culture, and provide valuable reference material for various fields of study.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** *Sthalakoshas* are essential for preserving the unique identities of regions and offer a rich source of knowledge for future generations.

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3. Explain the following statements with reasons (*any two*):

1. Foucault called his method, 'the archaeology of knowledge'.

   Correct Answer: Foucault called his method, 'the archaeology of knowledge'.

   Solution: Step 1: Foucault's Approach to Knowledge
   Michel Foucault, a prominent French philosopher and social theorist, developed a unique approach to understanding history and knowledge. His method, referred to as "the archaeology of knowledge," is an attempt to analyze the historical development of ideas and discourses over time. Foucault viewed knowledge as being shaped by different periods, systems, and institutions.

   Step 2: The Archaeology Metaphor
   Foucault's metaphor of "archaeology" draws parallels between studying knowledge and the work of an archaeologist who digs through layers of soil to uncover historical artifacts. In Foucault's case, he believed that knowledge develops in layers, with each period in history laying down new layers of information, ideas, and discourses that interact with, build upon, or reject earlier layers. This allowed him to trace the evolution of knowledge systems across time.

   Foucault's "archaeology of knowledge" explores how knowledge evolved in layers over time.

   > **Quick Tip**
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   > **Quick Tip:** Foucault's method is useful for understanding how knowledge and societal norms change over time, not just through events but through discourses and thought processes.

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2. Bakhar is an important type of historical documents.

Correct Answer: Bakhar is an important type of historical document.

Solution: Step 1: Understanding Bakhar
A Bakhar is a genre of Marathi historical narrative written in prose. It serves as a unique literary form that records historical events, battles, political situations, and social structures, particularly focusing on the Maratha period. Bakhar narratives are composed in a straightforward, factual style, with a focus on providing detailed accounts of significant events and personalities.

Step 2: Importance in Historical Research
Bakhars are considered crucial for understanding the social and political history of the Maratha Empire. They provide firsthand accounts of events, often written by people close to the action, and offer insights into the functioning of administrative systems and military strategies during the period. As primary sources, Bakhars are invaluable for historians and researchers working to reconstruct the past accurately.

> Bakhars are essential historical documents for understanding the Maratha period.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** Bakhars provide a unique, contemporary perspective on Maratha history and are invaluable for historians studying the period's events and administrative practices.

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3. Expertise in History is important in the film industry.

Correct Answer: Expertise in History is important in the film industry.

Solution: Step 1: The Role of Historians in Films
Historical films, which focus on events like wars, freedom struggles, or biographies, rely on the accurate portrayal of facts to ensure that the depiction of history is authentic. Filmmakers often require the expertise of historians to accurately represent key historical details, such as the setting, costumes, dialogues, and overall narrative.

Step 2: Importance of Accuracy in Historical Films
Accurate historical representation is crucial not only for educational purposes but also to maintain credibility and respect for the historical subjects depicted. Experts in history guide filmmakers on aspects like period-specific attire, architecture, and even the cultural context of the time. For instance, they may help ensure that dialogue reflects the language

used in a given era or that significant events are portrayed correctly.

Expertise in history ensures authenticity and accuracy in historical films.

4. It is essential to study the history of technology.

Correct Answer: It is essential to study the history of technology.

Solution: Step 1: The Significance of Studying the History of Technology
The history of technology provides a crucial understanding of how human inventions and discoveries have shaped society over time. By studying technological advancements, we can trace how innovations in tools, machines, and industries have transformed human life, economic structures, and social systems.

Step 2: Understanding the Evolution of Tools and Industries
Technological advancements are not just about machinery; they also play a role in social and cultural changes. For example, the invention of the wheel, steam engine, and computers have revolutionized transportation, communication, and labor, respectively. Studying this evolution helps us understand how societies adapt and progress based on new technologies.

Step 3: Guiding Future Technological Use
Studying the history of technology also provides insights into how we can use current technologies more responsibly. By examining the impact of past technologies, we can identify lessons learned and avoid repeating mistakes, ensuring that future technological progress benefits humanity while minimizing harm to the environment and society.

Studying the history of technology helps us understand its impact on society and guides future use.

4. Read the following passage and Correct Answer the questions based on it:

Major Dhyan Chand, an expert player of hockey was also the captain of the Indian hockey team. Indian hockey team won a gold medal in 1936 at Berlin Olympics under his captaincy. He was also part of the previous Indian hockey teams in 1928 and 1932, which played at Olympics and won gold medals. 29th August, the birth date of Dhyan Chand is celebrated as National Sports Day in India. He was known as the 'Wizard of Hockey'. He was honoured with a 'Padmabhushan' in 1956.

Questions :

1. Who was captain of Indian hockey team in 1936?

   Correct Answer: Major Dhyan Chand was the captain of the Indian hockey team in 1936.

