CLASS 12 · CBSE POLITICAL SCIENCE (028)

Political Science Solved Board Papers

Chapter-wise and year-wise CBSE board questions with complete answers

10 years · 2016–2026

- ✓ Part A: every question sorted chapter-wise, grouped by marks, with full answers
- ✓ Part B: complete board papers, each followed by its answers
- ✓ Board weightage table and most-asked topics for every chapter
- ✓ Passage, cartoon and map questions answered with the map and cartoon shown
- ✓ Questions on chapters no longer in the board syllabus are flagged

notesbazar.in

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 2 of 79

WHAT YOU GET

10 years of CBSE Political Science papers. Every question answered. Sorted chapter-wise.

144	2378	10	15	587
board papers	solved questions	years · 2016–26	chapters	MCQs solved

✗ Questions scattered across years	→ ✓ All in one place, chapter-wise
✗ Don't know what to study first	→ ✓ Weightage + most-asked topics
✗ Answers too short to score	→ ✓ Point-wise answers the board way
✗ Old books carry deleted chapters	→ ✓ Only the 2026-27 syllabus

PART A — Chapter-wise

- ✓ Weightage table
- ✓ Most-asked topics
- ✓ Every question + solution

PART B — Full papers

- ✓ Exactly as set by CBSE
- ✓ Solutions after each paper
- ✓ Timed 3-hour practice

2026 · 59/1/1	**2026** · 59/1/2	**2026** · 59/1/3	**2026** · 59/2/1	**2025** · 59/1/1
2025 · 59/2/1	**2025** · 59/4/1	**2024** · 59/1/1	**2024** · 59/2/1	**2023** · 59/1/1
2022 · 59/1/1 (Term 2)	**2020** · 59/1/1	**2019** · 59/1/2	**2018** · 59/1	**2017** · 59/1
2016 · 59/1				

Notes Bazar
Complete Notes · Solved PYQs
CLASS 6–12 · ALL SUBJECTS

100% QUESTIONS SOLVED

Made for board toppers



FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 3 of 79

How to use this book

Part A puts every board question of a chapter together, from 1-mark MCQs to 6-mark long answers. Finish a chapter in your notes, then answer its Part A questions without looking at the answers. Check, mark the ones you got wrong, and repeat them a week later.

Each question shows where it was asked, for example **CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 · Q13**. Use the weightage table and the most-asked topics chart at the start of each chapter to decide what to revise first.

Part B gives full papers. In the last month before the exam, sit with a clock and write one paper in 3 hours, then check it with the answers that follow the paper.

Answers are written the way the board awards marks: one point per mark, each point stated and then explained with a fact, name or date; map answers in the board's table format. Write your answers the same way.

Contents

Part A · Chapter-wise questions with solutions

1. The End of Bipolarity 199 Qs
2. Contemporary Centres of Power 184 Qs
3. Contemporary South Asia 192 Qs
4. International Organisations 160 Qs
5. Security in the Contemporary World 141 Qs
6. Environment and Natural Resources 155 Qs
7. Globalisation 153 Qs
8. Challenges of Nation-Building 140 Qs
9. Era of One-Party Dominance 140 Qs
10. Politics of Planned Development 92 Qs
11. India's External Relations 205 Qs
12. Challenges to and Restoration of the Congress System 138 Qs
13. The Crisis of Democratic Order 131 Qs
14. Regional Aspirations 149 Qs
15. Recent Developments in Indian Politics 199 Qs

Part B · Full board papers, each followed by its solutions

1. CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 solutions
2. CBSE 2026 · 59/1/2 solutions
3. CBSE 2026 · 59/1/3 solutions
4. CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 solutions
5. CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 solutions
6. CBSE 2025 · 59/2/1 solutions
7. CBSE 2025 · 59/4/1 solutions
8. CBSE 2024 · 59/1/1 solutions
9. CBSE 2024 · 59/2/1 solutions
10. CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 solutions
11. CBSE 2022 · 59/1/1 (Term 2) solutions
12. CBSE 2020 · 59/1/1 solutions
13. CBSE 2019 · 59/1/2 solutions
14. CBSE 2018 · 59/1 solutions
15. CBSE 2017 · 59/1 solutions
16. CBSE 2016 · 59/1 solutions

2378 questions in all. Questions are taken from the CBSE Class 12 Political Science board papers (every set, including compartment papers) and the answers are our own, checked against the official marking schemes wherever the board published one (none is available for 2016; those answers are worked from NCERT). Older papers carried chapters since removed from the syllabus (The Cold War Era, US Hegemony, Rise of Popular Movements and others). These questions are left out of Part A and marked in Part B, where they are still fully answered; non-alignment questions are placed under India's External Relations, where the current syllabus covers them. Two papers are incomplete at source: CBSE never published the 2019 question paper 59/1/1 (its questions are taken from the official marking scheme), and CBSE's file of the 2016 Delhi paper 59/1/1 lacks its last page.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 4 of 79

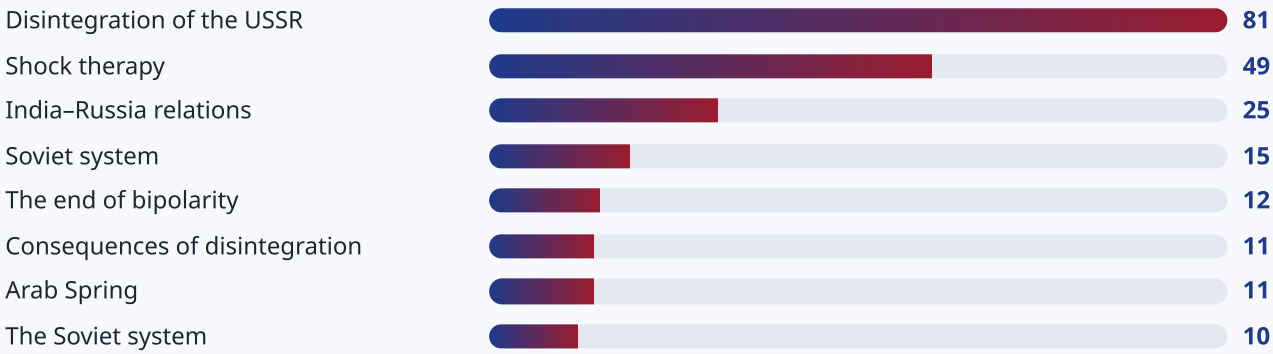
CHAPTER 1

The End of Bipolarity

Board weightage 2016–2026

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Questions per paper	3.7	2.3	3	3.5	3.2	0.2	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8
Marks per paper	15	8	12	12	8	1	11	8	9	9

Most asked topics



195 different questions from 129 papers. Repeated questions are shown once with every year they were asked.

1 mark: MCQ and Assertion–Reason

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 · Q4 | CBSE 2026 · 59/2/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2026 · 59/2/3 · Q8 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Identify the correct trio of Baltic Republics :

(A) Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
(B) Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania
(C) Slovenia, Romania, Estonia
(D) Estonia, Romania, Latvia

Solution

Answer: (A) Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

The three Baltic republics were the first to declare independence from the USSR (1990–91). Slovenia was part of Yugoslavia, and Romania was never a Soviet republic.

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 · Q10 | CBSE 2026 · 59/2/2 · Q3 | CBSE 2026 · 59/2/3 · Q6 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Which one of the following is NOT a consequence of 'Shock Therapy' ?

(A) The value of the Rouble, the Russian currency declined.
(B) The economy of the entire region was ruined.
(C) The system of social welfare got strengthened.
(D) The collective farm system disintegrated.

Solution

Answer: (C) The system of social welfare got strengthened.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 5 of 79

Under shock therapy the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed and government subsidies were withdrawn, pushing many people into poverty.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/3 · Q7 asked 3 times 1 mark

Which one of the following was ***not*** a republic of the Soviet Union ?

(A) Tajikistan
(B) Uzbekistan
(C) Afghanistan
(D) Azerbaijan

Solution

Answer: (C) Afghanistan

Afghanistan was never part of the USSR (the Soviet Union sent troops there in 1979). Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan were among the fifteen Soviet republics.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/3 · Q6 asked 3 times 1 mark

Who among the following was the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union in 1985 ?

(A) Joseph Stalin
(B) Mikhail Gorbachev
(C) Leonid Brezhnev
(D) Nikita Khrushchev

Solution

Answer: (B) Mikhail Gorbachev

Gorbachev became General Secretary in 1985 and began the reforms of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness).

CBSE 2026 · 59/7/1 · Q5 | CBSE 2026 · 59/7/2 · Q8 | CBSE 2026 · 59/7/3 · Q2 asked 3 times 1 mark

Match the events given in Column A correctly with their respective years given in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. The Berlin Wall was broken	(i) 1991
2. Indo-Russia strategic agreement	(ii) 1989
3. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan	(iii) 2001
4. Disintegration of the Soviet Union	(iv) 1979

Codes :

(A) 1-(ii), 2-(iii), 3-(iv), 4-(i)
(B) 1-(iii), 2-(ii), 3-(iv), 4-(i)
(C) 1-(i), 2-(iii), 3-(ii), 4-(iv)
(D) 1-(iv), 2-(iii), 3-(i), 4-(ii)

Solution

Answer: (A) 1-(ii), 2-(iii), 3-(iv), 4-(i)

Berlin Wall broken (November 1989); Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001); Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979); disintegration of the USSR (December 1991).

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 6 of 79

CBSE 2026 · 59/7/1 · Q6 | CBSE 2026 · 59/7/2 · Q7 | CBSE 2026 · 59/7/3 · Q1 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

The process of transition in Russia from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system is known as :

(A) Russian Revolution
(B) Shock Therapy
(C) Warsaw Pact
(D) Disintegration

Solution

Answer: (B) Shock Therapy

The model of transition, influenced by the World Bank and the IMF, was called shock therapy because the change was sudden and complete.

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/1 · Q1 **1 mark**

Given below are two statements :

Statement-I : Mikhail Gorbachev, who had become General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, sought to reform the Soviet System.

Statement-II : Gorbachev's decision to normalise relations with the West and democratise and reform the Soviet Union had some other effects that neither he nor anyone else intended or anticipated.

Option :

(A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true.
(B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are false.
(C) Statement-I is true, but Statement-II is false.
(D) Statement-I is false, but Statement-II is true.

Solution

(A) Both true. His reforms unleashed forces (nationalism, demands for faster change, resistance by the old guard) that led to the collapse of the USSR.

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/1 · Q2 **1 mark**

Which one of the following symbolised the division between the Capitalist and the Communist world ?

(A) Gulf War
(B) Berlin Wall
(C) First World War
(D) Second World War

Solution

(B) The Berlin Wall (built 1961, broken by the people in November 1989).

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 7 of 79

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/2 · Q1 — 1 mark

Given below are two statements :

Statement-I : The collapse of the 'Second World' of the Soviet Union and the socialist system in Eastern Europe had no profound consequences for world politics.

Statement-II : The end of the Soviet bloc meant the emergence of many new countries. All these countries had their own independent aspirations and choices.

Option :

(A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true.

(B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are false.

(C) Statement-I is true, but Statement-II is false.

(D) Statement-I is false, but Statement-II is true.

Solution

(D) The collapse of the Second World had **profound** consequences (end of the Cold War, change in power relations, rise of US dominance), so Statement I is false; Statement II is true: many new countries emerged with their own aspirations.

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/2 · Q2 — 1 mark

Which one of the following republics was a party to declare that 'Soviet Union was disbanded' ?

(A) Lithuania

(B) Belarus

(C) Armenia

(D) Georgia

Solution

(B) Belarus: in December 1991 Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, under Yeltsin's leadership, declared the Soviet Union disbanded.

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/3 · Q1 — 1 mark

Given below are two statements :

Statement-I : There were sections of Soviet society which felt that Gorbachev should have moved much faster and were disappointed and impatient with his methods.

Statement-II : Communist Party and those who were served by the system felt that their power and privileges were eroding and Gorbachev was moving too quickly.

Option :

(A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true.

(B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are false.

(C) Statement-I is true, but Statement-II is false.

(D) Statement-I is false, but Statement-II is true.

Solution

(A) Both true. In this "tug of war" Gorbachev lost support on all sides: reformers found him too slow, while Communist Party members found him too fast.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 8 of 79

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/3 · Q2 — 1 mark

Which leader played an important role in the disintegration and coup against Soviet Union ?

(A) Boris Yeltsin
(B) Nikita Khrushchev
(C) John F. Kennedy
(D) Joseph Stalin

Solution

(A) Boris Yeltsin: he resisted the hardliners' coup of August 1991 and, as President of Russia, led Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in declaring the USSR disbanded (December 1991).

CBSE 2025 · 59/4/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2025 · 59/4/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2025 · 59/4/3 · Q6 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Which one of the following statements about the 'Soviet System' is ***not*** true ?

(A) A minimum standard of living ensured for all citizens
(B) Subsidised health services
(C) Private ownership of industries and land
(D) Provision of welfare schemes

Solution

(C) The Soviet system was based on **state ownership** and control of land and productive assets; private ownership was not allowed.

CBSE 2025 · 59/4/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2025 · 59/4/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2025 · 59/4/3 · Q5 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Arrange the following events in chronological order:
(i) Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared that Soviet Union was disbanded
(ii) Mikhail Gorbachev became the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union
(iii) Soviet Revolution in Russia
(iv) Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement was made
Choose the correct option :

(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(B) (iii), (ii), (i), (iv)
(C) (iv), (iii), (i), (ii)
(D) (i), (iv), (iii), (ii)

Solution

(B) iii, ii, i, iv: Bolshevik revolution (1917) → Gorbachev General Secretary (1985) → USSR disbanded (December 1991) → Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001).

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/2 · Q6 | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/3 · Q10 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Arrange the following events in chronological order :
(i) Mikhail Gorbachev became General Secretary of the Communist Party
(ii) Socialist Revolution in Russia
(iii) The Berlin Wall was broken by the people
(iv) Disintegration of the USSR
Choose the correct option :

(A) (ii), (i), (iii), (iv)
(B) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(C) (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)
(D) (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 9 of 79

(A) ii, i, iii, iv: revolution (1917) → Gorbachev (1985) → fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) → disintegration (December 1991).

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/2 · Q7 | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/3 · Q11 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Choose the group of three Republics of the USSR which declared that the Soviet Union was disbanded.

(A) Russia, Tajikistan, Belarus
(B) Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia
(C) Russia, Ukraine, Belarus
(D) Armenia, Georgia, Belarus

Solution

(C) Russia, Ukraine and Belarus (December 1991, under Boris Yeltsin), forming the CIS.

CBSE 2025 · 59/S/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/3 · Q7 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Which one of the following countries is in Central Asia ?

(A) Tajikistan
(B) Chechnya
(C) Yugoslavia
(D) Turkiye

Solution

(A) Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic in Central Asia. Chechnya is a republic within Russia; Yugoslavia was in the Balkans (Europe); Turkiye lies in West Asia/Europe.

CBSE 2025 · 59/S/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/3 · Q6 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Arrange the following in chronological order :
(i) Breaking down of the Berlin Wall
(ii) The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
(iii) Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement
(iv) Disintegration of the Soviet Union
Choose the correct option :

(A) (i), (iii), (ii), (iv)
(B) (ii), (i), (iv), (iii)
(C) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)
(D) (ii), (i), (iii), (iv)

Solution

(B) (ii), (i), (iv), (iii): Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) → fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) → disintegration of the USSR (December 1991) → Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001).

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 10 of 79

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2024 · 59/2/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2024 · 59/2/3 · Q6 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Arrange the following events in the chronological order :
(i) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
(ii) Russian Revolution
(iii) End of Civil War in Tajikistan
(iv) Fall of the Berlin Wall
Choose the correct option :

(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(B) (ii), (i), (iv), (iii)
(C) (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)
(D) (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)

Solution

Answer: (B) (ii), (i), (iv), (iii)

Russian Revolution (1917) → Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) → Fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) → end of the civil war in Tajikistan (1997, after ten years of conflict).

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2024 · 59/2/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2024 · 59/2/3 · Q5 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Which two republics of Russia have had violent secessionist movements ?

(A) Chechnya and Azerbaijan
(B) Croatia and Uzbekistan
(C) Chechnya and Dagestan
(D) Dagestan and Croatia

Solution

Answer: (C) Chechnya and Dagestan

Within Russia, the two republics of Chechnya and Dagestan have had violent secessionist movements. Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are separate countries, and Croatia was part of Yugoslavia.

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2024 · 59/4/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2024 · 59/4/3 · Q7 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Arrange the following events in chronological order and choose the correct option as answer :
(i) The Russian Revolution
(ii) The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
(iii) The disintegration of Soviet Union
(iv) The end of the World War II
Options :

(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(B) (i), (ii), (iv), (iii)
(C) (i), (iii), (iv), (ii)
(D) (i), (iv), (ii), (iii)

Solution

Answer: (D) (i), (iv), (ii), (iii)

Russian Revolution (1917) → end of the Second World War (1945) → Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) → disintegration of the Soviet Union (December 1991).

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 11 of 79

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2024 · 59/4/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2024 · 59/4/3 · Q6 asked 3 times — 1 mark

Which Central Asian Republic witnessed a civil war for ten years till 2001 ?

(A) Tajikistan
(B) Kazakhstan
(C) Uzbekistan
(D) Azerbaijan

Solution

Answer: (A) Tajikistan

Tajikistan witnessed a civil war that went on for about ten years, till 2001.

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q1 — 1 mark

Arrange the following events in chronological order and choose the correct option as answer :
(i) Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement
(ii) The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
(iii) Disintegration of the Soviet Union
(iv) Socialist Revolution in Russia

(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(B) (ii), (iv), (iii), (i)
(C) (iv), (ii), (iii), (i)
(D) (iii), (i), (ii), (iv)

Solution

Answer: (C) (iv), (ii), (iii), (i)

Socialist Revolution in Russia (1917) → Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) → disintegration of the Soviet Union (December 1991) → Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001).

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q11 | CBSE 2024 · 59/5/2 · Q5 | CBSE 2024 · 59/5/3 · Q2 asked 3 times — 1 mark

Which event marked the end of Communism in the Soviet Union ?

(A) Cuban Missile Crisis
(B) Rise of New World Order
(C) Disintegration of the Soviet Union
(D) Rise in US economy

Solution

Answer: (C) Disintegration of the Soviet Union

The disintegration of the Soviet Union in December 1991 marked the end of communism there; the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was banned.

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/2 · Q4 — 1 mark

Which of the following statements in the context of shock therapy are correct ?
(i) The value of Ruble declined.
(ii) Shock therapy strengthened capitalism.
(iii) It reduced the prices of goods.
(iv) It was in favour of social welfare system.

(A) (i) and (ii)
(B) (ii) and (iii)
(C) (i), (ii) and (iii)
(D) (i), (iii) and (iv)

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 12 of 79

Answer: (A) (i) and (ii)

Shock therapy was a sudden transition to a capitalist economy: the value of the ruble declined dramatically, and private ownership and capitalism were strengthened. It did not reduce prices (inflation was very high) and it dismantled the old social welfare system.

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/3 · Q9 — 1 mark

Who among the following emerged as a national hero in opposing the coup in the Soviet Union in 1991 ?

(A) Boris Yeltsin
(B) Nikita Khrushchev
(C) Gorbachev
(D) Joseph Stalin

Solution

Answer: (A) Boris Yeltsin

In August 1991 Communist Party hardliners attempted a coup; Boris Yeltsin, the elected President of Russia, emerged as a national hero in opposing it.

CBSE 2024 · 59/S/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2024 · 59/S/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2024 · 59/S/3 · Q6 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Arrange the following events in chronological order :
I. Gorbachev became the General Secretary of Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
II. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared that Soviet Union is disbanded.
III. Russian Revolution.
IV. Fall of the Berlin Wall.
Choose the correct option.

(A) III, I, IV, II
(B) III, II, I, IV
(C) III, I, II, IV
(D) III, IV, I, II

Solution

Answer: (A) III, I, IV, II

Russian Revolution (1917) → Gorbachev became General Secretary (1985) → fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) → Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared the Soviet Union disbanded (December 1991).

CBSE 2024 · 59/S/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2024 · 59/S/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2024 · 59/S/3 · Q5 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

The Presidents of which Central Asian Republics appointed themselves to power first for ten years and then extended their term for another ten years ?

(A) Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
(B) Ukraine and Azerbaijan
(C) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
(D) Tajikistan and Kazakhstan

Solution

Answer: (C) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

In Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan the Presidents appointed themselves to power, first for ten years and then extended it for another ten years; they allowed no dissent or opposition.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 13 of 79

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/2 · Q6 | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/3 · Q12 asked 3 times 1 mark

Choose the correct option to complete the sentence :
Mikhail Gorbachev was _____.

(a) General Secretary of the Communist Party of USSR
(b) the founder of the Communist Party of Russia
(c) a leader of Western European countries
(d) a leader against reforms in the USSR

Solution

Answer: (a) General Secretary of the Communist Party of USSR

Gorbachev became General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985 and introduced the reforms of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness).

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/2 · Q5 | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/3 · Q11 asked 3 times 1 mark

Choose the correct option to complete the sentence :
Arab Spring was a _____.

(a) Political movement
(b) Cultural movement
(c) Social movement
(d) Environmental movement

Solution

Answer: (a) Political movement

The Arab Spring, which began in Tunisia in 2010, was a wave of pro-democracy protests against corruption, unemployment and autocratic rule in the Arab world.

CBSE 2023 · 59/2/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2023 · 59/2/2 · Q6 | CBSE 2023 · 59/2/3 · Q12 asked 3 times 1 mark

Which one of the following countries was NOT a part of the Soviet Union ?

(a) Ukraine
(b) Georgia
(c) Italy
(d) Estonia

Solution

Answer: (c) Italy

Ukraine, Georgia and Estonia were among the 15 republics of the USSR; Italy is a West European capitalist country.

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2023 · 59/4/2 · Q9 | CBSE 2023 · 59/4/3 · Q10 asked 3 times 1 mark

Which of the following statements about the 'Arab Spring' are ***not*** correct ?
(i) It began in 2008.
(ii) The struggle was against terrorism and pollution.
(iii) It raised its voice against corruption and unemployment.
(iv) It was basically a demand for democracy.
Select the correct option :

(a) (ii) and (iv) only
(b) (iii) and (iv) only
(c) (i) and (ii) only
(d) (i) and (iii) only

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 14 of 79

Solution

Answer: (c) (i) and (ii) only

The Arab Spring began in Tunisia in December 2010 (not 2008), and it was a struggle against corruption, unemployment and poverty and for democracy, not against terrorism and pollution.

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/2 · Q5 — 1 mark

Two statements are given below — one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read these statements carefully and choose the correct option as the answer from the options (a), (b), (c) and (d) given below.

Assertion (A) : The Soviet system became very bureaucratic and authoritarian, making life very difficult for its citizens.

Reason (R) : The Soviet Union became a great power after the Second World War.

(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is ***not*** the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Solution

Answer: (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is *not* the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

Both are true (NCERT): the USSR became a great power after 1945, and its system became bureaucratic and authoritarian. But becoming a great power did not cause the authoritarianism; that came from one-party rule, lack of democracy and freedom of speech, and a stifling bureaucracy.

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/3 · Q6 — 1 mark

Two statements are given below — one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read these statements carefully and choose the correct option as the answer from the options (a), (b), (c) and (d) given below.

Assertion (A) : Gorbachev's decision to normalize relations with the West and democratise and reform the Soviet Union had some other effects that no one anticipated.

Reason (R) : The people in the East European countries which were part of the Soviet bloc, had started to support Gorbachev in his every decision.

(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is ***not*** the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Solution

Answer: (c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

The reforms had unexpected effects: the people of the East European countries began to protest against their own governments and Soviet control, and these communist regimes collapsed one after another. They did not support Gorbachev in his every decision.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 15 of 79

CBSE 2020 · 59/1/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2020 · 59/1/2 · Q9 | CBSE 2020 · 59/1/3 · Q16 asked 3 times 1 mark

Which one of the following States is ***not*** a Baltic Republic ?

(A) Estonia
(B) Ukraine
(C) Latvia
(D) Lithuania

Solution

Answer: (B) Ukraine

The three Baltic Republics of the former USSR are Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; Ukraine is not a Baltic state.

CBSE 2020 · 59/2/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2020 · 59/2/2 · Q9 | CBSE 2020 · 59/2/3 · Q16 asked 3 times 1 mark

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) came into being after the Socialist Revolution in Russia in

(A) 1914
(B) 1917
(C) 1939
(D) 1991

Solution

Answer: (B) 1917

The USSR came into being after the Socialist (Bolshevik) Revolution in Russia in 1917, inspired by the ideals of socialism.

CBSE 2020 · 59/3/1 · Q4 | CBSE 2020 · 59/3/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2020 · 59/3/3 · Q9 asked 3 times 1 mark

After the collapse of Communism, what was the major economic change in the post-Communist countries ?

Solution

Their economies shifted from socialism (a state-controlled economy) to **capitalism**: state assets were **privatised** and private ownership became the dominant pattern ('shock therapy').

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/1 · Q1(a) 1 mark

Explain the meaning of 'Shock Therapy'.

Solution

Shock therapy was the model of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system in Russia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism, influenced by the World Bank and the IMF (sudden privatisation and a total shift to a market economy).

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/1 · Q1(b) 1 mark

After the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, why was the process of transition called a painful one ?

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 16 of 79

Because the sudden, total shift from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system ('shock therapy') ruined the economy: the old social welfare system was destroyed, industries collapsed, the rouble declined, inflation was high and a large section of people was pushed into poverty.

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/1 · Q4 | CBSE 2020 · 59/4/2 · Q4 | CBSE 2020 · 59/4/3 · Q8 asked 3 times — 1 mark

Which one of the following was NOT an outcome of 'Shock Therapy' ?

(a) The old system of social welfare got destroyed.

(b) Industries were put up for sale to the private sector.

(c) The value of the Russian currency, the 'Ruble' rose dramatically.

(d) Russia started to import food grains.

Solution

Answer: (c) The value of the Russian currency, the 'Ruble' rose dramatically.

The rouble **declined** dramatically under shock therapy; the other three were actual outcomes.

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/2 · Q1(a) — 1 mark

Explain the meaning of garage sale in the context of shock therapy.

Solution

Under shock therapy, state industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies at **throwaway prices**, so valuable industries were undervalued and sold off cheaply; this has been called **'the largest garage sale in history'**. It led to the virtual disappearance of entire industries.

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/2 · Q1(b) — 1 mark

How did the disintegration of collective farm system affect Russia ?

Solution

It left the people of Russia **without food security**, and Russia **started to import food**.

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/1 · Q1(b) | CBSE 2020 · 59/5/2 · Q5(b) | CBSE 2020 · 59/5/3 · Q10(b) asked 3 times — 1 mark

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was inspired by the ideals of _____ as opposed to capitalism and the need for an _____ society.

Solution

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was inspired by the ideals of **socialism** as opposed to capitalism and the need for an **egalitarian** society.

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/1 · Q2 — 1 mark

Who emerged as a national hero in opposing the coup that took place in the USSR in 1991 ?

Solution

Boris Yeltsin.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 17 of 79

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/1 · Q3 | CBSE 2020 · 59/5/2 · Q4 | CBSE 2020 · 59/5/3 · Q9 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Which one of the following was NOT a consequence of disintegration of the USSR ?

(a) Many new states emerged.
(b) Russia emerged as a new superpower.
(c) Power relations in world politics changed.
(d) The capitalist system emerged as the winner.

Solution

Answer: (b) Russia emerged as a new superpower.

After 1991 the US became the sole superpower; Russia was the successor state of the USSR but not a superpower. The other three were real consequences.

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/1 · Q4 | CBSE 2020 · 59/5/2 · Q3 | CBSE 2020 · 59/5/3 · Q8 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Identify any two fields in which the Soviet Union lagged behind the West.

Solution

Any two: **technology**, **infrastructure** (e.g. telecommunications), the quality of **consumer goods**, democracy and freedoms.

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/2 · Q2 **1 mark**

Which two former Soviet Republics had violent secessionist movements ?

Solution

Chechnya and **Dagestan** (republics within Russia) had violent secessionist movements. (Georgia and Azerbaijan, among the former Soviet republics, also saw secessionist conflicts; the marking scheme accepts any two of these.)

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/3 · Q2 **1 mark**

Which republic of the former Soviet Union witnessed a Civil War ?

Solution

Tajikistan (a civil war that went on for ten years, till 2001).

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q1(a) **1 mark**

Explain the term 'Capitalism'.

Solution

Capitalism is an economic system in which the means of production are privately owned (privatisation) and the economy is driven by free-market forces (demand and supply and the profit motive), not controlled by the government.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/2 · Q1(a) **1 mark**

Highlight any one democratic value which the bureaucratic and authoritarian Soviet System lacked.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 18 of 79

Solution

Any one: the Soviet system lacked **freedom of speech and expression**; it was a one-party system in which the Communist Party had tight control over all institutions and was **not accountable to the people**; there was no democracy, and people from regions other than Russia felt neglected and suppressed.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/3 · Q1(a) — 1 mark

Why did Boris Yeltsin oppose the coup that took place in the Soviet Union in 1991 ?

Solution

Boris Yeltsin opposed the coup of August 1991 because it was attempted by Communist hardliners to restore **centralised control**; he was against centralised control, and he emerged as a national hero by opposing it, as people had tasted freedom and did not want the old-style rule of the Communist Party.

CBSE 2019 · 59/3/1 · Q1(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/2 · Q3(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/3 · Q3(b) — asked 3 times — 1 mark

What does the end of bipolarity mean ?

Solution

The **end of bipolarity** means the end of the world order dominated by two power blocs (the US and the USSR); with the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, the Cold War ended and the US remained the only superpower.

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/1 · Q2(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/4/2 · Q5(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/4/3 · Q3(a) — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Identify the event that took place in 1989 which led to the collapse of the 'Second World' and the end of the Cold War.

Solution

The **fall of the Berlin Wall** (November 1989), which led to the unification of Germany (1990); this was followed by the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and of the Soviet Union in 1991.

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/1 · Q2(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/4/2 · Q5(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/4/3 · Q3(b) — asked 3 times — 1 mark

The Soviet economy was more developed than the rest of the world except for the US after the end of the Second World War. Substantiate the statement with any one example.

Solution

Any one: the USSR had a **complex communication network**, vast energy resources (oil, iron, steel) and machinery production; a **domestic consumer industry** that produced everything from pins to cars; the state ensured a minimum standard of living for all citizens, subsidised health, education and child care, and there was no unemployment.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 19 of 79

CBSE 2018 · 59/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2018 · 59/2 · Q5 | CBSE 2018 · 59/3 · Q2 asked 3 times — 1 mark

What is meant by 'Western Alliance' ?

Solution

Western Alliance refers to the group of **West European countries that sided with the USA** after the Second World War and joined the US-led NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) during the Cold War.

CBSE 2017 · 59/1/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2017 · 59/1/2 · Q5 | CBSE 2017 · 59/1/3 · Q4 asked 3 times — 1 mark

State any one special feature of Indo-Russian friendship.

Solution

Any one: (1) Russia is important for India's **nuclear energy** needs and its **space industry**. (2) The Indian military gets most of its **hardware** from Russia. (3) The friendship rests on the 1971 Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation (20 years) and a shared vision of a **multipolar world**.

CBSE 2017 · 59/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2017 · 59/2 · Q4 | CBSE 2017 · 59/3 · Q2 asked 3 times — 1 mark

Highlight any one feature of the multi-polar world as visualised by both Russia and India.

Solution

Any one: co-existence of several powers in the international system; **collective security** and collective response; negotiated settlement of international conflicts; an independent foreign policy for all countries; decision-making through bodies like the UN that are strengthened and democratised.

CBSE 2017 · 59/2/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2017 · 59/2/2 · Q2 | CBSE 2017 · 59/2/3 · Q5 asked 3 times — 1 mark

What is meant by 'Shock Therapy' ?

Solution

Shock therapy was the painful process of transition, after the collapse of communism, from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system in Russia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, as advised by the World Bank and the IMF.

CBSE 2016 · 59/1/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2016 · 59/1/2 · Q5 | CBSE 2016 · 59/1/3 · Q3 asked 3 times — 1 mark

Which one of the following statements about the Berlin war is false ?

(a) It symbolized the division between the Capitalist and the Communist world.

(b) It was built immediately after the Second World War.

(c) It was broken by the people on 9th November, 1989.

(d) It marked the unification of the two parts of Germany.

Solution

Answer: (b) It was built immediately after the Second World War.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 20 of 79

The Berlin Wall was built in **1961**, about 16 years after the war, to separate East Berlin from West Berlin. (The paper prints 'Berlin war' for Berlin Wall. Statement (d) refers to its fall, which led to the unification of Germany in 1990.)

CBSE 2016 · 59/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2016 · 59/2 · Q4 | CBSE 2016 · 59/3 · Q2 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Which one of the following was **NOT** given primacy by the makers of the Soviet System ?

(a) Abolition of private property.
(b) Society based on the principle of equality.
(c) No opposition party to be allowed.
(d) No state control over economy.

Solution

Answer: (d) The Soviet system gave strong primacy to state control over the economy; in fact, the state owned and ran all productive assets. The makers did NOT avoid state control — they emphasised it. Options (a), (b) and (c) were all indeed given primacy.

CBSE 2016 · 59/2/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/2 · Q5 | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/3 · Q5 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Gorbachev did not promise to reform which one of the following ?

(a) To loosen the administrative system.
(b) To catch up with the west.
(c) To reform the economy.
(d) To maintain a strict control over the government.

Solution

Answer: (d) To maintain a strict control over the government.

Gorbachev promised to reform the economy, catch up with the West and loosen the administrative system (perestroika and glasnost); keeping strict control was the opposite of his reforms.

2 marks: very short answer

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/1 · Q13 | CBSE 2026 · 59/3/2 · Q17 | CBSE 2026 · 59/3/3 · Q17 **asked 3 times** **2 marks**

Name any four republics of the Soviet Union.

Solution

Any four of the fifteen: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 · Q13 | CBSE 2025 · 59/1/2 · Q18 | CBSE 2025 · 59/1/3 · Q15 **asked 3 times** **2 marks**

Can Shock Therapy be called the best way to make transition from authoritarian socialist system to liberal capitalist system after the disintegration of Soviet Union ? Explain.

Solution

Either view with reasons. **No:** it ruined the economies of the region; about 90% of industries were sold at throwaway prices ("the largest garage sale in history"), the rouble crashed, savings were wiped out, welfare collapsed and inequality grew; a gradual approach, like China's, would have

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 21 of 79

been better. **Yes:** a quick break was needed to dismantle the command economy and prevent a return of the old system, and to integrate with the world economy.

CBSE 2023 · 59/3/1 · Q17 | CBSE 2023 · 59/3/2 · Q18 | CBSE 2023 · 59/3/3 · Q15 **asked 3 times** 2 marks

Name any four Republics of erstwhile USSR.

Solution

Any four of the fifteen: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

CBSE 2023 · 59/3/2 · Q14 2 marks

Analyse any two factors that strengthened relations between India and Russia.

Solution

Any two:
(1) **Defence**: the Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia, and India is one of the largest arms markets for Russia, so both gain.
(2) **Energy**: Russia has come to India's assistance during its oil crises; India imports oil from Russia and is investing in Russian oilfields.
(3) **Nuclear energy and space**: Russia is important for India's nuclear energy plans and has assisted India's space industry.
(4) Both share a vision of a **multipolar world order** and have about 80 bilateral agreements under their Strategic Partnership.

CBSE 2023 · 59/C/1 · Q14 2 marks

Name any four countries of the Second World.

Solution

Any four: the "Second World" was the group of socialist countries of Eastern Europe led by the USSR, e.g. **Russia (USSR), Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania**; after 1991 the term also covers the former Soviet republics such as Ukraine, Latvia and Azerbaijan.

CBSE 2023 · 59/C/2 · Q14 2 marks

Show with the help of two examples that India stands to benefit from its relationship with Russia.

Solution

Any two:
(1) **Support on Kashmir**: Russia has supported India's position on Kashmir and other issues in international forums.
(2) **Energy**: Russia has come to India's help during its oil crises and supplies oil and gas.
(3) **Defence, nuclear energy and space**: the Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia; Russia assists India's nuclear energy programme and space industry; the two share information on international terrorism and have a strategic partnership.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 22 of 79

CBSE 2023 · 59/C/3 · Q14 — 2 marks

Why is Russia so important for India ? Highlight any two reasons.

Solution

Any two:
(1) **Energy**: Russia has repeatedly come to India's assistance during its oil crises and is an important supplier of oil and gas.
(2) **Nuclear energy**: Russia is important for India's nuclear energy plans (e.g. the Kudankulam plant).
(3) **Space and defence**: Russia assisted India's space industry by providing the cryogenic rocket when India needed it, and the Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia.

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/1 · Q21 — 2 marks

Distinguish between a 'Unipolar World' and a 'Multipolar World'.

Solution

(1) In a **unipolar world** a **single power dominates** (like the US after 1991), whereas in a **multipolar world** several countries or groups of countries are important players in the international system. (2) In a unipolar world the major international decisions are effectively taken by the one superpower, whereas in a multipolar world decisions are taken **collectively**, through a balance among the powers.

CBSE 2020 · 59/4/3 · Q21 — 2 marks

Highlight any two facts that establish that Russia was accepted as the successor state of the Soviet Union.

Solution

Any two: (1) Russia **inherited the Soviet seat in the UN Security Council** (with the veto). (2) Russia **accepted all the international treaties and commitments** of the Soviet Union. (3) It took over as the **only nuclear state** of the post-Soviet space and carried out disarmament measures with the US.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q6(a) — 2 marks

Describe any two features of the Soviet System.

Solution

Any two: (1) The Soviet system gave primacy to the **state and the Communist Party**; the Communist Party was the only party allowed, and it was not accountable to the people. (2) Land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the state (private property was abolished); the economy was **planned** and controlled by the state. (3) It ensured a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens: the government subsidised basic necessities, including health, education and child care, and there was no unemployment.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 23 of 79

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q6(b) — 2 marks

Mention any two effects on the East European countries that the Soviet army had liberated from the fascist forces after the Second World War.

Solution

Any two: (1) These countries came under the **control of the USSR**. (2) Their political and economic systems were modelled after that of the USSR; together they were called the "Second World" or the **socialist bloc**. (3) The **Warsaw Pact**, a military alliance, held them together under the leadership of the USSR.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/2 · Q6 — 2 marks

Mention any two reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

Any two: (1) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people. (2) **Economic stagnation** for many years, leading to severe consumer shortages, while huge resources went into the arms race and maintaining satellite states. (3) The Communist Party became authoritarian and bureaucratic, with rampant corruption and no ability to correct mistakes. (4) The rise of **nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in the republics (the Baltic republics, Ukraine, Georgia and Russia itself); Gorbachev's reforms released forces that could not be controlled.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/3 · Q6(a) — 2 marks

Who was the last President of the Soviet Union and for how long ?