   Solution: Step 1: Foucault's Approach to Knowledge
   Major Dhyan Chand, one of the greatest hockey players in the history of the sport, was the captain of the Indian hockey team during the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Under his leadership, India won the gold medal in hockey, further solidifying Dhyan Chand's legacy as the "Hockey Wizard." He played an instrumental role in leading the Indian team to success. His prowess on the field, combined with his leadership, made him one of the most influential figures in hockey.

   Step 2: Dhyan Chand's Leadership in 1936
   During the 1936 Olympics, Dhyan Chand led India to an impressive 4-0 victory over Germany in the final match. This victory was pivotal not only for the Indian team but also for the sport of hockey. It was under his guidance and leadership that India solidified its position as a dominant force in the world of hockey. Dhyan Chand's leadership style was not just about his technical skills but also his ability to inspire and unite his team.

   Step 3: Dhyan Chand's Legacy
   Dhyan Chand is regarded as one of the greatest sports figures in India and globally. His leadership in the 1936 Olympics remains a key moment in India's sporting history. His contributions to the Indian national team helped pave the way for the country's future success in Olympic hockey, winning several gold medals in subsequent Olympics. His legacy as the captain of the Indian hockey team in 1936 continues to inspire hockey players today.

Major Dhyan Chand was the captain of the Indian hockey team in 1936.

> **Quick Tip**
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> **Quick Tip:** Dhyan Chand's role in Indian hockey is monumental. His leadership helped India win Olympic gold in 1936, and he remains a national hero in the sport. The 1936 Olympic victory is one of the highlights of his career and remains one of the most significant events in the history of Indian sports.

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2. Which day is celebrated as National Sports Day in India?

Correct Answer: 29th August (birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand) is celebrated as National Sports Day in India.

Solution: Step 1: National Sports Day in India
National Sports Day is celebrated on 29th August every year in India to honor the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand. This day holds immense significance as it not only commemorates the life and contributions of the legendary hockey player but also aims to promote sports and physical fitness across the nation. Major Dhyan Chand is widely regarded as one of the greatest hockey players of all time, and this day serves as a tribute to his incredible achievements in the sport.

Step 2: Celebrations and Activities
On National Sports Day, various sports events and activities are organized throughout India. Schools, colleges, sports organizations, and government institutions conduct programs to encourage participation in physical activities and to raise awareness about the importance of sports. The day also highlights the significance of a healthy lifestyle and the role of sports in national development.

Step 3: National Sports Awards and Recognition
As part of the National Sports Day celebrations, the President of India presents the National Sports Awards, including the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, and Dronacharya Award, to athletes and coaches who have excelled in various sports. This serves as a recognition of their hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements in their respective fields. The day also serves as a platform to encourage the younger generation to take up sports and contribute to the nation's sporting culture.

National Sports Day is celebrated on 29th August to honor the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.

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3. State your opinion about the game of Hockey.

Correct Answer: Hockey is an exciting and skillful team game.

Solution: Step 1: The Nature of the Game
Hockey is a fast-paced, exciting team sport that demands exceptional skill, agility, and teamwork. It involves two teams competing to score goals by hitting a ball into the opponent's net using a curved stick. The game is dynamic, with players constantly moving, passing, and attempting to outmaneuver their opponents. Hockey requires excellent coordination between players, as well as precise timing, speed, and strategic thinking to outwit the opposition.

Step 2: Importance of Hockey in India
Hockey is not only an exciting sport but also holds great historical and cultural significance in India. As the national game of India, it has brought glory to the country, especially through Olympic victories. India's performance in hockey during the 20th century, with multiple gold medals in the Olympics, made the country a dominant force in the sport. Players like Major Dhyan Chand became legends for their skill and impact on the game.

Step 3: Benefits of Playing Hockey
Hockey is more than just an exciting game; it offers numerous benefits, including the development of teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness. Players learn to collaborate and communicate effectively while working toward a common goal. Hockey also promotes physical endurance, agility, and stamina, as it involves running, swift movements, and quick reflexes. Moreover, the sport helps in developing mental skills such as concentration, decision-making, and strategic thinking.

> Hockey is an exciting and skillful team game that develops teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness.

5. Correct Answer the following questions in detail (*any two*):

1. What is feminist historiography?

Correct Answer: Feminist historiography is a branch of history that studies the past from the perspective of women.

Solution: Step 1: Understanding Feminist Historiography
Feminist historiography refers to the study of history with a focus on understanding the roles, contributions, and experiences of women. It emerged as a response to traditional historiography, which often marginalized or excluded women from historical narratives. Feminist historians challenge the conventional historical frameworks that predominantly focus on male-dominated narratives and instead seek to highlight the agency and perspectives of women throughout history.

Step 2: Role of Women in History
Feminist historiography explores the experiences of women in various historical contexts, from ancient civilizations to modern societies. This branch of history delves into the roles that women played in different societies, their struggles for equality, and their contributions to various fields such as politics, culture, and the economy. By focusing on women, feminist historians provide a more comprehensive understanding of history.