Solution

Mikhail Gorbachev was the last President (leader) of the Soviet Union (1 mark). He led the Soviet Union for about **6 years, from 1985 to 1991** (1 mark), when the USSR was dissolved. (Strictly, he became General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1985 and held the newly created office of President of the USSR from March 1990 to December 1991; the CBSE marking scheme accepts 1985–1991.)

CBSE 2019 · 59/2/3 · Q6(a) — 2 marks

What did the Soviet Union do to ensure that the eastern half of Europe remained within its sphere of influence ?

Solution

(1) The Soviet Union used its **influence in Eastern Europe, backed by the very large presence of its armies** in the countries of the region, to ensure that the eastern half of Europe remained within its sphere of influence. (2) It formed the **Warsaw Pact** (1955), a military alliance of these countries under its leadership, and modelled their political and economic systems on the Soviet system (the socialist bloc).

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 24 of 79

CBSE 2019 · 59/3/1 · Q6(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/2 · Q10(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/3 · Q10(b) asked 3 times — 2 marks

Highlight any two features of the old system of social welfare that got destroyed due to shock therapy.

Solution

Any two: (1) **Government subsidies** on basic necessities (food, housing, transport) were withdrawn, pushing large sections into poverty. (2) **Free or subsidised health care, education and child care**, provided by the Soviet state, were destroyed. (3) The guarantee of **employment** and a minimum standard of living for all ended; the middle classes were pushed to the periphery and privatisation created new disparities.

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/1 · Q6 — 2 marks

Name the republic that succeeded Soviet Union after its disintegration. What was its position in the international domain ?

Solution

Russia (1 mark) was accepted as the successor state of the Soviet Union. It **inherited the Soviet seat in the UN Security Council** (and the Soviet Union's international treaties and commitments, and was its only nuclear state) (1 mark).

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/2 · Q6 — 2 marks

Mention any two reforms initiated by Gorbachev.

Solution

Any two: (1) He **normalised relations with the West** and stopped the arms race with the US. (2) He **democratised the Soviet system** through glasnost (openness) and introduced economic reforms, perestroika (restructuring), to catch up with the West. (3) He allowed the East European countries to choose their own path (no Soviet intervention when their people protested).

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/3 · Q6 — 2 marks

Who encouraged the coup that took place in 1991 in the Soviet Union and why ?

Solution

The coup of August 1991 was encouraged by the **Communist Party hardliners** (1 mark). They were **opposed to Gorbachev's reforms** (perestroika and glasnost) and to the moves towards greater freedom for the republics, and wanted to restore the old centralised control of the Communist Party (1 mark).

CBSE 2019 · 59/5/1 · Q6 — 2 marks

How did the Russian government deal with the two republics that had violent succession movements ?

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 25 of 79

Two Russian republics, **Chechnya and Dagestan**, had violent secessionist movements. The Russian government dealt with them by force: **indiscriminate military bombing** and military action to suppress the movements, which led to many human rights violations but failed to deter the aspirations for independence.

CBSE 2019 · 59/5/2 · Q6 — 2 marks

How did the split in Czechoslovakia differ from breaking apart of Yugoslavia ?

Solution

(1) **Czechoslovakia split peacefully** (1993): the Czechs and the Slovaks formed two independent countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. (2) **Yugoslavia broke apart violently**: from 1991 it broke into several provinces (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc.) that declared independence, and ethnic conflict and civil war broke out, leading to great bloodshed.

CBSE 2019 · 59/5/3 · Q6 — 2 marks

How did the decline in the value of Ruble, the Russian currency, affect the people of Russia and their country ?

Solution

(1) The value of the rouble declined dramatically and the **rate of inflation was so high that people lost all their savings**; many were pushed into poverty. (2) The country suffered: the old collective farm system disintegrated, so people lost food security and **Russia started to import food**; real GDP fell and the economy was ruined in the 1990s.

CBSE 2017 · 59/1/1 · Q6 | CBSE 2017 · 59/1/2 · Q8 | CBSE 2017 · 59/1/3 · Q10 — asked 3 times — 2 marks

Starting in the 1960s, the two super powers signed which two significant agreements to control arms ?

Solution

Any two: (1) **Limited Test Ban Treaty** (1963). (2) **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** (1968). (Also: Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties SALT I (1972) and SALT II (1979), Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (1972).)

CBSE 2016 · 59/1 · Q6 — 2 marks

What constrained the Super Powers to go for a full-fledged war inspite of having nuclear weapons ?

Solution

Both the US and the Soviet Union realised that any nuclear war would cause **mutual assured destruction (MAD)**; a full-scale nuclear exchange would destroy both sides and cause catastrophic global damage. This **logic of deterrence** — that any nuclear first strike would invite a devastating counter-strike — prevented either side from going to war. Additionally, any conventional war risked escalating into nuclear war, so both sides preferred **limited proxy wars** and diplomatic/economic competition over direct conflict.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 26 of 79

CBSE 2016 · 59/2 · Q6 — 2 marks

Mention any two agreements signed between the two super powers starting in the 1960s.

Solution

(i) **Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), 1963**: The US and USSR signed this treaty banning nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, underwater and in outer space (underground tests were still permitted). It was a first step toward arms control.
(ii) **Hot Line Agreement (Moscow-Washington Direct Communication Link), 1963**: A direct telephone/telegraph link was established between the US President and the Soviet leader to enable immediate communication during a crisis and reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war.
Other valid answers: SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, 1972) froze the number of nuclear missiles each side could hold. ABM Treaty (1972) limited defensive anti-ballistic missile systems.
(Any two, 1 × 2)

CBSE 2016 · 59/3 · Q6 — 2 marks

Name any four founders of NAM and the countries they belonged to respectively.

Solution

The Non-Aligned Movement was founded in 1961 at the Belgrade Conference. Any four founders:
(i) **Jawaharlal Nehru** — India.
(ii) **Josip Broz Tito** — Yugoslavia.
(iii) **Gamal Abdel Nasser** — Egypt.
(iv) **Sukarno** — Indonesia.
(v) **Kwame Nkrumah** — Ghana. (Any four, ½ × 4 = 2)

4 marks: case-based / source-based

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 · Q20 | CBSE 2026 · 59/2/3 · Q22 — asked 2 times — 4 marks

Why could the reforms initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev not save the disintegration of Soviet Union ? Explain any two reasons.

Solution

(i) **Disappointed expectations:** some sections of society felt that Gorbachev should have moved much faster and were disappointed that the reforms did not benefit them as they had hoped.
(ii) **Opposition from the party:** members of the Communist Party felt that their power and privileges were eroding and that Gorbachev was moving too fast (leading to the coup attempt of 1991). Pulled in opposite directions, Gorbachev lost support on all sides and public opinion became divided.
(Also: the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty in the republics; disillusionment with corruption and a bureaucratic, authoritarian system.)

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/2 · Q20 — 4 marks

Explain any two reasons responsible for the strong relation between Russia and India.

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 27 of 79

(i) **Shared vision of the world order:** both believe in a multipolar world, with collective security, greater regionalism and a democratised UN, and have signed strategic agreements (e.g. the 2001 bilateral agreements). India also benefits from Russian support on issues like Kashmir.
(ii) **Defence, energy and technology:** Russia is a major supplier of military hardware to India (India is the second largest arms market for Russia), supplies oil, is important for India's nuclear energy plans, and has assisted India's space industry, e.g. with the cryogenic rocket.
(Also: collaboration on various scientific projects.)

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/1 · Q20 — 4 marks

Highlight any four effects of the shock therapy after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) It brought **ruin to the economies** and disaster upon the people of the entire region; the large state-controlled industrial complex in Russia almost collapsed ('the largest garage sale in history').
(ii) The **value of the rouble declined** dramatically and high inflation wiped out people's savings.
(iii) The **collective farm system disintegrated**, leaving people without food security.
(iv) The **old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed**; withdrawal of subsidies pushed large sections into poverty.

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/2 · Q22 — 4 marks

Highlight any four features of the Soviet system that made the life of people difficult.

Solution

(i) **Economic burden:** huge resources were spent on maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and on the development of its satellite states in Eastern Europe, which burdened ordinary people and led to shortages.
(ii) **Stagnation and corruption:** the system had become stagnant administratively and politically; ordinary people were alienated by slow and stifling administration and rampant corruption.
(iii) **Unaccountable party:** the party bureaucrats enjoyed more privileges than ordinary people, and the party was not answerable to the people; the system was unable to correct its mistakes.
(iv) **Lack of openness:** there was unwillingness to allow more openness in government, and authority was centralised in a vast land, so the government lost popular backing.

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/3 · Q22 — 4 marks

Highlight any four reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions: the system had become bureaucratic and authoritarian and failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
(ii) **Economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages, and a large section of Soviet society began to doubt and question the system.
(iii) **Huge economic burden:** the Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and developing its satellite states in Eastern Europe and Afghanistan.
(iv) **Gorbachev's reforms and nationalism:** the reforms raised expectations that could not be

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 28 of 79

met, while the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty in the republics (Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia) was the most immediate cause of the collapse.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q19(a) | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/2 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/3 · Q22(a) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

"Indo-Russian relations are embedded in the history of trust and common interests." Support the statement with four examples.

Solution

(i) Russia and India share a vision of a **multipolar world order**, i.e. the coexistence of several powers in the international system.
(ii) More than **80 bilateral agreements** have been signed between the two as part of the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement of 2001.
(iii) India benefits from Russian support on issues like **Kashmir**, energy supplies and sharing information on international terrorism; Russia is important to India, an oil-importing nation, for oil supplies.
(iv) Russia is important for India's **nuclear energy** plans and assisted India's **space industry** by giving the cryogenic rocket.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q19(b) | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/2 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2026 · 59/5/3 · Q22(b) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

Soviet system was to ensure the welfare of the people." Support the statement with four examples.

Solution

The Soviet system aimed to ensure the welfare of the people and a minimum standard of living for all citizens:
(i) It opposed capitalism and was built on the idea of an **egalitarian society**.
(ii) The government **subsidised basic necessities** including health, education, childcare and other welfare schemes.
(iii) **State ownership** was the dominant form; land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the state, so there was no exploitation by private owners.
(iv) It ensured a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens, and there was no unemployment.

CBSE 2026 · 59/7/1 · Q21 **4 marks**

State any four consequences of shock therapy.

Solution

(i) **Collapse of industry:** state-controlled industries collapsed or were sold to private individuals and companies at throwaway prices ('the largest garage sale in history').
(ii) **Fall of the rouble:** the value of the Russian currency declined dramatically and inflation was very high, wiping out people's savings.
(iii) **End of welfare:** the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed and subsidies were withdrawn, pushing many into poverty; the collective farm system disintegrated.
(iv) **Inequality and mafia:** privatisation created new disparities between rich and poor, and a mafia emerged that controlled many economic activities.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 29 of 79

CBSE 2026 · 59/7/2 · Q21 — 4 marks

Describe any four weaknesses that had developed in the Soviet system before its disintegration.

Solution

(i) **Internal weakness of institutions:** Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people; the economy stagnated and there were severe consumer shortages.
(ii) **Heavy military spending:** the economy used much of its resources to maintain a nuclear and military arsenal and to support its satellite states in Eastern Europe.
(iii) **Lack of freedom:** the needs and interests of people and their freedom of speech were neglected under one-party, authoritarian rule; the party was not accountable to the people.
(iv) **Corruption and bureaucracy:** corruption was rampant, administration was slow and stifling, and the system could not correct its mistakes.

CBSE 2026 · 59/7/3 · Q21 — 4 marks

State any four consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **End of the Cold War** confrontations and of the arms race between the two blocs.
(ii) **Change in power relations** in world politics: the world became unipolar, with the US as the sole superpower.
(iii) **Emergence of many new countries**, each with its own aspirations and choices; the Baltic and East European states joined the EU and NATO.
(iv) **Capitalism became dominant**, and socialist ideology took a back seat; the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to the former socialist countries.

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 · Q19 — 4 marks

Explain any four reasons responsible for the economic stagnation in Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) It spent huge resources on **nuclear and military arsenal** in the arms race with the US. (ii) It spent money on **satellite states** in Eastern Europe and the Central Asian republics. (iii) It **lagged behind the West in technology** and infrastructure (transport, power); the **Afghanistan** invasion (1979) further weakened it. (iv) Wages grew but **productivity and technology** did not keep pace; there were shortages of consumer goods and food imports rose; the system became bureaucratic and authoritarian.

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/2 · Q19 — 4 marks

Explain any four conditions that helped the Soviet Union to become a super power after the Second World War.

Solution

(i) The **Soviet economy was more developed** than the rest of the world except the US. (ii) It had a complex **communications network**, vast **energy resources** including oil, iron and steel, machinery production and a **transport sector** that connected its remotest areas efficiently. (iii) It had a **domestic consumer industry** that produced everything from pins to cars, though quality

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 30 of 79

lagged behind the West. (iv) The Soviet state ensured a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens, subsidised health, education, child care and other welfare schemes, and there was **no unemployment**. (v) **State ownership** was the dominant form: land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the state. (Any four.)

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/3 · Q19 — 4 marks

Explain any four consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **End of the Cold War** confrontations and of the ideological dispute over whether socialism or capitalism was the better system. (ii) **End of the arms race** and of the Warsaw Pact; demands for disarmament and a new peace became stronger. (iii) **Change in power relations**: the world became **unipolar** with the US as the dominant power; capitalism became the dominant economic system, and the **World Bank and IMF** became powerful advisers to these countries; liberal democracy emerged as the best way to organise political life. (iv) **Emergence of new countries**: the Baltic states, East European and Central Asian republics became independent; some joined the EU and NATO, and they shifted to capitalism through "shock therapy".

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/1 · Q24 | CBSE 2025 · 59/2/2 · Q26 | CBSE 2025 · 59/2/3 · Q25 — asked 3 times — 4 marks

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow :
The Central Asian republics did not ask for independence and wanted to remain with the Soviet Federation. In December 1991, under the leadership of Yeltsin, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared that the Soviet Union was disbanded. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union was banned. Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the bases for the post-Soviet republics. The declaration on the disintegration of the USSR and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) came as a surprise to the other republics, especially to the Central Asian ones.
(24.1) Which ideology was adopted by the post-Soviet countries ?
(A) Socialist (B) Capitalist and Democratic (C) Communist (D) Democratic
(24.2) Which republic among the following became the successor of the Soviet Union ?
(A) Belarus
(B) Ukraine
(C) Commonwealth of Independent States
(D) Russia
(24.3) Which one of the following is a Central Asian country ?
(A) Chechnya (B) Dagestan (C) Tajikistan (D) Czechoslovakia
(24.4) Which part of Soviet Union had vast hydrocarbon resources ?
(A) Eastern Europe (B) Central Asian Republics (C) Yugoslavia (D) Czechoslovakia

Solution

(24.1) **(B)** capitalist and democratic. (24.2) **(D) Russia** (it took the USSR's UNSC seat). (24.3) **(C) Tajikistan.** (24.4) **(B) Central Asian republics.**

CBSE 2025 · 59/4/1 · Q19 | CBSE 2025 · 59/4/2 · Q20 | CBSE 2025 · 59/4/3 · Q20 — asked 3 times — 4 marks

Was Shock therapy necessary for making a transition from Socialist economy to Capitalist economy ? Support your answer with two arguments.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 31 of 79

Solution

Either view with arguments: **Yes:** (i) a quick, total change was needed to break the old command economy, otherwise the transition would take a long time and the old elite might reverse it; (ii) the IMF and World Bank linked help to a full shift to capitalism, and integration with the Western economy needed it. **No:** (i) a **gradual** transition (like China's step-by-step reforms) would have avoided the collapse; (ii) shock therapy ruined economies: the "largest garage sale in history", the rouble crashed, savings vanished, welfare was destroyed and inequality grew; the West exploited the region's weak position.

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 · Q23(a) | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/2 · Q21(a) | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/3 · Q20(a) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

"After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Indo-Russian relations are gaining new heights." Support the statement with any four examples.

Solution

(i) Both share a vision of a **multipolar world order**. (ii) Over **80 bilateral agreements** under the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001). (iii) India benefits on **Kashmir, energy, sharing information on terrorism, access to Central Asia and balancing China**; Russia has helped India during oil crises. (iv) Russia benefits because India is one of its largest **arms markets**; the Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia; cooperation in nuclear energy and space.

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 · Q23(b) | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/2 · Q21(b) | CBSE 2025 · 59/6/3 · Q20(b) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

"After the Second World War, the Soviet Union was considered a superpower of the world." Support the statement with any four arguments.

Solution

(i) The Soviet **economy was more developed** than the rest of the world except the US. (ii) It had a complex **communications network**, vast **energy resources** (oil, iron and steel), machinery production and a transport sector linking remote areas. (iii) A **domestic consumer industry** produced everything from pins to cars. (iv) It ensured a **minimum standard of living** and subsidised health, education and childcare; there was **no unemployment**; and it was a nuclear and military superpower leading the Eastern bloc.

CBSE 2025 · 59/S/1 · Q19(a) | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/2 · Q21(a) | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/3 · Q22(a) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

Explain the meaning and purpose of Shock Therapy.

Solution

Meaning: the model of transition from an authoritarian **socialist system to a democratic capitalist system** adopted in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe after the collapse of communism, influenced by the World Bank and IMF, is known as **shock therapy**; it was a sudden, total change rather than a gradual one. **Purpose:** (i) to **abolish the socialist economy** and set up a capitalist system: private ownership of property, privatisation of state assets and corporate structures, and integration with the world economy through free trade and foreign investment; (ii) to **break up the existing trade alliances** among the countries of the Soviet bloc, so that each was linked directly to the West; and to set up democratic political institutions.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 32 of 79

CBSE 2025 · 59/S/1 · Q19(b) | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/2 · Q21(b) | CBSE 2025 · 59/S/3 · Q22(b) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

Explain any four consequences of Shock Therapy.

Solution

(i) **Collapse of industry**: the large state-controlled industrial complex in Russia almost collapsed; about 90% of industries were sold to private individuals and companies. (ii) **"Largest garage sale in history"**: valuable industries were undervalued and sold at throwaway prices. (iii) **Fall of the rouble**: the value of the Russian currency declined dramatically and high inflation wiped out savings. (iv) **End of social welfare**: the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed; withdrawal of subsidies pushed many into poverty; inequality grew and the collective farm system broke down.

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/1 · Q20 | CBSE 2024 · 59/S/1 · Q20 **asked 2 times** **4 marks**

Explain any two reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
(ii) **Economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages, and a large section of Soviet society began to doubt and question the system.
(iii) Ordinary people were **alienated** by slow and stifling administration, rampant corruption, the inability of the system to correct mistakes, unwillingness to allow more openness in government, and the centralisation of authority in a vast land.
(iv) The USSR used up its resources in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** and its satellite states in Eastern Europe, and the arms race with the US; Gorbachev's reforms then unleashed forces (including nationalism in the republics) that could not be controlled. (Any two, explained)

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/2 · Q20 **4 marks**

Explain any two consequences of the systematic destruction of the old system of social welfare due to 'shock therapy'.