Step 3: Criticizing Traditional Historiography
Traditional history has often ignored or minimized women's roles, focusing primarily on male figures and their political and military achievements. Feminist historiography critiques these biases and brings attention to the overlooked contributions of women in shaping history. This approach challenges the gendered assumptions that underlie conventional historical narratives.

Step 4: Key Themes in Feminist Historiography
Feminist historians focus on key issues like gender inequality, women's rights movements, and the participation of women in various spheres of life. They examine topics such as women's labor, reproductive rights, the suffrage movement, and women's involvement in social and political movements. Feminist historiography aims to rewrite history from a more inclusive and equitable perspective.

Feminist historiography examines history from a women's perspective, challenging traditional narratives.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** Feminist historiography is essential for understanding the untold stories of women in history and addressing gender biases in historical research.

2. What kind of professional opportunities are available in the field of Arts?

Correct Answer: The field of Arts offers a wide variety of careers.

Solution: Step 1: Overview of Career Opportunities in the Arts
The Arts is a diverse and dynamic field that offers numerous career opportunities across various sectors. The field encompasses areas such as literature, music, theatre, visual arts, and social sciences, providing individuals with a range of professional paths to pursue.

Step 2: Teaching and Research
One of the most prominent career options in the Arts is teaching and research. Many graduates of Arts subjects like History, Sociology, and Political Science choose to become professors, lecturers, or researchers. Academic institutions and universities offer teaching roles at various levels, and there are also opportunities for conducting research and publishing scholarly articles.

Step 3: Civil Services
The Arts stream opens up career opportunities in government services through the Civil Services exams conducted by the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) and State PSCs (Public Service Commissions). Students from the Arts field often join prestigious positions like IAS (Indian Administrative Service), IPS (Indian Police Service), IFS (Indian Foreign Service), and other government roles.

Step 4: Media and Communication
The media and communication industry offers diverse career paths for Arts graduates. These include journalism, mass communication, advertising, film production, radio broadcasting, and public relations. Professionals in this field can work as journalists, content writers, editors, film directors, and media planners.

Step 5: Creative Arts
For individuals with a creative flair, the Arts field provides careers in creative arts such as music, painting, sculpture, photography, fashion, and interior design. Artists can choose to work as independent creators or collaborate with galleries, studios, and design companies. This field also includes professions like fashion designing, animation, and multimedia art.

Step 6: Tourism and Hospitality
The tourism and hospitality industry also offers opportunities for Arts graduates. Roles like travel guides, tourism officers, event managers, and hotel management professionals are available in this sector. The growing tourism industry requires individuals with good communication and organizational skills.

Step 7: Law and Social Work
The Arts field opens up paths in law and social work as well. Arts graduates can pursue

careers as lawyers, legal consultants, or social workers in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community development sectors. This also includes roles such as counselors, human rights activists, and social service officers.

> The Arts stream opens up career opportunities in academia, government, media, creative arts, and social work.

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: The Arts field is incredibly versatile, with career paths in teaching, media, government, creative industries, and social service.

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3. What is Powada?

Correct Answer: Powada is a traditional form of Marathi ballad or narrative poetry.

Solution: Step 1: What is Powada?
Powada is a traditional form of Marathi ballad or narrative poetry. It is a significant part of Maharashtra's cultural and literary heritage. Powadas are usually sung in a musical style, combining elements of poetry and music to narrate historical events, heroic deeds, or social messages. These poetic performances are typically accompanied by musical instruments and have a rhythmic and energetic quality that engages listeners.

Step 2: Historical Significance of Powada
Powadas gained prominence during the Maratha period, where they were used to glorify the bravery and valor of prominent figures like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Tanaji Malusare, and other Maratha warriors. The ballads not only celebrated the victories of these heroes but also highlighted their sacrifices and the struggles they faced in defending the land from invaders.

Step 3: Cultural Role of Powada
In addition to their role in glorifying historical events, Powadas played an important part in shaping public consciousness and national identity, especially during periods of resistance and war. They were often performed at social gatherings, festivals, and royal courts, becoming an effective tool for inspiring patriotism and social awareness among the people.

> Powada is a traditional Marathi ballad used to narrate historical events and heroic deeds.

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4. Explain any *three* types of tourism.

Correct Answer: Historical, Religious, and Eco-Tourism / Adventure Tourism.

Solution: Step 1: Historical Tourism
Historical tourism is a type of tourism where travelers visit historical sites, monuments, and heritage locations. This includes visiting ancient forts, palaces, caves, and monuments that hold historical significance. The purpose is to explore the cultural and historical aspects of a region, gaining insight into its past. Examples of historical tourism in India include visiting the Ajanta and Ellora caves, the Red Fort in Delhi, and the Gateway of India in Mumbai. These sites provide an in-depth understanding of India's rich history and architecture.

Step 2: Religious Tourism
Religious tourism involves travel to places of religious importance for pilgrimage or spiritual experiences. It is one of the oldest forms of tourism and plays a crucial role in many cultures. In India, popular religious tourism destinations include Kashi (Varanasi), Tirupati (Balaji Temple), Amritsar (Golden Temple), and Vaishno Devi. Religious tourism not only provides a spiritual experience but also allows tourists to witness the traditions, rituals, and cultural practices of various religious communities.

Step 3: Eco-Tourism / Adventure Tourism
Eco-tourism or adventure tourism involves visiting natural areas such as forests, wildlife sanctuaries, mountains, rivers, and national parks. This type of tourism emphasizes the conservation of natural resources and supports sustainable travel practices. It encourages travelers to experience nature while promoting environmental awareness and conservation. Adventure activities such as trekking, rafting, and jungle safaris are common in eco-tourism. Examples include the Jim Corbett National Park, Rishikesh (rafting), and the Himalayan trekking routes.

Historical, Religious, and Eco-Tourism are key types of tourism.

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6. Choose the *correct* option from given options and complete the statements :

(1) In Maharashtra ...seats are reserved for women in local self-governing institutions.

(a) 25%
(b) 30%
(c) 40%
(d) 50%

Correct Answer: In Maharashtra, 50% seats are reserved for women in local self-governing institutions.

Solution: Step 1: Reservation of Seats for Women in Local Self-Governing Institutions
Maharashtra has implemented a significant policy aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering women in the political sphere. As part of the state's efforts to ensure greater representation of women in governance, 50% of the seats in local self-governing institutions (like Panchayats and Municipalities) are reserved for women. This reservation policy is part of a broader initiative to increase women's participation in decision-making processes at the grassroots level.

Step 2: Importance of the Policy
The reservation of seats for women has been a revolutionary step toward achieving gender equality in politics. It provides women with the opportunity to actively participate in local governance and shape policies that directly impact their communities. This policy also encourages women to engage in leadership roles, thereby challenging traditional gender norms and fostering greater political awareness among women. Furthermore, it allows women to address issues that specifically affect them and other marginalized groups in society.

Step 3: Impact of the Reservation Policy
Since the implementation of this policy, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of women leaders in Maharashtra's rural and urban areas. This has helped in the promotion of women's rights and provided a platform for addressing issues like child welfare, women's health, education, and rural development. Moreover, the policy has served as a model for other states in India, which have also implemented similar reservation systems.

In Maharashtra, 50% seats are reserved for women in local self-governing institutions.

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(2) To increase agricultural production and become self-sufficient with regard to food grains ...was initiated.

(a) Water revolution
(b) Green revolution
(c) Industrial revolution
(d) White revolution

Correct Answer: To increase agricultural production and become self-sufficient with regard to food grains, the Green Revolution was initiated.

Solution: Step 1: The Green Revolution in India
The Green Revolution refers to a set of agricultural reforms and innovations introduced in India during the 1960s and 1970s aimed at increasing food grain production, particularly wheat and rice. The primary goal of the Green Revolution was to make India self-sufficient in food production and reduce the dependency on food imports. The initiative included the introduction of high-yielding varieties of seeds, increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and improved irrigation techniques.

Step 2: The Impact of the Green Revolution
The Green Revolution led to a dramatic increase in agricultural productivity, particularly in the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. It enabled India to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains, especially wheat and rice, and helped mitigate the food shortages that plagued the country in the years following independence. This resulted in increased food security and a significant reduction in famine and malnutrition.

Step 3: Key Components of the Green Revolution
Some of the key features of the Green Revolution were:
1. High-Yielding Variety (HYV) Seeds: The introduction of HYV seeds significantly boosted crop productivity. These seeds were genetically engineered to produce higher yields compared to traditional seeds.
2. Use of Chemical Inputs: The widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides helped control pests and provided essential nutrients for crops, contributing to higher crop yields.
3. Irrigation Infrastructure: Improvements in irrigation infrastructure, including the construction of dams and canals, helped ensure water availability for crops, particularly during dry seasons.
4. Mechanization of Farming: The use of modern machinery, such as tractors and combine harvesters, improved farming efficiency and reduced manual labor.

Step 4: Challenges and Criticism of the Green Revolution
While the Green Revolution significantly increased food production, it also had its share of challenges and criticisms. The reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides led to soil degradation, water pollution, and health hazards. Moreover, the benefits of the Green Revolution were not equally distributed across all regions of India. The wealthier and more technologically advanced regions benefited the most, while poorer areas were left behind. Additionally, the Green Revolution's focus on wheat and rice neglected the production of other crops, leading to a reduction in agricultural diversity.

The Green Revolution was initiated to increase agricultural production and make India self-sufficient in food grains.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** The Green Revolution played a crucial role in boosting food production in India, but it also raised concerns about environmental sustainability and equitable development.

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7. State whether the following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your Correct Answers (*any two*) :

1. Under special circumstances the Election Commission holds re-elections in a particular constituency for a second time.