Solution

(i) The **withdrawal of government subsidies** pushed large sections of people into **poverty**.
(ii) The **middle classes** were pushed to the periphery of society.
(iii) The **intellectual and academic manpower** disintegrated or migrated.
(iv) A **mafia** emerged in most of these countries and started controlling many economic activities.
(v) Privatisation led to new **disparities**: the post-Soviet states, especially Russia, were divided between rich and poor regions, and economic inequality between people grew sharply. (Any two, explained)

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/3 · Q20 **4 marks**

Explain any two causes for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 33 of 79

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
(ii) **Economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages, and a large section of Soviet society began to doubt and question the system.
(iii) Ordinary people were **alienated** by slow and stifling administration, rampant corruption, the inability of the system to correct mistakes, unwillingness to allow more openness in government, and the centralisation of authority in a vast land.
(iv) The USSR used up its resources in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** and its satellite states in Eastern Europe; Gorbachev's reforms then unleashed forces (including nationalism in the republics) that could not be controlled. (Any two, explained)

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/1 · Q26 — 4 marks

Study the picture given below related to the Berlin Wall and answer the questions that follow :



(i) What did the Berlin Wall symbolise ? (1)
(ii) Between which two countries was the Berlin Wall built ? (1)
(iii) Highlight any two outcomes of breaking of the Berlin Wall. (2)
*Note : The following questions are for the **Visually Impaired Candidates** only, in lieu of Q. No. **26**.*
(26.1) In which year did the Second World War end ?
(26.2) In which year was the Berlin Wall built ?
(26.3) In which year did the Soviet Union disintegrate ?
(26.4) Name the leader who became the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985.

Solution

(i) The Berlin Wall symbolised the **division between the capitalist and the communist world** (the Cold War).
(ii) Between **East Germany and West Germany** (it divided Berlin).
(iii) (a) The **unification of the two parts of Germany** (1990). (b) The **beginning of the end of the communist bloc** in Eastern Europe, followed by the disintegration of the USSR in 1991.
For Visually Impaired Candidates: (26.1) 1945 (26.2) 1961 (26.3) 1991 (26.4) Mikhail Gorbachev

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 34 of 79

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/2 · Q21 — 4 marks

Describe the role of Gorbachev to reform the Soviet system.

Solution

(i) Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary from 1985, introduced economic and political reforms: **perestroika** (restructuring) and **glasnost** (openness).
(ii) He wanted to **reform the economy**, catch up with the West and loosen the administrative system.
(iii) He moved to **stop the arms race** with the US and normalise relations with the West.
(iv) He **withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan** and did not intervene when the people of Eastern Europe overthrew their communist governments. His reforms raised expectations, but also unleashed forces (and nationalist demands in the republics) that led to the disintegration of the USSR in 1991.

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/2 · Q25 — 4 marks

Study the picture given below related to the Berlin Wall and answer the questions that follow :



(i) What did the Berlin Wall symbolise ? (1)
(ii) Between which two countries was the Berlin Wall built ? (1)
(iii) Highlight any two outcomes of breaking of the Berlin Wall. (2)
*Note : The following questions are for the **Visually Impaired Candidates** only, in lieu of Q. No. **25**.*
(25.1) In which year did the Second World War end ?
(25.2) In which year was the Berlin Wall built ?
(25.3) In which year did the Soviet Union disintegrate ?
(25.4) Name the leader who became the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985.

Solution

(i) The Berlin Wall symbolised the **division between the capitalist and the communist world** (the Cold War).
(ii) Between **East Germany and West Germany** (it divided Berlin).
(iii) (a) The **unification of the two parts of Germany** (1990). (b) The **beginning of the end of the**

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 35 of 79

communist bloc in Eastern Europe, followed by the disintegration of the USSR in 1991.
For Visually Impaired Candidates: (25.1) 1945 (25.2) 1961 (25.3) 1991 (25.4) Mikhail Gorbachev

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/3 · Q21 — 4 marks

Describe any four consequences of 'Shock Therapy'.

Solution

(i) In Russia the large **state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed**; about 90 per cent of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies at throwaway prices ("the largest garage sale in history").
(ii) The value of the **rouble declined dramatically** and inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.
(iii) The **collective farm system disintegrated**, leaving people without food security; Russia started to import food.
(iv) The **old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed**; the withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of people into poverty, while a mafia emerged and inequality grew. (Any four)

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/3 · Q24 — 4 marks

Study the picture given below related to the Berlin Wall and answer the questions that follow :



(i) What did the Berlin Wall symbolise ? (1)
(ii) Between which two countries was the Berlin Wall built ? (1)
(iii) Highlight any two outcomes of breaking of the Berlin Wall. (2)
*Note : The following questions are for the **Visually Impaired Candidates** only, in lieu of Q. No. **24**.*
(24.1) In which year did the Second World War end ?
(24.2) In which year was the Berlin Wall built ?
(24.3) In which year did the Soviet Union disintegrate ?
(24.4) Name the leader who became the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985.

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 36 of 79

(i) The Berlin Wall symbolised the **division between the capitalist and the communist world** (the Cold War).
(ii) Between **East Germany and West Germany** (it divided Berlin).
(iii) (a) The **unification of the two parts of Germany** (1990). (b) The **beginning of the end of the communist bloc** in Eastern Europe, followed by the disintegration of the USSR in 1991.
For Visually Impaired Candidates: (24.1) 1945 (24.2) 1961 (24.3) 1991 (24.4) Mikhail Gorbachev

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 · Q20 — 4 marks

"India has maintained good relations with Russia after the end of Cold War." Justify the statement with four examples.

Solution

(i) India–Russia relations are embedded in a history of **trust and common interests**; both share a vision of a **multipolar world order**.
(ii) Over 80 bilateral agreements were signed under the **Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement of 2001**.
(iii) India gets **energy supplies** from Russia and benefits on issues like **Kashmir**, sharing information on international terrorism and access to Central Asia.
(iv) Russia is a major source of India's **military hardware**, and assists India's **nuclear energy** and **space** programmes; the two collaborate on scientific projects. (Any four examples)

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/2 · Q20 — 4 marks

"Shock Therapy brought ruin to the economies of the former republics of the Soviet Union." Justify the statement with any two arguments.

Solution

(i) The shift from a state-controlled to a capitalist economy ruined industry: the large **state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed**, and about 90 per cent of industries were sold to private individuals and companies at throwaway prices ("the largest garage sale in history").
(ii) The **rouble declined dramatically** and inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.
(iii) The **old system of social welfare was destroyed**; withdrawal of subsidies pushed large sections into poverty, the middle classes were pushed to the margins, and a **mafia** emerged that controlled many economic activities.
(iv) Collective farms disintegrated, leading to food insecurity. (Any two, explained)

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/3 · Q20 — 4 marks

Explain any two causes of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
(ii) **Economic stagnation** for many years, with severe consumer shortages; a large section of society began to doubt and question the system.
(iii) Much of its resources were used up in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** and in developing its satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet system.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 37 of 79

(iv) The **Communist Party was not accountable** to the people; ordinary people were alienated by slow and stifling administration, rampant corruption and centralised bureaucratic control, so the government slowly lost popular backing.
(v) **Gorbachev's reforms** loosened the system and set in motion forces that could not be controlled; in the tug of war between supporters and opponents of reform he lost support from all sides.
(vi) The **rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty** within the republics was the final and most immediate cause. (Any two, explained: 2 + 2)

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2024 · 59/5/2 · Q21(a) | CBSE 2024 · 59/5/3 · Q23(a) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

"After the disintegration of Soviet Union, India has maintained good relations with all the new independent countries, but the most cordial relations are still there between Russia and India." Justify the statement with two examples.

Solution

(i) There is **trust and common interest** between the two countries, and Indian actors and Hindi film songs are popular all over Russia.
(ii) Russia and India share a vision of a **multipolar world order**, collective security, greater regionalism and negotiated settlement of international conflicts.
(iii) **Defence:** India is the second largest arms market for Russia; most of India's military hardware comes from Russia.
(iv) **Nuclear energy and space:** Russia is important for India's nuclear energy plans and space industry; India also gets oil from Russia. (Any two examples, explained: 2 + 2)

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2024 · 59/5/2 · Q21(b) | CBSE 2024 · 59/5/3 · Q23(b) **asked 3 times** **4 marks**

During Cold War period the US economy was more developed than the rest of the world. Still the Soviet system had some special features which distinguish it from the US. Evaluate any two such features.

Solution

(i) The Soviet economy was more developed than the rest of the world except the US; it had a **complex communications network, vast energy resources** and a **domestic consumer industry** that produced everything from pins to cars (though quality did not match the West).
(ii) The Soviet state ensured a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens and **subsidised basic necessities** including health, education and childcare.
(iii) There was **no unemployment**.
(iv) **State ownership** was the dominant form of ownership: land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the Soviet state. (Any two, explained: 2 + 2)

CBSE 2024 · 59/S/2 · Q20 **4 marks**

Explain any two consequences of Shock Therapy.

Solution

(i) **Collapse of the state-controlled industrial complex:** in Russia about 90 per cent of industries were put up for sale to private individuals at throw-away prices in what came to be known as "the

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 38 of 79

largest garage sale in history".
(ii) **Currency collapse and inflation:** the value of the ruble declined dramatically and inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.
(iii) **Disintegration of the collective farm system**, leading to food insecurity for many.
(iv) **Withdrawal of government subsidies** systematically destroyed the old social welfare system and pushed large sections into poverty, creating extreme economic inequality. (Any two, 2 × 2)

CBSE 2024 · 59/S/3 · Q20 — 4 marks

Explain any four features of the Soviet System.

Solution

(i) The Soviet system was **centred around only one party — the Communist Party**; there was no multi-party democracy; the party exercised control over state, army and economy.
(ii) The Soviet state ensured a **minimum standard of living for all citizens**, with guaranteed employment and social security.
(iii) The government **subsidised basic necessities** including health, education, childcare and other welfare schemes; consumer goods were kept affordable.
(iv) There was **no unemployment**; state ownership was dominant — land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the Soviet state rather than by private individuals. (Any four, 4 × 1)

CBSE 2023 · 59/5/1 · Q19 | CBSE 2023 · 59/5/2 · Q23 | CBSE 2023 · 59/5/3 · Q19 — asked 3 times — 4 marks

"The 'Arab Spring' was the people's revolution against injustice." Support the statement with any two examples.

Solution

Any two:
(1) **Tunisia**: the Arab Spring began in Tunisia in December 2010, when people rose against corruption, unemployment and poverty; the movement turned political because people saw these problems as the result of autocratic dictatorship. President Ben Ali was forced out, and the demand for democracy spread across the Arab world.
(2) **Egypt**: massive democratic protests in Tahrir Square led to the fall of Hosni Mubarak, who had ruled since 1979.
(3) **Yemen, Bahrain, Libya and Syria** saw similar protests by the people against authoritarian rule, leading to a democratic awakening across West Asia.

CBSE 2022 · 59/2/3 (Term 2) · Q9 — 4 marks

Evaluate the strength of Russia after the disintegration of USSR.

Solution

Russia did not lose much of its power after the disintegration of the USSR (any two, explained):
(1) **Successor state**: Russia inherited the legacy of the USSR and its **permanent seat in the UN Security Council**, with the veto power.
(2) **Nuclear power**: it inherited the Soviet nuclear arsenal and remains a big military power after the US; it has continued to add new weapons and has stepped up its space research programmes.
(3) **Natural resources**: Russia is rich in oil, natural gas and minerals, which give it economic

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 39 of 79

strength and influence over Europe's energy supplies.
(4) It continues to challenge the supremacy of the US in world affairs and is an important partner of India (defence and energy).
Thus, though it went through a painful transition (shock therapy) in the 1990s, Russia remains one of the major powers in the world.

CBSE 2022 · 59/3/3 (Term 2) · Q9 — 4 marks

Explain with the help of any two examples the strong and trustworthy relations between Russia and India.

Solution

Any two, explained:
(1) **Diplomatic support**: Russia has supported India in the UN Security Council on the issue of Kashmir and on other international issues; both share a vision of a multipolar world order.
(2) **Defence cooperation**: Russia has been India's largest supplier of weapons and military hardware (e.g. Sukhoi aircraft, S-400 air defence) and cooperates in joint production (BrahMos missile).
(3) **Nuclear energy**: Russia has assisted India's nuclear energy programme (e.g. the Kudankulam nuclear power plant).
(4) **Energy and counter-terrorism**: Russia is important to India for oil and gas, and both countries have agreed to share information on international terrorism.

CBSE 2022 · 59/5/1 (Term 2) · Q10 — 4 marks

Highlight any four areas of cooperation between India and Russia.

Solution

Any four:
(1) **Trade and economy**: trade, energy (oil and gas), steel plants and technological exchange.
(2) **Political and diplomatic support**: Russia supports India on the Kashmir issue and in the UN Security Council; both cooperate in the war against terrorism.
(3) **Defence**: Russia is a major supplier of military hardware, and the two countries jointly develop weapons (e.g. the BrahMos missile).
(4) **Nuclear energy and space**: cooperation in nuclear power (Kudankulam) and space research.
(5) **Culture**: Russians' fondness for Indian culture, food, festivals, films and literature.

CBSE 2020 · 59/2/1 · Q25(a) | CBSE 2020 · 59/2/2 · Q26(a) | CBSE 2020 · 59/2/3 · Q27(a) — asked 3 times — 4 marks

Give any four arguments to prove that the Soviet Union had become stagnant in an administrative and political sense.

Solution

Any four: (1) The **Communist Party was not accountable** to the people. (2) Ordinary people were **alienated by slow and stifling administration**. (3) **Corruption was rampant**. (4) The system was **unwilling to allow openness** and to correct mistakes. (5) **Bureaucrats** (the party) gained more privileges than ordinary citizens. (6) There was excessive **centralisation of authority** in a vast land.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 40 of 79

CBSE 2020 · 59/2/1 · Q25(b) | CBSE 2020 · 59/2/2 · Q26(b) | CBSE 2020 · 59/2/3 · Q27(b) asked 3 times 4 marks

If the Soviet Union had not disintegrated, how would that situation have affected world politics ?

Solution

Any four: (1) The **Cold War confrontation would not have ended**; the world would have remained bipolar. (2) The **United States would not have become the only superpower** of the world. (3) Most of the countries that were part of the USSR (Baltic states, Central Asian republics) would **not have become independent**. (4) The **arms race and the accumulation of nuclear weapons** would have continued. (5) Capitalism might not have become the dominant world economic system; the IMF and World Bank would not have become so powerful.

CBSE 2020 · 59/3/1 · Q26(a) | CBSE 2020 · 59/3/2 · Q25(a) | CBSE 2020 · 59/3/3 · Q24(a) asked 3 times 4 marks

Why did the Soviet System become so weak and the economy stagnated by the end of 1990. Explain any two reasons.

Solution

Any two, explained: (1) The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** to match the US. (2) The development of its **satellite states in Eastern Europe** and of the Central Asian republics was a huge economic burden. (3) Ordinary citizens became more knowledgeable about the **economic advance of the West**, which showed how far behind the USSR was; this was a political and psychological shock. (4) The **Communist Party was not accountable** to the people; the stagnant, corrupt system could not correct its mistakes.

CBSE 2019 · 59/5/1 · Q11(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/5/2 · Q16(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/5/3 · Q14(a) asked 3 times 4 marks

Why did the Soviet Union collapse in spite of Gorbachev's accurate diagnosis of the problem and his attempt to implement reforms ? Explain any four reasons.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people. (2) **Economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages. (3) Much of the country's resources were used in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** and its satellite states. (4) The **Communist Party was unaccountable**; the administration was stifling and corruption rampant, so people did not identify with the system. Gorbachev's reforms loosened the system and set in motion forces and expectations that few could control: one section felt he was moving too slowly, while the Communist Party hardliners felt their power was being eroded; the rise of **nationalism** in the republics then led to collapse.

CBSE 2019 · 59/5/1 · Q11(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/5/2 · Q16(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/5/3 · Q14(b) asked 3 times 4 marks

Why did most of the institutions of the Soviet system need reforms during late 1970s ? Explain any four reasons.

Solution

(1) The **one-party system** had become bureaucratic and authoritarian and was **not accountable to the people**; lack of democracy and freedom of speech stifled people. (2) The Soviet Union **lagged behind the West** in technology and infrastructure (telecommunications, computers) and

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 41 of 79

productivity, leading to economic stagnation and consumer shortages. (3) The **Soviet invasion of Afghanistan** (1979) weakened the system further and drained resources. (4) **Russian domination** made people from other regions feel neglected and suppressed; wages grew but productivity and technology fell behind.

5 marks: long answer

CBSE 2020 · 59/2/1 · Q29 — 5 marks

Study the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow :
These developments were accompanied by a rapidly escalating crisis within the USSR that hastened its disintegration. Gorbachev initiated the policies of economic and political reform and democratisation within the country. The reforms were opposed by leaders within the Communist Party.
(a) Which developments hastened the disintegration of the Soviet Union ?
(b) What was the outcome of opposing the reforms initiated by Gorbachev ?
(c) How did Boris Yeltsin emerge as a national hero ?

Solution

(a) The people of the **East European countries** of the Soviet bloc began to protest against their own governments and Soviet control (1989), and the Soviet Union **did not intervene**; the communist regimes there collapsed one after another, and nationalist movements grew within the USSR. (2)
(b) Communist Party hardliners organised a **coup in August 1991**; it failed, people rose against it, and **Boris Yeltsin emerged as a national hero**. The Communist Party lost support, and the USSR disintegrated in December 1991. (2)
(c) Boris Yeltsin **bravely opposed the 1991 coup**; he had won a popular election as President of the Russian Republic and began to shake off centralised control. (1)

CBSE 2020 · 59/2/2 · Q29 — 5 marks

Study the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow :
Each of these countries was required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy, which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during the Soviet period. Above all, shock therapy meant that private ownership was to be the dominant pattern of ownership of property. Privatisation of state assets and corporate ownership patterns were to be immediately brought in. Collective farms were to be replaced by private farming and capitalism in agriculture. This transition ruled out any alternate or 'third way', other than state-controlled socialism or capitalism.
(a) What is meant by private ownership ?
(b) Why were collective farms to be replaced by private farming ? Give any two reasons.
(c) Highlight any two advantages of state-controlled socialism.

Solution

(a) **Private ownership** means that the right to own property (land, factories, assets) lies with **individuals, families or private companies**, not with the state. (1)
(b) Any two: (1) Under collective farming even **non-performers got an equal share**, so there was little incentive to work hard. (2) The **quality and productivity** of farm output were not up to the

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 42 of 79

mark. (3) Shock therapy aimed at a complete shift to capitalism, in which agriculture too was to be run on market lines. (2)
(c) (1) It ensures a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens; there was no unemployment. (2) The government **subsidises basic necessities** such as health, education, child care and other welfare schemes. (2)

CBSE 2020 · 59/2/3 · Q30 — 5 marks

Study the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow :
The Soviet system became very bureaucratic and authoritarian, making life very difficult for its citizens. Lack of democracy and the absence of freedom of speech stifled people who often expressed their dissent in jokes and cartoons. Most of the institutions of the Soviet state needed reforms ..... . The party refused to recognise the urge of people in ..... different republics that formed the Soviet Union.
(a) How many different republics together constituted the USSR ?
(b) What type of party system was there in the Soviet Union ? How far did it follow the democratic norms ?
(c) Highlight any two main aspirations of the people of different republics of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(a) **Fifteen** republics together constituted the USSR. (1)
(b) The Soviet Union had a **one-party system**: only the Communist Party was allowed. It was **totally undemocratic**; the party controlled all institutions and was not accountable to the people. (2)
(c) Any two: the people of the republics wanted to **manage their own affairs** (more autonomy, sovereignty); they wanted **freedom of speech** and democracy; they wanted to preserve their own culture and identity against Russian domination. (2)

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q17(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/1/2 · Q19(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/1/3 · Q19(b) — asked 3 times — 5 marks

Read the following passage and answer the following questions :
India has maintained good relations with all the post-communist countries. But the strongest relations are still those between Russia and India. India's relations with Russia are an important aspect of India's foreign policy. Indo-Russian relations are embedded in a history of trust and common interests and are matched by popular perceptions. Indian heroes from Raj Kapoor to Amitabh Bachchan are household names in Russia and many post-Soviet countries. One can hear Hindi film songs all over the region, and India is part of the popular memory.
(i) What is meant by the post-communist countries ?
(ii) Explain any two factors responsible for strong relations between India and Russia.
(iii) How are India's relations with Russia an important aspect of India's foreign policy ?