   Correct Answer: True

   Solution: Step 1: Role of the Election Commission in Ensuring Fair Elections
   The Election Commission of India plays a crucial role in ensuring the free, fair, and transparent conduct of elections. However, in cases of irregularities such as booth capturing, rigging, violence, or any activity that undermines the fairness of the electoral process, the Election Commission is authorized to take corrective actions. One such action is ordering a re-election in a specific constituency to ensure that the election is conducted properly, without any unfair influence.

   Step 2: Reasons for Re-elections
   Re-elections are ordered under special circumstances when the Election Commission finds that the original election process has been compromised or there have been violations of the rules. Common reasons include disturbances during voting, tampering of voting machines, or intimidation of voters. The Election Commission has the power to cancel results if such issues are identified and mandate a re-election to maintain the credibility and fairness of the election process.

Step 3: Ensuring the Integrity of Elections

Re-elections ensure that the voters' rights are respected, and the electoral process remains clean and unbiased. The Election Commission aims to eliminate malpractices and provide voters with a platform where their votes are cast freely without any external interference. It is a critical mechanism to maintain the integrity of India's democratic process.

> The Election Commission orders re-elections when irregularities compromise the fairness of the election.

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: Re-elections help in upholding the integrity of the democratic process by ensuring that elections are conducted fairly and without malpractices.

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2. Secrecy in the working of Government has increased due to the Right to Information.

Correct Answer: False

Solution: Step 1: The Purpose of the Right to Information (RTI)
The Right to Information (RTI) Act, passed in 2005, was a significant step in promoting transparency and accountability in the functioning of government institutions in India. The main objective of the RTI Act is to provide citizens with the right to access information held by public authorities, thereby reducing secrecy and fostering an environment of openness in government processes.

Step 2: How RTI Reduces Secrecy
Before the RTI Act, government functioning was often marked by opacity and lack of access to information, which led to inefficiency and corruption. However, with the introduction of RTI, any citizen can request information from government bodies, making the authorities more accountable and responsive. This transparency forces the government to be more diligent and truthful in its actions.

Step 3: Empowering Citizens and Strengthening Democracy
The RTI Act empowers citizens by giving them the legal right to access information and ask questions regarding government activities. This shift from secrecy to transparency ensures that citizens are better informed and able to participate more effectively in the democratic process. Rather than increasing secrecy, the RTI Act has played a crucial role in making government operations more transparent.

> The RTI Act was enacted to reduce secrecy in government functioning and promote transparency.

3. Coalition politics leads to instability.

Correct Answer: True

Solution: Step 1: What is Coalition Politics?
Coalition politics refers to a system of governance where multiple political parties form alliances to share power. This typically happens in parliamentary democracies where no single party gains an absolute majority. In India, coalition politics became particularly prominent after the 1980s, as the emergence of regional parties made it difficult for any single party to secure a majority in the central government.

Step 2: Causes of Instability in Coalition Politics
While coalition governments bring together a diverse range of political ideologies and parties, they often face internal conflicts due to differences in policy priorities, governance approaches, and party agendas. These differences can lead to disagreements, breakdowns in alliances, and even the collapse of the government.

Step 3: Political Instability in Coalition Governments
Coalition governments are often more susceptible to instability because each party involved has its own set of priorities. As a result, coalition partners may not always agree on critical issues, leading to frequent changes in government, mistrust, and occasional breakdowns in cooperation. The lack of a clear single-party leadership structure can lead to indecisiveness and policy paralysis. Additionally, coalition politics can also result in short-lived governments that do not last for the full term due to shifting alliances and internal power struggles.

Coalition politics can lead to instability due to frequent conflicts and breakdowns in alliances.

8. (A) Explain the following concept (*any one*) :

1. Provisions for minorities

Correct Answer: Provisions for Minorities

Meaning: Minorities refer to groups that are numerically smaller than the majority population, distinguished by religion, language, culture, or other factors. Provisions for minorities are special safeguards outlined in the Constitution and laws of India, aimed at protecting their rights and ensuring their social, economic, and cultural welfare.

Key Points:

- **Cultural & Educational Rights (Articles 29–30, Indian Constitution):** Minorities have the right to preserve and promote their own language, script, and culture. They can also establish and manage their own educational institutions to provide education in their native language and according to their cultural values.

- **Equality before Law (Articles 14 & 15):** The Indian Constitution ensures that there is no discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, language, or place of birth. These provisions guarantee equality before the law for all citizens, including minorities.

- **Representation & Safeguards:** To ensure adequate representation and protection for minorities, India has established minority commissions. These commissions work to address the issues faced by minorities. Additionally, minorities are provided with reservations in educational institutions, as well as special schemes for their economic and social development.

- **Purpose:** The provisions for minorities aim to ensure that minority groups are not marginalized in society. They are designed to protect their cultural identity, freedom of expression, and ability to participate equally in the social, political, and economic spheres of the country.

Provisions for minorities ensure equality, cultural identity, and protection against discrimination.