Solution

(i) The former Soviet republics and East European countries that gave up communism after 1991 and moved towards capitalism and democracy (through shock therapy).
(ii) Any two: both share a vision of a **multipolar world** order; the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001) and many bilateral agreements; Russia supports India on Kashmir, terrorism and its claim to a UNSC seat; Russia is India's largest arms supplier and helps in nuclear energy and space programmes; Russia has helped India during its oil crises.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 43 of 79

(iii) Relations are embedded in a history of trust and common interests and matched by popular perceptions (Indian films and songs are popular in Russia, and India is part of the popular memory of the region); Russia is important for India's defence, energy (oil and gas, nuclear power) and strategic needs, so it is a vital partner in India's foreign policy.

CBSE 2019 · 59/2/1 · Q17(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/2/2 · Q18(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/2/3 · Q18(a) **asked 3 times** **5 marks**

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the following questions :
The old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed. The withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of the people into poverty. The middle classes were pushed to the periphery of society..... Besides, privatization led to more disparities.
(i) What is meant by government subsidy ?
(ii) How did the withdrawal of government subsidy lead the people into poverty ?
(iii) Do you support or oppose the policy of privatisation ? Support your answer with any two suitable arguments.

Solution

(i) A **government subsidy** is economic help given by the government to a group of consumers or producers, in the form of goods or services at a reduced rate (or lower interest or rent) compared with the market price; e.g. subsidised food, health care and education in the USSR.
(ii) Any two: when subsidies were withdrawn, people had to pay full market prices for food, health, education and other services, which they could not afford; the cost of tools, machines and fertilisers rose, so people could not buy what they needed for their livelihood; at the same time the value of the rouble fell and inflation wiped out savings, pushing large sections into poverty.
(iii) Either view, with two arguments. **Support**: privatisation brings efficiency, competition, better quality and investment, and reduces the burden of loss-making state enterprises on the government. **Oppose**: privatisation leads to disparities and unemployment; valuable state assets were sold at throwaway prices to a few, creating oligarchs, as happened under shock therapy.

CBSE 2019 · 59/3/1 · Q17(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/2 · Q18(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/3 · Q18(a) **asked 3 times** **5 marks**

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the following questions :
It meant the end of Cold War confrontations. The ideological dispute over whether the socialist system would beat the capitalist system was not an issue any more. Since this dispute had engaged the military of the two blocs, had triggered a massive arms race and accumulation of nuclear weapons ....., the end of confrontation demanded an end to this arms race and a possible new peace.
(i) Name the two alliances that were in confrontation during the Cold War.
(ii) Why did the arms race lead to a demand for peace ? Explain.
(iii) Why was accumulation of nuclear weapons considered as a great danger to the global environment ?

Solution

(i) The **Western alliance (NATO)**, led by the US, and the **Eastern alliance (Warsaw Pact)**, led by the USSR.
(ii) The arms race led to the accumulation of huge stocks of nuclear and conventional weapons and kept the military blocs ready for war; it consumed vast resources and kept the world under the threat of a nuclear war that could destroy humanity. Once the ideological confrontation

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 44 of 79

ended, there was no reason to continue it, so people demanded an end to the arms race and a new peace.
(iii) Nuclear weapons cause destruction on a massive scale; their use (and even testing) would spread radiation, cause climate change ('nuclear winter') and destroy the environment and life over large areas, beyond the countries at war; so they were a great danger to the global environment.

CBSE 2018 · 59/1 · Q17 | CBSE 2018 · 59/2 · Q20 | CBSE 2018 · 59/3 · Q18 **asked 3 times** **5 marks**

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the following questions :
The 'Cuban Missile Crisis' was a high point of what came to be known as the Cold War. The Cold War referred to the competitions, the tensions and a series of confrontations between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, backed by their respective allies. Fortunately, however, it never escalated into a 'hot war'.
(a) Explain the meaning of 'hot war'. (1)
(b) Why was the 'Cuban Missile Crisis' considered as the high point of the Cold War ? (2)
(c) "Ideological conflict was also a cause of the Cold War." How far do you agree with the statement ? (2)

Solution

(a) A **'hot war'** means a **full-scale war actually being fought** between two or more countries, involving direct military engagement and combat operations.
(b) (i) During the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), **both superpowers were directly poised against each other for the first time**, with Soviet missiles in Cuba aimed at US cities. (ii) A war seemed **imminent** as the US imposed a naval blockade and the USSR ships approached; the world came closer to nuclear war than at any other time. (1 + 1)
(c) Yes, ideological conflict was a major cause of the Cold War. The **US represented liberal democracy and capitalism**, while the **USSR was committed to socialism and communism**. This fundamental disagreement over how to organise political, economic and social life divided the world into two blocs — the Eastern alliance and the Western alliance — each preparing against the other. This ideological rivalry drove the arms race, proxy wars and the general atmosphere of Cold War hostility. (2)

CBSE 2016 · 59/1/1 · Q17 | CBSE 2016 · 59/1/2 · Q20 | CBSE 2016 · 59/1/3 · Q18 **asked 3 times** **5 marks**

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the following questions :
Each of these countries was required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy, which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during this period. Above all, it meant that private ownership was to be the dominant pattern of ownership of property. Privatization of state assets and corporate ownership patterns were to be immediately brought in. Collective farms were to be replaced by private farming and capitalism in agriculture. This transition ruled out any alternate or 'third way'.
(i) Name any two countries which were required to make a total shift.
(ii) Why were the collective farms to be replaced by private farming ?
(iii) Since the 'third way' had been ruled out, what were the only two ways of controlling the economy ?

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 45 of 79

(i) Any two: **Russia**, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary (countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe).
(ii) Under **shock therapy**, private ownership was to be the dominant pattern of property, so the state-run collective farms of the Soviet system had to be replaced by **private farming and capitalism in agriculture**, as the World Bank and IMF advised.
(iii) The only two ways were **state control (socialism)** and the **market (capitalism)**; the transition ruled out any mix (a 'third way'), so these countries moved completely from state control to the market.

CBSE 2016 · 59/1 · Q17 | CBSE 2016 · 59/2 · Q17 | CBSE 2016 · 59/3 · Q18 **asked 3 times** **5 marks**

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the following questions :
The value of the ruble declined dramatically. The rate of inflation was so high that people lost all their savings. The collective farm system disintegrated leaving people without food security, and the government started to import food. The old trading structure broke down with no alternative in its place. The old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed. The withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of the people into poverty.
Read the above passage carefully and answer the following questions :
(i) What is meant by subsidy ? (1)
(ii) How did the disintegration of collective farm system lead to the loss of food security ? (2)
(iii) This passage is associated to which country ? Why did the government start importing food ? (2)

Solution

(i) A **subsidy** is a **payment or benefit given by the government** to producers or consumers to reduce the price of a commodity or service below market cost, ensuring access for ordinary people.
(ii) The **collective farm system** (kolkhozy) was state-managed and state-funded; when it disintegrated, there was no privately-owned alternative farming system ready to replace it. This meant **food production declined sharply** and many people, especially in rural areas, could no longer ensure their food supply — the network that had organised planting, harvesting and distribution simply collapsed. (1 + 1)
(iii) This passage is about **Russia** (after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Shock Therapy reforms). The government started importing food because **domestic agricultural production collapsed** with the disintegration of the collective farm system; there was insufficient food being produced inside the country to feed the population. (1 + 1)

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 46 of 79

CBSE 2016 · 59/2/1 · Q17 | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/2 · Q20 | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/3 · Q17 **asked 3 times** **5 marks**

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the following questions :
India stands to benefit from its relationship with Russia on issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, sharing information on international terrorism, access to Central Asia and balancing its relations with China. Russia stands to benefit from this relationship because India is the second largest arms market for Russia. The Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia. Since India is an oil importing nation, India is important to Russia and has repeatedly come to the assistance of India during its oil crises. India is seeking to increase its energy imports from Russia and the republics of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Cooperation with these republics includes partnership and investment in oilfields. Russia is important for India's nuclear energy plans and assisted India's space industry also.
(i) How did Russia help India on Kashmir issue ?
(ii) How do good relations with Russia help India to balance its relations with China ?
(iii) In what way did Russia help the space industry of India ?
(iv) How did India and Russia get benefitted from each other ? Give one example from each side.

Solution

(i) Russia has **supported India's position on Kashmir** in international forums such as the UN Security Council (using its veto in India's favour in the Soviet period).
(ii) Russia is a friendly great power with close ties to China; good relations with Russia give India **strategic support** and leverage, so that it is not isolated vis-à-vis China.
(iii) Russia supplied **technology** such as the cryogenic rocket engine and helped India's space programme when needed (e.g. the first Indian satellite Aryabhata was launched by the USSR in 1975).
(iv) **India benefits:** military hardware, energy (oil and gas) and nuclear energy support. **Russia benefits:** India is the second largest market for Russian arms.

6 marks: long answer

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 · Q28(a) | CBSE 2026 · 59/1/2 · Q30(a) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Analyse any three reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Political and economic failure:** the system became bureaucratic and authoritarian; there was one-party rule and no freedom of speech. It failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
(ii) **Economic burden of the arms race:** the USSR spent huge sums on weapons and on its satellite states in Eastern Europe and on Afghanistan. Years of economic stagnation led to severe consumer shortages, and people learnt how far the West had moved ahead.
(iii) **Gorbachev's reforms:** 'Perestroika' and 'Glasnost' raised expectations; people wanted faster change and were disillusioned, while party members felt they were losing their powers and privileges.
(iv) **Rise of nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in republics such as the Baltic states, Ukraine and Georgia was the most immediate cause of the collapse.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 47 of 79

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 · Q28(b) | CBSE 2026 · 59/1/2 · Q30(b) asked 2 times 6 marks

Examine any three consequences of the Shock therapy.

Solution

(i) **Ruin of the economy:** about 90% of industries were sold to private individuals and companies at very low prices; entire industries disappeared. This was called 'the largest garage sale in history'.
(ii) **Fall of the rouble:** the value of the rouble declined dramatically and inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.
(iii) **Poverty:** the withdrawal of government subsidies and the disintegration of the collective farm system pushed large sections of people into poverty and food insecurity.
(Also: post-Soviet states, especially Russia, were divided into rich and poor regions with great economic inequality; a mafia emerged.)

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/3 · Q28(a) 6 marks

How was the Soviet System responsible for the disintegration of USSR ? Explain.

Solution

(i) The Soviet system became very **bureaucratic and authoritarian**, making life very difficult for its citizens.
(ii) **Lack of democracy and the absence of freedom of speech** stifled people, who often expressed their dissent in jokes and cartoons.
(iii) The **one-party system** of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had tight control over all institutions and was not accountable to the people; most state institutions needed reform.
(iv) The party refused to recognise the urge of the people of the **fifteen republics** to manage their own affairs, including cultural affairs.
(v) **Russian domination:** on paper Russia was one of fifteen republics, but in reality it dominated everything; people from other regions felt neglected and often suppressed.
(vi) The Soviet Union **lagged behind the West** in technology and infrastructure (transport, power) and, most importantly, in fulfilling the political and economic aspirations of its citizens.

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/3 · Q28(b) | CBSE 2026 · 59/4/2 · Q27(a) asked 2 times 6 marks

Explain any four consequences of the disintegration of Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **End of the Cold War:** the confrontation between the two blocs ended, and with it the ideological dispute over whether the socialist or the capitalist system was better.
(ii) **Change in power relations:** the world became unipolar, dominated by the US; capitalism became the dominant economic system, and the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to the ex-socialist countries as they moved to capitalism and democracy.
(iii) **Emergence of new countries:** the 15 republics became independent states with their own aspirations and choices; the Baltic and East European states joined the European Union and NATO.
(iv) **New alignments:** the European Union was strengthened, and Central Asian states sought to use their strategic location and resources (oil, gas) to build ties with Russia, the West, China and others.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 48 of 79

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2026 · 59/4/2 · Q30(a) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Why is 'Shock Therapy' considered a painful process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system ? Explain any three reasons.

Solution

(i) **Total change in the economy:** the state-owned socialist economy had to be changed into a capitalist one; private ownership was to be the dominant pattern and state assets were privatised. The large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, and the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed.
(ii) **Change in external orientation:** development was now to come through free trade and foreign direct investment; the existing trade alliances among the countries of the Soviet bloc were broken up, and each state was linked directly to the West.
(iii) **Neglect of democracy:** the construction of democratic institutions was not given the same priority as the demands of economic transformation, and the region suffered severe hardship: a falling rouble, high inflation, loss of savings and poverty.

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2026 · 59/4/2 · Q30(b) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Explain any four reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions: the system failed to meet the aspirations of the people and had become corrupt and incompetent.
(ii) **Centralisation and lack of accountability:** authority was centralised in a vast land, and the Communist Party was not answerable to the people.
(iii) **Economic burden:** maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and supporting satellite states drained resources; ordinary citizens could see the gap between their system and the West.
(iv) **Gorbachev's reforms and nationalism:** the reforms released forces that could not be controlled, and the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty in the republics, including Russia and the Baltic republics, broke up the union.

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/2 · Q27(b) **6 marks**

Explain any four features of the Soviet system.

Solution

(i) **Socialist ideals:** the Soviet system was inspired by the ideals of socialism, as opposed to capitalism, and by the need for an egalitarian society; it abolished private property and designed society on principles of equality.
(ii) **One-party rule:** the system revolved around the Communist Party, and no other party or opposition was allowed.
(iii) **Planned, state-controlled economy:** the economy was planned and controlled by the state; state ownership was the dominant form of ownership of land and productive assets.
(iv) **Minimum standard of living:** the system ensured a minimum standard of living for all citizens; basic necessities such as health, education and childcare were subsidised, and there was no unemployment.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 49 of 79

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/3 · Q27(a) — 6 marks

Explain any four reasons for good and friendly relations between India and Russia.

Solution

(i) **History of trust:** Indo-Russian relations are embedded in a long history of trust and common interests, matched by popular perceptions in both countries.
(ii) **Shared world view:** both share a vision of a multipolar world order and signed the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement in 2001.
(iii) **Defence and energy:** India is the second largest arms market for Russia and gets most of its military hardware from it; Russia supplies oil and is important for India's nuclear energy plans.
(iv) **Support and cooperation:** India benefits from Russian support on issues like Kashmir, energy supplies and sharing information on international terrorism; the two collaborate on scientific projects and Russia has helped India's space programme.

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/3 · Q27(b) — 6 marks

Why could Gorbachev not stop the disintegration of Soviet Union ? Explain any three reasons.

Solution

(i) **Uncontrollable forces:** Gorbachev correctly diagnosed the problems and tried reforms (perestroika, glasnost), but by loosening the system he set in motion forces and expectations that few could have predicted and that became impossible to control.
(ii) **Opposition from both sides:** some sections of society felt he should have moved much faster and were disappointed with the results, while members of the Communist Party felt their power and privileges were eroding and that he was moving too fast (the 1991 coup attempt). He lost support on all sides.
(iii) **Rise of nationalism:** the desire for sovereignty in the republics, including Russia and the Baltic republics, Ukraine and Georgia, grew strongly; Gorbachev could not control this, and in December 1991 the union was dissolved.

CBSE 2025 · 59/5/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2025 · 59/5/2 · Q30(a) | CBSE 2025 · 59/5/3 · Q30(a) — asked 3 times — 6 marks

Examine any three reasons responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet people's aspirations; the system became stagnant, the Communist Party was not accountable to the people, and centralised administration and corruption meant the system could not correct its mistakes. (ii) **Economic stagnation** from huge spending on arms and satellite states; people realised the West was far ahead. (iii) **Gorbachev's reforms** loosened the system and raised expectations that could not be met, while hardliners resisted; (iv) the **rise of nationalism** and desire for sovereignty in the republics was the most immediate cause.

CBSE 2025 · 59/5/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2025 · 59/5/2 · Q30(b) | CBSE 2025 · 59/5/3 · Q30(b) — asked 3 times — 6 marks

Examine any three reasons for the friendly and cooperative relations between India and Russia after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 50 of 79

Solution

(i) **Shared vision** of a multipolar world, and mutual benefit: Russia supports India on **Kashmir**, energy supplies and sharing information on terrorism; India supports Russia on many issues. (ii) **Defence**: India is one of the largest buyers of Russian arms; most of India's military hardware is Russian. (iii) **Energy and technology**: India imports oil and gas from Russia, and Russia helps India's nuclear energy plans (Kudankulam) and space industry (cryogenic rocket technology); the **Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001)** includes over 80 agreements.

CBSE 2025 · 59/7/1 · Q27(a) **6 marks**

Highlight the reasons for the tensions and conflicts faced by any three former Soviet Republics.

Solution

(i) **Russia**: two republics, **Chechnya and Dagestan**, have had violent secessionist movements; Moscow's methods of dealing with Chechen rebels and indiscriminate military bombings led to many human rights violations but failed to deter demands for independence. (ii) **Tajikistan** saw a **civil war** that went on for ten years till 2001; in **Georgia**, two provinces demanded independence, leading to civil war; there are also ethnic conflicts (Armenia–Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh). (iii) **Central Asia** (e.g. Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan) has vast **hydrocarbon resources**, making it a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies; the US wanted military bases there, Russia sees it as its "near abroad", and China has settled traders around its borders.

CBSE 2025 · 59/7/1 · Q27(b) **6 marks**

Highlight any four reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Solution

(i) The system became **bureaucratic and authoritarian**, with no democracy or freedom of speech; people expressed dissent in jokes and cartoons. (ii) The **Communist Party** had tight control over all institutions and was unaccountable to the people; party bureaucrats had more privileges. (iii) It refused to recognise the urge of the people of the **15 republics** to manage their own affairs, including culture. (iv) **Stifling administration, rampant corruption** and economic stagnation alienated people, so the government lost popular backing; Gorbachev's reforms and nationalism finished it.

CBSE 2025 · 59/7/2 · Q27(a) **6 marks**

How can Gorbachev's reforms be held responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 ? Support your answer with three arguments.

Solution

(i) **Reforms raised forces he could not control**: Mikhail Gorbachev (General Secretary from 1985) introduced **perestroika** (restructuring) and **glasnost** (openness) to deal with the system's problems and catch up with the West; but loosening the system set in motion forces and expectations that few had predicted and that became virtually impossible to control. (ii) **Divided society**: some sections felt he should move much faster and were disappointed and impatient, as they did not benefit as hoped; others, especially Communist Party members, felt their power and privileges were eroding and that he was moving too quickly. In this "tug of war" he **lost support**

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 51 of 79

on all sides; even supporters became disillusioned that he did not defend his own policies adequately. (iii) **Rise of nationalism**: with greater freedom, people in the republics (the Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia and others) demanded sovereignty; the failed **coup of August 1991** by hardliners weakened him further, and in December 1991 Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared the USSR disbanded.

CBSE 2025 · 59/7/2 · Q27(b) — 6 marks

Analyse any three consequences of shock therapy.