> ### Quick Tip
>
> **Quick Tip:** Provisions for minorities are crucial for fostering an inclusive society where all groups, irrespective of their size, can thrive and contribute to the nation's development.

2. Workers movements

Correct Answer: Workers' Movements

Meaning: Workers' movements are organized efforts by laborers and employees to demand better wages, improved working conditions, enhanced rights, and social security. These movements aim to protect the rights and dignity of workers, particularly in industries where exploitation is common.

Key Points:

- **Origins:** Workers' movements gained momentum during the Industrial Revolution when factory workers were subjected to harsh working conditions, long hours, and very low wages. These movements began as a response to the exploitation of workers in various sectors, including textiles, mining, and railways.
- **Forms:** Workers' movements take several forms, including:
  - Trade unions: Organizations formed to represent the interests of workers.
  - Strikes and Protests: Workers often organize strikes to demand their rights or better working conditions.
  - Demonstrations: Workers gather in large numbers to raise their voice against exploitation.
  - Collective Bargaining: Workers negotiate with employers for fair wages, working hours, and conditions.
- **Objectives:** The main objectives of workers' movements include:
  - Fair wages and reduction in working hours.
  - Safe and healthy working conditions.
  - Protection against exploitation, arbitrary dismissal, and unfair treatment.
  - Social security benefits such as pensions, insurance, maternity leave, and worker's compensation.
- **Impact:** Workers' movements have had a profound impact on labor laws and workers' rights. These movements led to the establishment of:
  - Labor laws that ensure minimum wages, working conditions, and workers' rights.
  - The recognition of trade unions, enabling workers to organize and negotiate collectively.
  - Welfare measures like pensions, insurance, maternity leave, and health benefits.
- **In India:** Workers' movements in India have historical roots in the freedom struggle. The movements were linked to India's fight for independence, and labor strikes in the textile and railway sectors played a key role in the larger movement against British colonial rule. After independence, these movements continued to advocate for workers' rights, ensuring better labor conditions.
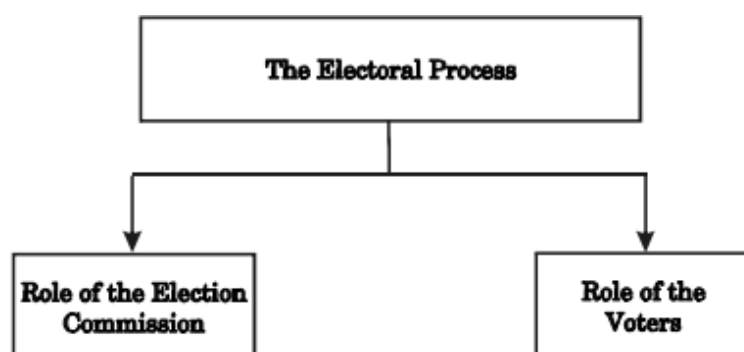

Workers' movements have been essential in securing labor rights, improved conditions, and fair wages.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** Workers' movements are crucial for safeguarding the rights and welfare of laborers, ensuring fair treatment, better working conditions, and social security.

(B) Do as directed (*any one*) :

(1) Complete the following chart :

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                    ┌─────────────────────────┐
                    │   The Electoral Process │
                    └─────────────────────────┘
                                │
                ┌───────────────┴───────────────┐
                ▼                                ▼
    ┌─────────────────────┐          ┌─────────────────────┐
    │ Role of the Election│          │   Role of the       │
    │     Commission      │          │      Voters         │
    └─────────────────────┘          └─────────────────────┘
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(1) .... (1) ....

(2) .... (2) ....

The Electoral Process

The electoral process is the cornerstone of a functioning democracy, and in India, it is a carefully structured procedure designed to ensure fair, transparent, and inclusive elections. The process is a shared responsibility between the Election Commission, political parties, and voters. The Election Commission plays a key role in overseeing the electoral system, while voters are responsible for exercising their democratic rights. Below is a detailed Solution of the roles played by the Election Commission and the voters during elections.

Role of the Election Commission

The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body responsible for administering elections to ensure they are conducted in a fair and impartial manner. The key functions of the Election Commission include:

- **Prepares and Updates Voters' List:** One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Election Commission is to prepare and maintain an updated list of eligible voters. This list is revised periodically to include new voters and remove those who are no longer eligible. The commission ensures that every eligible citizen, regardless of caste, creed, or religion, has the opportunity to vote.

- **Allots Symbols to Political Parties:** The Election Commission allocates election symbols to political parties and independent candidates. These symbols are important as they represent the parties and candidates on the ballot paper, helping voters identify them easily. The allocation process is done fairly to avoid any confusion among voters.

- **Conducts Free and Fair Elections:** The Election Commission is entrusted with organizing the elections, ensuring they are free from any bias, unfair practices, or manipulation. It makes certain that elections are conducted according to the rules and regulations outlined in the Constitution, ensuring transparency and fairness at every level of the election process.