Solution

(i) **Collapse of industry**: about 90% of Russia's large state-controlled industrial complexes were sold to private individuals and companies at very low prices, called **"the largest garage sale in history"**; many industries were ruined. (ii) **Fall of the rouble**: the value of the Russian currency declined dramatically, and high inflation wiped out people's savings. (iii) **End of social welfare**: the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed; withdrawal of subsidies pushed large sections into poverty; the collective farm system disintegrated, causing food insecurity. (iv) **Economic inequality** grew: a new class of oligarchs emerged and the gap between rich and poor widened; the region had to bear the pain of transition from socialism to capitalism, and democratic institutions were not built (power concentrated in the executive).

CBSE 2025 · 59/7/3 · Q27(a) — 6 marks

Highlight any four consequences for shock therapy.

Solution

(i) **No promised prosperity**: shock therapy did not lead people into the promised utopia of mass consumption; it brought **ruin to the economies** and disaster upon the people of the entire region. (ii) **Collapse of industry**: in Russia the large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, as about **90% of its industries** were put up for sale to private individuals and companies; since restructuring was done by market forces and not government-directed industrial policy, entire industries virtually disappeared. (iii) **"Largest garage sale in history"**: valuable industries were undervalued and sold at throwaway prices. (iv) **Fall of the rouble** and high inflation wiped out savings; (v) the **old system of social welfare was destroyed**, subsidies were withdrawn and many people were pushed into poverty; the collective farm system broke down and food security ended; a mafia and a class of oligarchs emerged and inequality grew.

CBSE 2025 · 59/7/3 · Q27(b) — 6 marks

Highlight any four areas of cooperation between India and Russia.

Solution

(i) **Shared vision**: both share a vision of a **multipolar world order**, with collective security, greater regionalism, negotiated settlement of disputes and a democratised UN. (ii) **Political support**: Russia has cooperated with India on issues like **Kashmir**, energy supplies and sharing information on international terrorism; over 80 bilateral agreements exist under the **Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001)**. (iii) **Defence**: India buys most of its military hardware from Russia, and India is one of the largest arms markets for Russia. (iv) **Energy**: India imports oil and gas from Russia and

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 52 of 79

Indian companies invest in Russian oil fields; Russia helps India's **nuclear energy** plans (Kudankulam). (v) **Space and technology**: Russia has helped India's space programme (e.g. cryogenic rocket technology); also cooperation in Central Asia and trade.

CBSE 2024 · 59/1/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2024 · 59/1/2 · Q30(a) | CBSE 2024 · 59/1/3 · Q30(a) **asked 3 times** **6 marks**

"India's relations with Russia are embedded in a history of trust and common interests." Support the statement with any three appropriate arguments.

Solution

(i) **Shared vision of a multipolar world:** Russia and India share a vision of a multipolar world order based on the co-existence of several powers, collective security, greater regionalism, negotiated settlement of international conflicts, an independent foreign policy for all countries and decision-making through bodies like the UN.
(ii) **Support on vital issues:** India benefits from the relationship on issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, sharing information on international terrorism and access to Central Asia; there are over 80 bilateral agreements under the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement of 2001.
(iii) **Energy:** since India is an oil-importing nation, Russia is very important to it; Russia has repeatedly come to India's assistance during its oil crises.
(iv) **Defence, nuclear energy and space:** India is one of Russia's biggest arms buyers; Russia is important for India's nuclear energy plans and assisted its space industry (e.g. cryogenic rocket technology). (Any three, explained)

CBSE 2024 · 59/1/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2024 · 59/1/2 · Q30(b) | CBSE 2024 · 59/1/3 · Q30(b) **asked 3 times** **6 marks**

Analyse any three effects of shock therapy after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

Shock therapy (the model of transition to capitalism prescribed by the World Bank and IMF) required:
(i) a **total shift to a capitalist economy**, ruling out any alternative or 'third way' other than state-controlled socialism or capitalism;
(ii) **private ownership** to be the dominant pattern of ownership of property, with **privatisation of state assets** and corporate ownership patterns brought in immediately;
(iii) **collective farms to be replaced** by private farming and capitalism in agriculture.
Its results: the large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, about 90% of industries were sold off cheaply ("the largest garage sale in history"); the rouble declined dramatically and high inflation wiped out people's savings; collective farms disintegrated, causing food insecurity; the old social welfare system was destroyed and poverty and inequality grew, while a mafia emerged. (Any three, explained)

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/3 · Q30(a) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Analyse any three reasons responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses of the political and economic institutions**: the system failed to meet the aspirations of the people; the economy stagnated for many years, leading to severe shortages

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 53 of 79

of consumer goods.
(2) **Huge spending on arms and satellites**: most of the resources were used to maintain a nuclear and military arsenal and to develop satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet system; the needs of the people were neglected and the economy carried a huge burden.
(3) **A stagnant, non-accountable system**: the Communist Party was not accountable to the people; rampant corruption and the inability to correct mistakes made the system unpopular. When Gorbachev's reforms opened it up, people's expectations rose and nationalist demands for sovereignty in the republics (the Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia) led to the break-up in 1991.

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/3 · Q30(b) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Analyse any two reasons for the beginning of 'Arab Spring' and any two outcomes of this movement. (4×1½)

Solution

Reasons:
(1) Widespread **corruption, unemployment and poverty**, especially among the youth, along with rising prices.
(2) Long-lasting **autocratic and dictatorial regimes** that denied people democratic rights; in Tunisia the self-immolation of a street vendor (December 2010) sparked mass protests.
Outcomes:
(3) The **demand for democracy spread** across the Arab world (Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain).
(4) The **rule of several long-standing dictators ended** (in Tunisia, and in Egypt, where Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in 2011), though in some countries it led to civil war and instability.

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/2 · Q27(a) **6 marks**

"The disintegration of the Soviet Union had profound consequences for world politics." Support the statement with the help of three examples.

Solution

(1) **End of the Cold War**: the confrontations of the Cold War ended; the ideological dispute over whether the socialist or the capitalist system was better was settled, and the arms race lost its basis.
(2) **Change in the power relations**: the world became **unipolar**, with the US as the only superpower; capitalism became the dominant economic system, and the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to many countries; communism and socialism declined.
(3) **Emergence of many new countries**: the Baltic states and the Central Asian and East European republics became independent, each with its own aspirations; some joined the European Union and NATO, whose strength increased.

CBSE 2023 · 59/2/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/2/2 · Q28(a) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Analyse any three happenings during Gorbachev's period that led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 54 of 79

(1) **Reforms with unintended effects**: Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party from 1985, sought to reform the Soviet system (perestroika and glasnost) and to normalise relations with the West; these reforms had effects that neither he nor anyone else anticipated.
(2) **Collapse of communism in Eastern Europe**: people in the East European countries of the Soviet bloc began to protest against their governments and Soviet control; the USSR did not intervene, and the communist regimes collapsed one after another in 1989.
(3) **Opposition and the 1991 coup**: the reforms were opposed by leaders within the Communist Party; in August 1991 hardliners attempted a coup. The people, who had tasted freedom, did not want the old-style rule of the Communist Party.
(4) **Rise of Boris Yeltsin and the republics**: Yeltsin emerged as a national hero by opposing the coup; the Russian Republic and other republics shook off central control and declared independence, and power shifted from the Soviet centre to the republics. In December 1991 the USSR was dissolved.

CBSE 2023 · 59/2/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2023 · 59/2/2 · Q28(b) **asked 2 times** **6 marks**

Analyse any three consequences of the disintegration of USSR.

Solution

(1) **End of the Cold War**: the confrontation between the two blocs ended; the ideological dispute over whether socialism or capitalism was superior was settled, and the arms race lost its basis.
(2) **A unipolar world**: power relations changed; the US became the sole superpower, capitalism became the dominant economic system, and the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to the former Soviet republics as they turned to capitalism and democracy.
(3) **New countries**: many new independent countries (the Baltic, Central Asian and East European states) emerged with their own aspirations; some joined the EU and NATO, and the European Union was strengthened.

CBSE 2023 · 59/2/3 · Q27(a) **6 marks**

Explain any three reasons responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses of the political and economic institutions**: the system failed to meet the aspirations of the people; the economy stagnated for many years, leading to severe shortages of consumer goods.
(2) **Huge spending on arms and satellites**: most of the resources were used to maintain a nuclear and military arsenal and to develop satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet system; the needs of the people were neglected and the economy carried a huge burden.
(3) **A stagnant, non-accountable system**: the Communist Party was not accountable to the people; rampant corruption and the inability to correct mistakes made the system unpopular. When Gorbachev's reforms opened it up, people's expectations rose and nationalist demands for sovereignty in the republics (the Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia) led to the break-up in 1991.

CBSE 2023 · 59/3/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/3/2 · Q30(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/3/3 · Q28(a) **asked 3 times** **6 marks**

Describe any three factors that make most of the former Soviet Republics prone to conflicts and threats.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 55 of 79

Solution

(1) **Ethnic and religious differences**: many of the republics have ethnic minorities and religious divisions; in Central Asia these, combined with economic backwardness, led to tensions (e.g. the civil war in Tajikistan, conflicts in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia's South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and secessionist movements in Chechnya and Dagestan within Russia).
(2) **Nationalist feelings and the desire for sovereignty**, which had been at work throughout Soviet history, came into the open after 1991; new national identities and border disputes created conflicts among and within the republics.
(3) **Weak economies and weak institutions**: the shock therapy of transition caused economic collapse, unemployment and poverty; democratic institutions remained weak, and many republics came under authoritarian rule. Their oil and gas resources (Central Asia) also made the region a zone of competition between outside powers.

CBSE 2023 · 59/3/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2023 · 59/3/2 · Q30(b) | CBSE 2023 · 59/3/3 · Q28(b) asked 3 times 6 marks

Explain any three reasons that forced Mikhail Gorbachev to initiate reforms in the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **To keep up with the West**: reforms were needed to keep the USSR abreast of the information and technological revolutions taking place in the West.
(2) **To normalise relations with the West**, especially the US, and to reduce the burden of the arms race and military spending.
(3) **To revive a stagnant economy and democratise a rigid system**: the Soviet economy had stagnated for many years, with shortages of consumer goods; the administrative system was rigid, and the Communist Party was not accountable to the people. Gorbachev therefore introduced **perestroika** (economic restructuring) and **glasnost** (openness). People in the East European countries of the Soviet bloc were also protesting against their governments and Soviet control.

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/1 · Q29(a) 6 marks

Analyse any three reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses of the political and economic institutions**: the system failed to meet the aspirations of the people; economic stagnation for many years caused severe shortages of consumer goods.
(2) **Huge spending on arms and satellites**: much of the resources went into maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and supporting satellite states in Eastern Europe, so the needs of the people were neglected; as ordinary people learnt more about the economic advance of the West, they saw how far behind they were.
(3) **A stagnant, non-accountable system**: the Communist Party was not accountable to the people; corruption was rampant and the system was unwilling to allow openness. Gorbachev's reforms raised expectations they could not meet, and the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty in the republics (Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia) led to the break-up.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 56 of 79

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/1 · Q29(b) — 6 marks

Analyse any three consequences of Shock Therapy due to which the economies of Second World countries collapsed.

Solution

Any three:
(1) **Collapse of industry**: the large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed; about 90 per cent of industries were put up for sale at throwaway prices through private individuals and companies, called "the largest garage sale in history".
(2) **Fall of the rouble and inflation**: the value of the Russian rouble declined dramatically and high inflation wiped out people's savings; the GDP of Russia fell sharply.
(3) **Poverty**: the collective farm system and the social welfare system were dismantled and subsidies withdrawn, pushing large sections of people into poverty; the old trading structure broke down without an alternative.
(4) **Brain drain and mafia**: much of the academic and intellectual manpower disintegrated or migrated; a mafia emerged and controlled many economic activities, and economic inequality grew.

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/2 · Q29(b) — 6 marks

Analyse any three consequences of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **End of the Cold War**: the collapse ended the Cold War confrontations and the ideological dispute over whether the socialist or the capitalist system was superior; the arms race lost its basis and the military alliances of the Cold War changed.
(2) **Change in power relations**: the world became **unipolar**, with the US as the sole superpower; capitalism became the dominant economic system, and institutions like the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to the former Soviet republics as they moved to capitalism and democracy.
(3) **Emergence of new countries**: many new independent countries (the Baltic states, Central Asian republics, East European states) emerged with their own aspirations and choices; some joined the European Union and NATO, while others kept close ties with Russia.

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/3 · Q29(a) — 6 marks

Highlight any four features of the Soviet system in the erstwhile USSR.

Solution

Any four:
(1) The Soviet system was based on **socialism** and was opposed to capitalism; it aimed at an egalitarian society.
(2) **One-party rule**: the political system centred on the Communist Party; no other political party or opposition was allowed.
(3) **Planned, state-controlled economy**: the economy was planned and controlled by the state, and land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the state.
(4) **Minimum standard of living**: the state ensured a minimum standard of living for all citizens

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 57 of 79

and subsidised basic necessities such as health, education and childcare; there was no unemployment.
(Also: a developed economy, complex communications network, vast energy resources and a domestic consumer industry.)

CBSE 2023 · 59/4/3 · Q29(b) — 6 marks

"The transition from Communism to Capitalism in Pre-Soviet Republics was not a smooth one." Support the statement with the help of any three arguments.

Solution

Any three:
(1) **Shock therapy caused economic collapse**: state industries were sold off cheaply, the rouble collapsed, inflation wiped out savings, subsidies were withdrawn and many people were pushed into poverty.
(2) **Conflicts and civil wars**: most of the former Soviet republics became prone to conflict; Tajikistan saw a civil war that lasted ten years (until 2001), Azerbaijan and Armenia fought over Nagorno-Karabakh, and Georgia faced secessionist movements.
(3) **Secessionist movements within Russia**: Chechnya and Dagestan saw violent secessionist movements, and Russia's response, including indiscriminate bombing, led to human rights violations.
(4) **Disputes and outside rivalry**: countries and provinces fought over river waters, and Central Asia, with its oil and gas, became a zone of competition between outside powers (the US, Russia, China) and oil companies.

CBSE 2023 · 59/C/1 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/C/2 · Q28(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/C/3 · Q28(a) — asked 3 times — 6 marks

Analyse any three adverse effects of the reforms initiated by Gorbachev in the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **Collapse of the East European regimes**: people in the East European countries of the Soviet bloc began to protest against their own governments and Soviet control; since the USSR under Gorbachev did not intervene, the communist regimes collapsed one after another (1989).
(2) **Opposition within the party and a crisis of expectations**: the reforms were opposed by leaders within the Communist Party who felt Gorbachev was moving too fast, while reformers felt he was too slow; caught between them, he lost support. In 1991 hardliners attempted a coup.
(3) **Deepening crisis and disintegration**: the reforms unleashed forces of nationalism and demands for sovereignty in the republics (Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia); the crisis within the USSR deepened and led quickly to its break-up in December 1991.

CBSE 2023 · 59/C/1 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2023 · 59/C/2 · Q28(b) | CBSE 2023 · 59/C/3 · Q28(b) — asked 3 times — 6 marks

Analyse any three consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **End of the Cold War**: the confrontation between the two blocs ended; the ideological dispute over the superiority of socialism or capitalism was settled, and the arms race lost its basis.
(2) **Change in power relations**: the world became **unipolar**, with the US as the sole superpower;

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 58 of 79

capitalism became the dominant economic system and the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to many countries.
(3) **Emergence of new countries**: many new independent countries (the Baltic, Central Asian and East European states) emerged, each with its own identity and choices; some joined the EU and NATO, while others kept close ties with Russia.

CBSE 2020 · 59/1/1 · Q33(b) — 6 marks

Describe any three positive features and three weaknesses of the Soviet System.

Solution

Positive features (any three): (1) The Soviet system made the USSR a **great power** after the Second World War. (2) It had a big, developed **economy**, more developed than the rest of the world except the US. (3) It had a complex **communication network**, vast **energy resources** (oil, iron and steel), machinery production and a transport sector linking its remote areas. (4) Its domestic consumer industry produced everything **from pins to cars**. (5) It ensured a minimum standard of living: the government **subsidised basic necessities** (health, education, child care) and there was no unemployment.
Weaknesses (any three): (1) The system became **bureaucratic and authoritarian**, making life very difficult for citizens. (2) **Lack of democracy** and absence of **freedom of speech** stifled people. (3) The **Communist Party** controlled all institutions and was **not accountable to the people**. (4) Lacking competition, the USSR **lagged behind the West in technology**, infrastructure and the quality of consumer goods.

CBSE 2020 · 59/1/2 · Q33(b) — 6 marks

State any six factors responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union (USSR).

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people. (2) The Soviet economy used much of its resources on **military development** to match the US (nuclear arsenal, arms race) and on its satellite states, a huge economic burden the system could not cope with. (3) The Soviet system had become **stagnant**: economic stagnation led to severe shortages of consumer goods. (4) **Rampant corruption** in the administration. (5) **Unwillingness to allow openness** in government and the centralisation of authority in a vast land. (6) The administration had become **bureaucratic and was not answerable to anyone**; the Communist Party was not accountable to the people. (Also: Gorbachev's reforms raised expectations that could not be met, and nationalism and the desire for sovereignty in the republics, such as the Baltic states, Ukraine and Georgia.)

CBSE 2020 · 59/1/3 · Q32(b) — 6 marks

Describe any three areas of friendship and cooperation between India and Russia which make it an important aspect of India's foreign policy.

Solution

Any three, explained: (1) Indo-Russian relations are **embedded in history**, mutual trust and common interests, matched by popular perceptions in both countries. (2) Both share a vision of a

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 59 of 79

multipolar world order, the co-existence of several powers in the international system. (3) Both believe in **collective security**, greater regional autonomy, the negotiated settlement of international conflicts, an independent foreign policy and decision-making through bodies like the UN. (4) **Strategic partnership**: the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement of 2001 and more than 80 bilateral agreements. (5) Russia is a major supplier of **defence equipment** and helps in **energy and nuclear energy** (oil, gas, nuclear plants) and **space and scientific projects**; Russia has supported India on Kashmir.

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/1 · Q32(b) — 6 marks

Explain any four factors that were responsible for the disintegration of the USSR.

Solution

Any four, explained: (1) Soviet **political and economic institutions failed** to meet the aspirations of the people; the economy stagnated, with severe shortages of consumer goods. (2) The Soviet economy used much of its resources on its **nuclear and military arsenal** and on developing its **satellite states** in Eastern Europe, a huge burden. (3) The **Communist Party was not accountable** to the people; corruption was rampant and the system was unwilling to allow openness. (4) **Gorbachev's reforms** (perestroika, glasnost) raised expectations that could not be met; the reforms divided society and loosened control. (5) The rise of **nationalism and the desire for sovereignty** within the republics (the Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia, and Russia itself).

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/2 · Q32(b) — 6 marks

Explain any four consequences of shock-therapy.

Solution

Any four, explained: (1) The large state-controlled industrial complex of Russia almost **collapsed**: about 90% of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies at low prices, called 'the **largest garage sale** in history'. (2) The value of the **rouble declined** dramatically, and **inflation** was so high that people lost their savings. (3) The **collective farm system disintegrated**, leaving people without food security, and Russia started to import food. (4) The old **trading structure broke down** with no alternative in its place. (5) The old system of **social welfare was destroyed**; withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of people into **poverty**, and the middle classes were pushed to the margins. (6) Academic and intellectual manpower migrated, and a **mafia** emerged; privatisation created **new disparities** between rich and poor.

CBSE 2020 · 59/5/3 · Q32(b) — 6 marks

Explain any four issues of tension and conflicts in the former Soviet Republics.