- **Monitors Election Campaigns and Expenses:** To maintain the integrity of the electoral process, the Election Commission closely monitors election campaigns to prevent undue influence, corruption, and misuse of resources. It also ensures that political parties and candidates adhere to guidelines regarding campaign expenses to level the playing field.

- **Declares Results of Elections:** After the voting process concludes, the Election Commission is responsible for counting the votes and declaring the results. It ensures that the process is transparent and that the declaration is made in a timely and accurate manner. The results determine the elected representatives at all levels of government.

Role of the Voters

Voters are the most important element of any democracy. Their participation in the electoral process is essential for the system to function effectively. The role of voters includes:
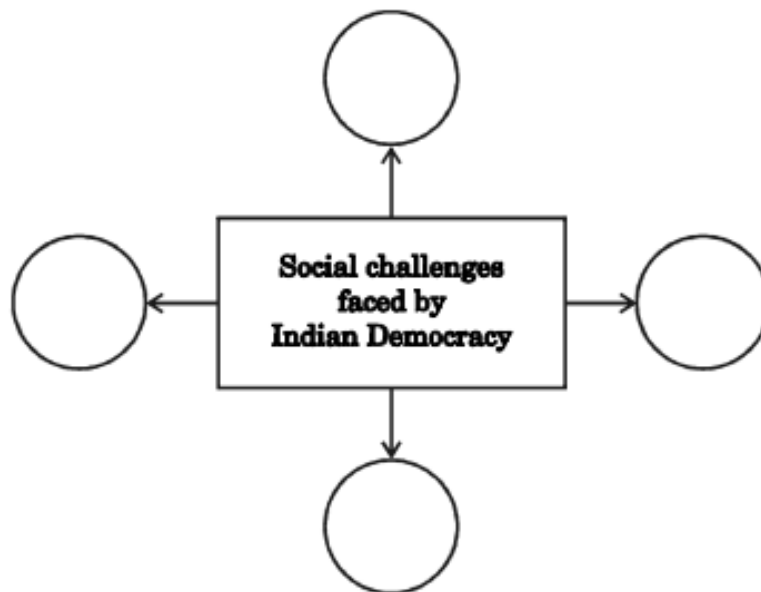
- **Get Their Names Enrolled in the Voters' List:** The first step for voters is to ensure that they are registered in the electoral roll. This is a crucial part of the process, as only those whose names appear in the voter list are eligible to cast their vote in elections. Voters must ensure they are enrolled well in advance of the election date.

- **Carry Valid Identity Proof on Voting Day:** On the day of voting, it is mandatory for voters to carry valid identity proof, such as an Aadhaar card, voter ID, or passport. This helps the Election Commission verify the identity of voters and ensures that no one votes more than once.

- **Cast Their Vote Freely and Responsibly:** Voters must exercise their right to vote freely and without fear or coercion. It is their responsibility to choose their representatives based on informed decisions. Voting is not just a right but a civic duty to ensure the country's governance is in the hands of those who represent the people's interests.

- **Respect Secrecy of Ballot:** Voters must respect the secrecy of the ballot. The Indian Constitution ensures that voting is a private and confidential process. This helps prevent voter intimidation and coercion, ensuring that voters can make their choices without fear of retaliation.

- **Participate Actively in Strengthening Democracy:** Beyond voting, citizens should actively participate in political and civic activities. This includes staying informed about political issues, discussing policies and leaders, and encouraging others to vote. Active participation in democracy helps ensure that government decisions reflect the needs and wishes of the people.

The electoral process relies on both the Election Commission's efforts to conduct fair elections and the active participation of voters.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** A fair and transparent electoral process is vital for democracy to thrive. Both the Election Commission and voters play a key role in ensuring that elections are free, fair, and representative of the people.

(2) Complete the following concept map :

Social Challenges Faced by Indian Democracy

1. **Casteism and Inequality**
2. **Communalism and Religious Conflicts**
3. **Gender Discrimination**
4. **Illiteracy and Poverty**

Solution: India faces significant social challenges that affect its democracy, including casteism, communalism, gender discrimination, and illiteracy and poverty. Although the caste system is abolished by law, it continues to influence social interactions and access to resources, especially in rural areas. Lower-caste communities, particularly Dalits, face discrimination in education, employment, and social life, with affirmative action policies not fully addressing these issues. Similarly, religious tensions and communalism, seen in incidents like the 2002 Gujarat riots, challenge India's secular democratic principles and disrupt social harmony.

Gender discrimination is another major issue, as women face unequal access to education, healthcare, and employment. Patriarchal norms limit women's mobility and political participation, while violence against women remains widespread. High illiteracy rates among women further perpetuate these inequalities, despite policies aimed at empowering them.

Illiteracy and poverty hinder participation in the democratic process, as many remain deprived of education and basic resources. Although government programs like the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and MGNREGA exist, implementation gaps and lack of awareness prevent effective benefits, reinforcing the cycle of inequality.