Solution

Any four, explained: (1) In Russia, two republics, **Chechnya and Dagestan**, have had violent secessionist movements; Moscow's methods of dealing with them drew criticism. (2) In Central Asia, **Tajikistan** witnessed a civil war that went on for ten years, till 2001. (3) In Azerbaijan's province of **Nagorno-Karabakh**, some local Armenians want to secede and join Armenia. (4) In **Georgia**, two provinces demanded independence, and there were movements against the existing

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 60 of 79

regimes in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia. (5) Central Asia's vast **hydrocarbon resources** made it a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies. (6) In Eastern Europe, **Czechoslovakia** split peacefully into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, while **Yugoslavia** broke apart with severe ethnic conflict, as Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2019 · 59/2/2 · Q22(a) **asked 2 times** 6 marks

Describe any four consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) It meant the **end of Cold War** confrontations between the two blocs; the ideological dispute over whether socialism or capitalism was superior was settled, and the arms race and military alliances lost their purpose. (2) **Power relations in world politics changed**: the US became the sole superpower, giving rise to a unipolar world. (3) **Capitalism and liberal democracy** spread: capitalism became the dominant economic system internationally, the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers, and liberal democracy emerged as the best way to organise political life. (4) **Many new countries emerged**: the Baltic states, the Central Asian republics and others, with their own aspirations; some joined the EU and NATO, others kept close ties with Russia.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/2 · Q22(a) 6 marks

Describe any six features of the erstwhile Soviet System.

Solution

(1) It was based on **socialism** and opposed capitalism; it was inspired by the socialist revolution of 1917 and the ideal of an egalitarian society. (2) **Private property was abolished**; land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the Soviet state. (3) It gave primacy to the **state and the institutions of the party**. (4) The political system centred on the **Communist Party**; no other political party or opposition was allowed. (5) The economy was **planned and controlled by the state**; the USSR had a complex communication network, vast energy resources, a domestic consumer industry and a transport sector. (6) The state ensured a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens: the government subsidised basic necessities, including health, education and child care, and there was no unemployment.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/3 · Q22(a) 6 marks

Mention any six reasons responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people. (2) **Economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages. (3) Most resources were used in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal**, in the arms race with the US. (4) There was a huge economic burden of maintaining the **satellite states** in Eastern Europe and the various republics. (5) The system had become **authoritarian, bureaucratic and unaccountable**; corruption was rampant and people did not identify with it. (6) **Gorbachev's reforms** loosened the system and set in motion forces and expectations that few could control. (7) The rise of **nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty within the republics,

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 61 of 79

including Russia, the Baltic republics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), Ukraine and Georgia, proved to be the final and most immediate cause. (Any six.)

CBSE 2019 · 59/2/1 · Q22(a) — 6 marks

Describe any four consequences of Shock Therapy.

Solution

(1) **Collapse of industry**: the large state-controlled industrial complexes almost collapsed, as about 90 per cent of industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies; this was called "the largest garage sale in history". (2) **Assets sold cheaply**: valuable industries were undervalued and sold at throwaway prices; most citizens got vouchers but sold them to black-marketeers, and a new class of oligarchs emerged. (3) **Fall of the rouble and inflation**: the value of the Russian currency, the rouble, declined dramatically and high inflation wiped out people's savings; collective farming disintegrated and food security was lost. (4) **Destruction of social welfare**: the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed; withdrawal of subsidies pushed large sections into poverty, the middle classes were pushed to the periphery, and privatisation increased economic inequality. (Also: many intellectuals emigrated; democratic institutions were built hastily, with strong executive power.)

CBSE 2019 · 59/2/3 · Q22(a) — 6 marks

Describe any four factors that necessitated reforms in most of the institutions of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) The Soviet system became very **bureaucratic and authoritarian**, making life very difficult for its citizens; lack of democracy and of freedom of speech stifled people. (2) The **Communist Party**, which had tight control over all institutions, was **unaccountable to the people**; most people did not identify with the system. (3) **Russia dominated everything**: people from other regions felt neglected and often suppressed. (4) The Soviet Union **fell behind the West in technology** and infrastructure (telecommunications, computers); wages continued to grow, but productivity and technology fell considerably behind, leading to shortages of consumer goods and economic stagnation. Huge spending on the arms race and on the satellite states added to the burden. Gorbachev's reforms (perestroika and glasnost) were an attempt to address these problems.

CBSE 2019 · 59/3/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/2 · Q26(b) | CBSE 2019 · 59/3/3 · Q25(b) — asked 3 times — 6 marks

Analyse any four reasons responsible for the disintegration of the USSR.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people; **economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages. (2) The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** and in developing its **satellite states** in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. (3) **Political stagnation**: the Communist Party, which had ruled for over 70 years, was authoritarian, bureaucratic, corrupt and **not accountable to the people**; when people learnt about the economic advance of the West, they became disillusioned. (4) **Gorbachev's reforms** released

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 62 of 79

forces that could not be controlled, and the rise of **nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in the republics, including Russia and the Baltic states, proved the final and most immediate cause.

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/1 · Q22(a) — 6 marks

Why did the Soviet Union, the second most powerful country in the world, suddenly disintegrate ? Explain any six reasons.

Solution

(1) **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people. (2) **Economic stagnation** for many years led to severe consumer shortages, and a large section of society began to doubt the system. (3) The Soviet Union used much of its resources in maintaining a **nuclear and military arsenal** and in developing its satellite states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. (4) Ordinary citizens became more knowledgeable about the **economic advance of the West**, and the disparity came as a shock. (5) The Communist Party, which had ruled for over 70 years, was **not accountable to the people**; the system had become stagnant administratively and politically, corruption was rampant, and it was unwilling to allow openness. (6) **Gorbachev's reforms** (perestroika and glasnost) set in motion forces and expectations that few could control, and the rise of **nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in the republics (Russia, the Baltic republics, Ukraine, Georgia) proved the final and most immediate cause.

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/2 · Q22(a) — 6 marks

Highlight any three major consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(1) **End of the Cold War**: the confrontations ended, and the ideological dispute over whether the socialist system would beat the capitalist system was no longer an issue; the arms race and military alliances lost their purpose, creating demands for a new peace. (2) **Change in power relations**: the US became the sole superpower, giving rise to a **unipolar world**; **capitalism** became the dominant economic system, the erstwhile socialist countries turned to capitalism, and the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to them; liberal democracy emerged as the best way to organise political life. (3) **Emergence of new countries**: the Baltic states, Central Asian republics and others emerged with their own aspirations and choices; some wanted to join the European Union and NATO, some stayed close to Russia, and the EU strengthened itself.

CBSE 2019 · 59/4/3 · Q22(a) — 6 marks

Highlight any three major consequences of 'Shock Therapy' in the post-Communist regimes.

Solution

(1) **Collapse of industry**: in Russia, the large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, as about 90 per cent of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies, often at throwaway prices; this was called "the largest garage sale in history". (2) **Fall of the rouble and inflation**: the value of the rouble declined dramatically and the rate of inflation was so high that people lost all their savings; the collective farm system disintegrated, leaving people without food security, and Russia began to import food. (3) **Destruction of social welfare and**

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 63 of 79

rise of inequality: the old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed and the withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of people into poverty; the middle classes were pushed to the periphery, a new class of oligarchs emerged, and the post-Soviet states, especially Russia, were divided into rich and poor regions. (Also: democratic institutions were built hastily with strong executive powers.)

CBSE 2018 · 59/1 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2018 · 59/2 · Q27(a) | CBSE 2018 · 59/3 · Q26(a) asked 3 times 6 marks

What is meant by 'Shock Therapy' ? Explain any four consequences of Shock Therapy.

Solution

Shock Therapy refers to the painful and abrupt process of **transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system** in Russia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, influenced by the World Bank and the IMF. (2)

Consequences (any four):

(i) The **large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed**; about 90 per cent of industries were put up for sale at throw-away prices in what was called "the largest garage sale in history".

(ii) The **value of the ruble declined dramatically** and inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.

(iii) The **Gross Domestic Product of Russia declined** sharply, impoverishing the population.

(iv) **Withdrawal of government subsidies** systematically destroyed the social welfare system and pushed large sections into poverty.

(v) **Academic and intellectual manpower** disintegrated or migrated abroad; a new mafia emerged and started controlling many economic activities. (Any four, 4 × 1)

CBSE 2017 · 59/1/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2017 · 59/1/2 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2017 · 59/1/3 · Q26(b) asked 3 times 6 marks

Why did the Soviet Union, the second most powerful country in the world, disintegrate ? Explain any six reasons.

Solution

(1) **Internal weakness** of Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people. (2) **Economic stagnation** for many years, leading to severe shortages of consumer goods. (3) Soviet resources were mainly used to maintain its **nuclear and military arsenals** and its satellite states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (and the costly war in Afghanistan, 1979). (4) Ordinary citizens became aware of the **economic advancement of the West** and the backwardness of their own system. (5) **Political stagnation**: the Communist Party was not accountable to the people; corruption, poor administration, lack of openness and centralisation of authority alienated ordinary people from the government. (6) **Gorbachev's reforms** (perestroika and glasnost) raised expectations that were not met and the Communist Party lost control; together with the **rise of nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in the republics (Russia, the Baltic republics, Ukraine, Georgia), this led to the breakup in December 1991.

CBSE 2017 · 59/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2017 · 59/2 · Q25(b) | CBSE 2017 · 59/3 · Q26(b) | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/2 · Q23(b) | CBSE 2016 · 59/2/3 · Q26(b)

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 64 of 79

asked 6 times | 6 marks

In what three ways did the collapse of the Soviet Union affect the world politics ? Explain.

Solution

(1) **End of the Cold War:** the confrontations and the ideological dispute over whether socialism or capitalism was superior ended; the arms race and the military alliances lost their purpose, and there were hopes of peace and disarmament. (2) **Change in power relations:** the US became the sole superpower and the world became unipolar; capitalism became the dominant economic system, and the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to many countries; liberal democracy emerged as the best way to organise political life. (3) **Emergence of new countries:** the 15 republics, the Baltic and East European states and Central Asian republics became independent with their own aspirations and choices; some joined the EU and NATO, others kept close ties with Russia or the West.

CBSE 2017 · 59/2/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2017 · 59/2/2 · Q27(b) | CBSE 2017 · 59/2/3 · Q27(b) asked 3 times | 6 marks

Highlight any six negative features of the Soviet System in the erstwhile USSR.

Solution

(1) The system was centred on the **state and the Communist Party**; the party was not accountable to the people. (2) **No other political party or opposition** was allowed. (3) The system became very **bureaucratic and authoritarian**, making life very difficult for citizens. (4) **Lack of democracy and absence of freedom of speech** stifled people. (5) Most institutions badly needed reform; the economy stagnated and lagged behind the West in technology and consumer goods. (6) The party refused to recognise the urge of people in the 15 republics to manage their own affairs; one republic, Russia, dominated everything. (7) The arms race and rivalry with the US were very expensive.

CBSE 2016 · 59/1/1 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2016 · 59/1/2 · Q23(a) | CBSE 2016 · 59/1/3 · Q26(a) asked 3 times | 6 marks

Highlight any three positive and three negative features each of the Soviet system in the Soviet Union.

Solution

Positive features: (1) The USSR had a complex **communications network**, vast energy resources (oil, iron, steel) and a machinery and transport sector that connected its remotest areas. (2) It had a domestic consumer industry producing everything from pins to cars. (3) The state ensured a **minimum standard of living**: it subsidised health, education, child care and other welfare; there was **no unemployment**.

Negative features: (1) The system was highly **bureaucratic and authoritarian**, making life difficult for citizens. (2) **Lack of democracy and freedom of speech**; one-party rule by the Communist Party, which was not accountable to the people. (3) **Domination of Russia** over the other republics; the economy lagged behind the West in technology and consumer goods, and much was spent on the arms race.

CBSE 2016 · 59/1 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2016 · 59/2 · Q23(a) | CBSE 2016 · 59/3 · Q26(a) asked 3 times | 6 marks

How did the Soviet Union suddenly disintegrate ? Explain any six reasons.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 65 of 79

Solution

(i) **Economic stagnation**: The Soviet economy had ceased to grow; it could not meet the demand for consumer goods, while military expenditure remained very high, draining resources.
(ii) **Inability to match US technology**: The US Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars") threatened Soviet military parity; the USSR lacked the technology and resources to respond.
(iii) **Failure of Afghanistan intervention**: The decade-long war in Afghanistan (1979-89) drained Soviet military and economic resources and deeply demoralised the Soviet army.
(iv) **Gorbachev's reforms**: Glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) unleashed demands for change that the system could not control, exposing the system's failures publicly.
(v) **Assertion of Soviet republics**: Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and other republics sought independence; Soviet leadership was unable to hold the union together.
(vi) **Failed coup (1991)**: A coup attempt by Communist hardliners in August 1991 against Gorbachev failed; it accelerated the disintegration and Boris Yeltsin's rise to prominence. (6 × 1)

CBSE 2016 · 59/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2016 · 59/2 · Q23(b) | CBSE 2016 · 59/3 · Q26(b) **asked 3 times** **6 marks**

Why was the end of the Second World War considered to be the beginning of the Cold War ? Explain.

Solution

(i) **Ideological difference**: The US and USSR emerged as the two superpowers after WWII with fundamentally different political-economic ideologies — the US stood for liberal democracy and capitalism while the USSR championed socialism and communism.
(ii) **Power vacuum**: The defeat of Germany and Japan left a power vacuum in Europe and Asia; both the US and USSR rushed to fill it and competed for influence, creating immediate tension.
(iii) **Nuclear weapons**: The US use of atomic bombs on Japan (1945) and the USSR's subsequent development of nuclear weapons created a dangerous arms race that defined Cold War tensions.
(iv) **Military alliances**: Both sides formed rival military blocs — NATO (1949, US-led) and Warsaw Pact (1955, Soviet-led), dividing the world into hostile camps.
(v) **Truman Doctrine (1947)**: The US declared it would contain Soviet expansion, turning post-war competition into an open ideological and strategic Cold War. (Any four to six, full marks for comprehensive answer)

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 66 of 79

CBSE BOARD PAPER

2026 · Q.P. Code 59111

Time: 3 hours
Maximum marks: 80

1. Given below are two statements : 1

Statement-I : The economic policies implemented by China helped to break the stagnation of its economy.

Statement-II : Economic development of China also increased environmental degradation and corruption.

In the light of above statements, choose the correct answer from the options given below :

(A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true.

(B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are false.

(C) Statement-I is true, but Statement-II is false.

(D) Statement-I is false, but Statement-II is true.

2. Which one of the following is the reason that led to the formation of Andhra state in 1952 ? 1

(A) Realising the need to reorganise the internal boundaries of Indian states at the end of colonial rule.

(B) Reorganisation of the Indian National Congress on the basis of linguistic principle after Nagpur session in 1920.

(C) Death of the Congress leader, Potti Sriramulu which caused great unrest and led to resignation of several legislators of Madras in protest.

(D) The Tamil speaking people of old Madras province demanding the reorganisation of state on the basis of language.

3. Which measure was adopted by China to solve its economic crisis ? 1

(A) Like USSR, China also followed 'Shock Therapy'.

(B) China ended its economic isolation with the establishment of relations with most of the developing countries of the World.

(C) China opened its economy for privatisation step by step for the development of its economy.

(D) Chine focused more on export as compared to import.

4. Identify the State with which the phrase 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' is related to. 1

(A) Uttar Pradesh

(B) Madhya Pradesh

(C) Haryana

(D) Rajasthan

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 67 of 79

5. Given below are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read these statements carefully and choose the correct answer from the options (A), (B), (C) and (D) given below : 1

Assertion (A) : All over the world, the old 'welfare state' is getting more importance.

Reason (R) : Due to globalisation, the state withdraws from many of its earlier welfare functions and the market has become the prime determinant of economic and social priorities.

Options :

(A) Both the Assertion (A) and the Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(B) Both the Assertion (A) and the Reason (R) are true, but the Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

(D) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

6. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct about the princely states ? 1

(A) Princely states were ruled by the princes.

(B) All the princely states had accepted to be an integral part of India after the end of British rule.

(C) The princes of princely states accepted British supremacy and enjoyed some form of control over their internal affairs.

(D) After the end of British paramountcy, the provinces were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent.

7. Match List-I with List-II correctly and choose the correct answer from the codes given below : 1

List-I	List-II
(a) Violation of Human Rights	(i) Britain
(b) 'Mad-Cow' disease	(ii) Chemical weapons convention
(c) Disarmament Treaty	(iii) World Trade Centre in America
(d) 9/11 terrorist attack	(iv) Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

Codes :

(A) (a) – (iv), (b) – (i), (c) – (ii), (d) – (iii)

(B) (a) – (iv), (b) – (iii), (c) – (ii), (d) – (i)

(C) (a) – (ii), (b) – (i), (c) – (iv), (d) – (iii)

(D) (a) – (i), (b) – (ii), (c) – (iii), (d) – (iv)

8. Arrange the following events in chronological order : 1

(i) Assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

(ii) Formation of the First Non-Congress coalition government at the centre.

(iii) Sixteenth Lok Sabha elections.

(iv) The Mandal Commission gave its recommendations.

Choose the correct option :

(A) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)

(B) (i), (iv), (iii), (ii)

(C) (iv), (ii), (i), (iii)

(D) (iii), (i), (ii), (iv)

9. Choose the name of the Prime Minister who abolished 'Privy Purse'. 1

(A) Morarji Desai

(B) Lal Bahadur Shastri

(C) Rajiv Gandhi

(D) Indira Gandhi

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 68 of 79

10. Choose the statement that best describes the concept of globalisation. 1

(A) The process of rapid integration or inter-connection among countries of the world through the flow of goods, capital, people and ideas.

(B) Globalisation has increased states capabilities in the political field.

(C) Globalisation has given freedom to consumers to choose from limited alternatives.

(D) Globalisation has reduced the various opportunities of employment to the people.

11. Identify the political party which has had a continuous growth in its Lok Sabha seats in the General Elections from 2009 to 2019. 1

(A) Indian National Congress (INC)

(B) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

(C) Shiv Sena (SS)

(D) Communist Party of India (CPI)

12. Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty refers to : 1

(A) Peaceful use of nuclear energy

(B) Spread of nuclear weapons

(C) Development of nuclear fusion

(D) Reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles

13. Highlight any two objectives of establishing Planning Commission. 2

14. How does the natural insularity of South Asian region determine its cultural distinctiveness ? Explain. 2

15. Explain any two human activities responsible for degradation of environment. 2

16. On what grounds can globalisation be considered a multi-dimensional concepts ? Explain with example. 2

17. Describe any two challenges faced by India during the term of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. 2

18. "The demands of various regional aspirations during 1980s was a step towards nation building." Support the statement with argument. 2

19. Highlight any two differences between the ideologies of Socialist party and Communist party of India. 4

20. Highlight any two traditional measures which may be used by different countries to maintain their national security. 4

21. Describe any four initiatives taken across the world to create awareness about the protection of the environment. 4

22. **(a)** "India has accepted expressions of regional aspirations to strengthen the national integrity." Support the statement with two examples. 4

OR

(b) Do you agree that the Assam accord was successful in establishing peace and stability in the State ? Support your answer with any two arguments. 4

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 69 of 79

23. **(a)** Analyse the 'ASEAN way' as a unique initiative of promoting peace in South-east Asian Countries. 4

OR

(b) Determine the contribution of 'ASEAN security community' in its promotion of economic progress. 4

24. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow : 4

The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) is a major regional initiative by the South Asian states to evolve co-operation through multilateral means. It began in 1985. Unfortunately due to persisting political differences, SAARC has not had much success. SAARC members signed the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) in 2002 which promised the formation of a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia.

(i) Which one of the following South Asian countries is not a founder member of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) ?

(A) Nepal (B) Bhutan (C) Afghanistan (D) Bangladesh

(ii) The external power that affects the South Asian Countries the most is :

(A) United States of America (B) Russia (C) France (D) Britain

(iii) The major objective of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation is –

(A) to become a contemporary centre of power in the World.

(B) to establish a common currency for the regional organisation for its economic development.

(C) to solve all regional conflicts without interference of external powers.

(D) to co-operate member states for economic growth, social progress and cultural development through multilateral means.

(iv) Which one of the following is NOT a core objective of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) ?

(A) To establish a common currency for SAARC nations.

(B) To promote and enhance mutual trade and economic co-operation.

(C) To reduce custom duties and non-tariff barriers.

(D) To create a free trade area among member states.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 70 of 79

25. Study the given cartoon carefully and answer the questions that follow : 4



(i) Name the leader talking to the Prince in this cartoon. (1)
(ii) What does the Prince sitting on the back of a poor man indicate ? (1)
(iii) What message is being conveyed by the cartoon ? (2)

Note : The following questions are only for the Visually Impaired Candidates in lieu of question number 25 :

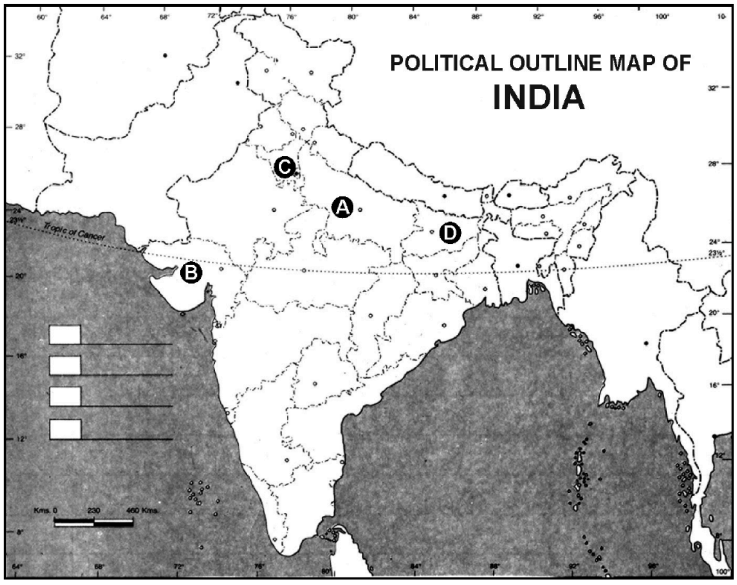
(i) Name the speech given by Jawaharlal Nehru at the hour of midnight on 14-15 August 1947. (1)
(ii) Name the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. (1)
(iii) Explain the two nation theory. (2)

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 71 of 79

26. In the given political outline map of India, four states have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer book along with their respective serial number of the information used and the concerned alphabet as per format that follows : 4

(i) The state related to student movement against inflation and corruption in 1974.
(ii) The state related to the farmer's leader Chaudhary Charan Singh.
(iii) The state related to Congress leader Jag Jeevan Ram.
(iv) The state where Congress could not win even a single Lok Sabha seat in 1977 elections.

Sr. No. of the information used	Concerned alphabet in the map	Name of the state
(i)		
(ii)		
(iii)		
(iv)		



Note : The following questions are only for the Visually Impaired Candidates in lieu of question number 26 :

(i) Write the name of first Prime Minister of Janta Party Government.
(ii) In which year, was the National Emergency imposed in India by Indira Gandhi government ?
(iii) Name the leader who announced a nationwide Satyagraha at Ram Lila Maidan before the declaration of National Emergency.
(iv) Name the political party that won the Lok Sabha Election in 1977.

27. **(a)** Explain the composition and one function of any three organs of the United Nations. 6

OR

(b) Name any three agencies of the United Nations and explain one function of each. 6

28. **(a)** Analyse any three reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. 6

OR

(b) Examine any three consequences of the Shock therapy. 6

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 72 of 79

29. **(a)** "India's Foreign Policy has been successful in saving its 'National Interests'." Support the statement with three arguments. 6

OR

(b) "India's Foreign Policy is as per the principles of International Peace and Security as laid down in Article 51 of the Indian Constitution." Justify the statement with three examples. 6

30. **(a)** Describe any four factors responsible for the rise of coalition governments at the centre after the year 1989. 6

OR

(b) Describe any four issues on which a broad agreement has emerged among most political parties. 6

Solutions · CBSE 2026 · Set I

Q1 **Answer: (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true.**

China's reforms from 1978 (open-door policy, step-by-step privatisation) ended the stagnation of its economy and made it the fastest-growing economy. But the growth also brought rising unemployment, environmental degradation and corruption.

Q2 **Answer: (C) Death of the Congress leader, Potti Sriramulu which caused great unrest and led to resignation of several legislators of Madras in protest.**

Potti Sriramulu died after a 56-day fast for a separate state for Telugu speakers. The violent unrest and resignations that followed forced Prime Minister Nehru to announce the formation of Andhra state in December 1952.

Q3 **Answer: (C) China opened its economy for privatisation step by step for the development of its economy.**

China did not go for shock therapy. It opened its economy step by step: privatisation of agriculture (1982), then of industry (1998), special economic zones and foreign investment.

Q4 **Answer: (C) Haryana**

In 1967 Gaya Lal, an MLA in Haryana, changed his party three times in a fortnight. The phrase 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' came to describe frequent defections.

Q5 **Answer: (C) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.**

Under globalisation the old welfare state is giving way to a more minimalist state that performs only core functions; the market, not the state, increasingly sets economic and social priorities. So the Assertion is false and the Reason is true.

Q6 **Answer: (B) All the princely states had accepted to be an integral part of India after the end of British rule.**

Most princely states signed the Instrument of Accession, but Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur did not join at once; they were difficult cases. So (B) is not correct.

Q7 **Answer: (A) (a) – (iv), (b) – (i), (c) – (ii), (d) – (iii)**

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 73 of 79

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (1990) saw serious human rights violations; mad-cow disease spread from Britain; the Chemical Weapons Convention (1992) is a disarmament treaty; the 9/11 attack struck the World Trade Centre in New York.

Q8 **Answer: (C) (iv), (ii), (i), (iii)**

Mandal Commission report (1980) → National Front coalition government (1989) → assassination of Rajiv Gandhi (May 1991) → Sixteenth Lok Sabha elections (2014). (The board treats the 1989 National Front government as the first non-Congress coalition at the centre; the first non-Congress government was the Janata Party government of 1977.)

Q9 **Answer: (D) Indira Gandhi**

After the 1971 election victory, the Indira Gandhi government amended the Constitution (26th Amendment, 1971) to abolish the privy purses of the former princes.

Q10 **Answer: (A) The process of rapid integration or inter-connection among countries of the world through the flow of goods, capital, people and ideas.**

Globalisation is about flows (ideas, capital, commodities and people) from one part of the world to another, which create worldwide interconnectedness.

Q11 **Answer: (B) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**

The BJP won 116 seats in 2009, 282 in 2014 and 303 in 2019.

Q12 **Answer: (D) Reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles** (as per the CBSE marking scheme)

The NPT (1968) is an arms-control treaty. Strictly, it aims to stop the *spread* of nuclear weapons to countries that did not have them before 1967; the marking scheme keys it as (D), linking it to the control and reduction of nuclear weapons.

Q13 The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 by a simple resolution of the Government of India, with the Prime Minister as its chairperson. Its objectives:

(i) **Planned development:** to use the country's resources efficiently through Five Year Plans, with modernisation and industrialisation.

(ii) **Poverty alleviation and welfare:** to distribute material resources for the common good and reduce the concentration of wealth in a few hands.

Q14 The mighty **Himalayas** in the north and the vast **Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal** in the south, west and east give the region a natural insularity. This isolation is largely responsible for the **linguistic, social and cultural distinctiveness** of the subcontinent: numerous languages, festivals and social rituals are shared across South Asia and make it distinct from the rest of Asia.

Q15 (i) **Cutting of trees (deforestation):** forests are cleared for farming, timber and cities; this destroys habitats and biodiversity and causes soil erosion.

(ii) **Burning of fossil fuels and industrial pollution:** emissions from factories and vehicles pollute the air and add greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

(Others: overuse of natural resources, chemicals in agriculture, rising population, industrialisation and urbanisation.)

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 74 of 79

Q16 Globalisation has **political, economic and cultural** manifestations, so it cannot be seen in economic terms alone. Any two:
(i) **Political:** it erodes state capacity; the old welfare state gives way to a minimalist state. At the same time technology helps the state collect information about its citizens and rule better.
(ii) **Economic:** economic flows among countries increase, and institutions like the IMF and the WTO shape economic policies across the world.
(iii) **Cultural:** people get new choices of food, clothes and festivals (e.g. jeans, burgers); this can lead to a uniform culture (cultural homogenisation).

Q17 (i) **Economic and food crisis:** the country was still facing the economic effects of the 1962 war with China, and failed monsoons and drought led to a serious food crisis.
(ii) **War with Pakistan (1965):** India had to fight a war with Pakistan; Shastri gave the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' to meet the twin challenges of war and food shortage.

Q18 India adopted a **democratic approach** to regional demands and did not look upon them as anti-national. The demands were heard and settled through negotiation, which made the people of those regions partners in the nation and strengthened national integration. For example:
(i) the regional movement in **Punjab** was settled through the Rajiv Gandhi–Longowal Accord (1985);
(ii) the issue of 'outsiders' in **Assam** was resolved through the Assam Accord (1985).

Q19 **(i) Method:** the Socialist Party believed in **democratic socialism** and worked through peaceful, democratic means. The Communist Party of India at first felt that the transfer of power in 1947 was **not true freedom** and encouraged **violent uprisings** (as in Telangana); it later abandoned violence and took part in the first general elections.
(ii) Ideological base: the Socialist Party (born as the Congress Socialist Party in 1934) wanted a radical but democratic programme that supported workers and peasants and opposed capitalists and landlords. The CPI (formed in the 1920s) was inspired by the Bolshevik revolution and Marxism-Leninism, which it saw as the solution to the country's problems.

Q20 **(i) Military strength (deterrence and defence):** a country builds up its armed forces to prevent war, and to defend itself and limit the damage if it is attacked.
(ii) Balance of power and alliance building: states try to keep a favourable balance of power and form alliances (such as NATO) to add to their strength against a common threat.
(Also: disarmament and arms control, which regulate the acquisition and development of weapons; confidence-building measures, which help nations avoid war.)

Q21 (i) The **Club of Rome** published *Limits to Growth* (1972), warning that the earth's resources would be depleted as world population grows.
(ii) **UNEP** and other international agencies began holding international conferences and promoting detailed studies to get a more coordinated and effective response to environmental problems.
(iii) The **Brundtland Report, 'Our Common Future' (1987)** warned that traditional patterns of economic development were not sustainable.
(iv) The **Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro (1992)** produced conventions on climate change and biodiversity and the action plan **Agenda 21** for sustainable development.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 75 of 79

Q22(a) (i) India adopted a democratic approach and accepted regional demands instead of treating them as anti-national. **New states** were created from their parent states, for example Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand; meeting these aspirations strengthened national integrity.
(ii) Parties and groups were allowed to mobilise people on regional issues and to come to power through elections, e.g. the **All Assam Students Union (AASU)** in Assam and the **Mizo National Front (MNF)** in Mizoram. Movements in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland were settled by negotiation and accords, not treated as threats to the unity of the nation.

Q22(b) Either view can be taken with arguments.
Yes: (i) In 1985 the Rajiv Gandhi government signed the accord with the AASU leaders: foreigners who had come into Assam during and after the Bangladesh war were to be identified and deported. This ended a six-year agitation.
(ii) The AASU and the Asom Gana Sangram Parishad formed a regional party, the **Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)**, which came to power in 1985 promising to solve the foreign national problem and build a 'Golden Assam'. The movement thus entered democratic politics and peace returned.
No: (i) The accord did not solve the problem of immigration. (ii) The issue of 'outsiders' is still a live issue in Assam's politics, and the original inhabitants feel they are becoming a minority in their own land.

Q23(a) (i) The 'ASEAN Way' is a form of interaction that is **informal, non-confrontationist and cooperative**, with respect for national sovereignty.
(ii) Through it members resolve their conflicts by negotiation. ASEAN has mediated the end of the **Cambodian conflict** and the **East Timor crisis**.
(iii) Members use it to foster peace, cooperation and economic growth; the **ASEAN Regional Forum (1994)** was set up to coordinate security and foreign policy.

Q23(b) (i) The ASEAN Security Community rests on the conviction that outstanding territorial disputes should not escalate into armed confrontation. By 2003 members had agreements to uphold **peace, neutrality, cooperation, non-interference** and respect for national differences and sovereign rights; the ASEAN Regional Forum (1994) coordinates security and foreign policy.
(ii) This peaceful environment let the ASEAN economies grow much faster than the US, the EU and Japan. ASEAN is now building a **Free Trade Area** for investment, labour and services, and the US and China have moved fast to negotiate FTAs with it.

Q24 (i) **(C) Afghanistan**. The seven founder members (1985) were India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives; Afghanistan joined in 2007.
(ii) **(A) United States of America**. The US has close ties with both India and Pakistan and plays a key role in the region.
(iii) **(D) to co-operate member states for economic growth, social progress and cultural development through multilateral means.**
(iv) **(A) To establish a common currency for SAARC nations.** SAFTA aims to cut trade barriers and create a free trade area, not a common currency.

Q25 (i) **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**
(ii) It shows that the people of the princely states were exploited and kept in a suppressed condition; the rulers lived off the ordinary people.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 76 of 79

(iii) Patel asked the princes only to sign the **Instrument of Accession**, handing over external affairs, defence and communication (the file in the prince's hand) to India. Through this peaceful negotiation the princely states were brought into India and the country was unified as one unit.

For Visually Impaired Candidates: (i) 'Tryst with Destiny'. (ii) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. (iii) The two-nation theory was put forward by the Muslim League. It held that India consisted of two 'people', Hindus and Muslims, so after independence it should be divided into two nations; this led to the demand for Pakistan.

Q26

Sr. No. of the information used	Concerned alphabet in the map	Name of the state
(i)	B	Gujarat
(ii)	A	Uttar Pradesh
(iii)	D	Bihar
(iv)	C	Haryana

(The students' agitation of 1974 began in Gujarat in January and was followed by Bihar in March; in 1977 the Congress did not win a single seat in Bihar, UP, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. Answers as per the marking scheme.)

For Visually Impaired Candidates: (i) Morarji Desai. (ii) 1975 (25 June 1975). (iii) Jayaprakash Narayan. (iv) Janata Party.

Q27(a) (i) **General Assembly:** all 193 member states, each with one vote; important decisions need a two-thirds majority. *Function:* adopts the UN budget, elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council and appoints the Secretary-General on the Council's recommendation.

(ii) **Security Council:** 15 members: 5 permanent members with veto power (US, UK, France, Russia, China) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two years. *Function:* maintains international peace and security; it investigates disputes and can authorise sanctions or military action; its decisions bind all members.

(iii) **International Court of Justice:** 15 judges elected for 9 years by the General Assembly and the Security Council; it sits at The Hague (Netherlands). *Function:* settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions on legal questions.

(Also: the **Secretariat**, headed by the Secretary-General appointed for 5 years, handles the day-to-day work; the **Economic and Social Council**, 54 members elected for three years, coordinates economic, social and environmental policy.)

Q27(b) (i) **World Health Organisation (WHO):** works for health and against the spread of epidemics, e.g. through vaccination programmes.

(ii) **UNICEF:** works for the welfare and rights of children, focusing on health, education, nutrition and safety.

(iii) **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy, prevents its use for military purposes, and carries out inspections and technical cooperation.

(Also: **ILO** sets international labour standards; **UNESCO** promotes education, science and culture; the **UN Human Rights Council** protects human rights.)

Q28(a) (i) **Political and economic failure:** the system became bureaucratic and authoritarian; there was one-party rule and no freedom of speech. It failed to meet the aspirations of the people.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 77 of 79

(ii) **Economic burden of the arms race:** the USSR spent huge sums on weapons and on its satellite states in Eastern Europe and on Afghanistan. Years of economic stagnation led to severe consumer shortages, and people learnt how far the West had moved ahead.
(iii) **Gorbachev's reforms:** 'Perestroika' and 'Glasnost' raised expectations; people wanted faster change and were disillusioned, while party members felt they were losing their powers and privileges.
(iv) **Rise of nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in republics such as the Baltic states, Ukraine and Georgia was the most immediate cause of the collapse.

Q28(b) (i) **Ruin of the economy:** about 90% of industries were sold to private individuals and companies at very low prices; entire industries disappeared. This was called 'the largest garage sale in history'.
(ii) **Fall of the rouble:** the value of the rouble declined dramatically and inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.
(iii) **Poverty:** the withdrawal of government subsidies and the disintegration of the collective farm system pushed large sections of people into poverty and food insecurity.
(Also: post-Soviet states, especially Russia, were divided into rich and poor regions with great economic inequality; a mafia emerged.)

Q29(a) (i) India's foreign policy rested on non-alignment, Panchsheel, respect for the UN, disarmament and world peace. By following **NAM**, India kept its sovereignty and an independent foreign policy and stayed out of Cold War military blocs.
(ii) India could get **support from both blocs**: economic and technical help from the US and the USSR, and the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship (1971) during the Bangladesh war.
(iii) India pursued **peaceful and cordial relations** with its neighbours such as Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, and protected its security through a nuclear policy of credible minimum deterrence.

Q29(b) Article 51 (a Directive Principle) asks the state to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honourable relations among nations, respect international law and encourage settlement of disputes by arbitration.
(i) **International peace and security:** India says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes (minimum deterrence, no first use), and it cooperates with other countries against terrorism and global warming.
(ii) **Just and honourable relations:** India has signed treaties with its neighbours, such as Panchsheel with China (1954) and the Simla Agreement with Pakistan (1972).
(iii) **Settlement of disputes:** India sends troops to UN peacekeeping missions, and sent the IPKF to Sri Lanka to help settle the ethnic conflict.

Q30(a) (i) **Decline of the Congress:** the Congress lost its dominant base, and after 1989 no single party could win a clear majority in the Lok Sabha.
(ii) **Rise of regional parties:** state-level parties won many seats and became necessary partners in forming governments at the centre.
(iii) **Mandal politics:** the rise of OBC-based parties after 1990 fragmented the vote.
(iv) **Political instability:** elections in 1989, 1991, 1996, 1998 and 1999 gave hung parliaments; coalitions such as the National Front (1989), United Front (1996), NDA (1998) and UPA (2004) were formed to give stable governments.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 78 of 79

Q30(b) (i) **Agreement on new economic policies:** most parties support liberalisation and believe the new economic policies will lead the country to prosperity.
(ii) **Acceptance of the political and social claims of the backward castes:** parties accept reservation for backward classes in education and jobs and try to give them a share of power.
(iii) **Acceptance of the role of state-level parties** in the governance of the country; regional parties now share power at the centre.
(iv) **Emphasis on pragmatic considerations rather than ideology:** parties form alliances for power without ideological agreement.

FREE SAMPLE | Buy the complete pack at notesbazar.in | page 79 of 79

Notes Bazar

All the best for your boards!

Complete chapter-wise notes, NCERT solutions and more at **notesbazar.in**