These social challenges undermine India's democratic values of equality, secularism, and justice, requiring continued reforms to ensure equal opportunities for all.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** Overcoming challenges such as casteism, communalism, gender discrimination, and illiteracy is crucial for strengthening India's democracy. Ensuring equality, tolerance, empowerment, and access to education and opportunities will pave the way for a more inclusive and participatory democratic society.

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9. Correct Answer in brief (*any one*) :

1. State the norms that are set by the Election Commission to get recognition as a national party.

   Correct Answer: Norms set by the Election Commission to get recognition as a national party.

   Solution: Step 1: Definition of a National Party
   A political party in India is recognized as a national party if it fulfills certain criteria set by the Election Commission of India. These norms ensure that the party has a significant level of support across the country and is not restricted to just one or two states. Recognition as a national party enables a party to avail of certain benefits, such as a symbol for contesting elections nationwide, easier access to election commissions, and a greater share in resources.

   Step 2: Criteria for Recognition
   The Election Commission of India has set the following norms for the recognition of a political party as a national party:

   1. Securing 6% of Valid Votes in Multiple States: The party must secure at least 6% of the total valid votes polled in at least four or more states in the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly elections. This ensures that the party has a significant presence in multiple states, making it a viable political entity across the country.

   2. Winning a Minimum of Four Seats in the Lok Sabha: A political party must also win a minimum of four seats in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament) to be recognized as a national party. This ensures that the party has a reasonable level of representation at the national level.

   3. Alternative Condition - State Party Status: Alternatively, a political party can be recognized as a national party if it is recognized as a state party in at least four states. This means the party must have significant support in multiple states, even if it does not

meet the criteria for winning four Lok Sabha seats.

Step 3: Importance of National Party Status

Being recognized as a national party is important because it gives the party the status to contest elections across the country with the same symbol, facilitating its broader appeal. It also entitles the party to a larger share of election commission resources and assistance. Additionally, national party status often confers a certain level of respect and influence in the political sphere, making it easier for the party to forge alliances, attract voters, and participate in national-level governance.

A national party must meet specific criteria of votes, seats, or state recognition to qualify.

> ### Quick Tip
>
> **Quick Tip:** A party must either perform well in multiple states by securing votes and seats or have recognition in several states to gain national party status.

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2. Which factors are required for the success of democracy in India?

Correct Answer: Factors required for the success of democracy in India.

Solution: Step 1: Active Citizen Participation

The success of democracy depends largely on the active participation of citizens in the electoral process. In India, this participation is primarily through voting, which gives the people the power to choose their representatives. However, it also involves being active in governance, understanding the political process, and engaging in discussions that contribute to societal well-being. Participation ensures that democracy remains vibrant and responsive to the people's needs.

Step 2: Awareness of Rights and Duties

For democracy to thrive, citizens must be aware of both their rights and responsibilities. Knowledge about fundamental rights (such as the right to vote, freedom of speech, and equality before the law) empowers people to exercise their freedoms. Equally important is an awareness of civic duties, such as abiding by the law, contributing to public welfare, and respecting the rights of others. This balanced awareness creates a society that values democracy and its principles.

Step 3: Strong and Accountable Leadership

Democracy requires leaders who are not only effective in governance but also accountable to the public. Strong leadership ensures that the government can function smoothly, make decisions effectively, and address the needs of the citizens. However, accountability is equally crucial. Leaders must be Correct Answerable for their actions and decisions, and

corruption, inefficiency, and abuse of power must be discouraged. Transparent leadership fosters public trust and ensures that the democratic process is upheld.

Step 4: Rule of Law and Equality Before Law

The rule of law is a cornerstone of democracy. It ensures that all individuals, including political leaders, are subject to the same laws and are held accountable for their actions. Equality before the law guarantees that no one is above the law, thus promoting justice and fairness. In India, the Constitution guarantees the right to equality, which is fundamental to the functioning of a democracy.

Step 5: Freedom of Press and Independent Judiciary

A free press is essential for informing the public and holding the government accountable. It acts as a check on governmental power by exposing corruption, inefficiencies, and injustices. Similarly, an independent judiciary ensures that laws are applied fairly and protects citizens from the misuse of power. Both institutions help safeguard democratic values by promoting transparency, justice, and the protection of fundamental rights.

Step 6: Tolerance and Respect for Diversity

India is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-religious society, and democracy in India thrives on respecting and embracing this diversity. Tolerance is key to the peaceful coexistence of different groups. Respect for diversity ensures that all groups—whether based on religion, ethnicity, or culture—have equal opportunities to participate in democratic processes. Without respect for diversity, democracy can be threatened by discrimination, exclusion, and conflict.

The success of democracy depends on active participation, awareness, accountable leadership, rule of law, freedom of press, and respect for diversity.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Quick Tip:** A functioning democracy requires informed and engaged citizens, fair leadership, and respect for all groups in society to foster equality and justice.