



CLASS 12 · CBSE POLITICAL SCIENCE (028)

Political Science Solved Board Papers

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

2019–2026

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Only the current syllabus: questions on deleted chapters are flagged

WHAT YOU GET

CBSE Political Science papers 2019–2026. Every question answered. Sorted chapter-wise.

19

board papers

664

solved questions

6

years · 2019–26

15

chapters

208

MCQs solved

X Questions scattered across years



✓ All in one place, chapter-wise

X Don't know what to study first



✓ Weightage + most-asked topics

X Answers too short to score



✓ Point-wise answers the board way

X Old books carry deleted chapters



✓ Only the 2026-27 syllabus

PART A**Chapter-wise****A**

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

PART B**Full papers****B**

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

2026 · 59/1/1

2025 · 59/4/1

2024 · 59/1/1

2023 · 59/1/1

2022 · 59/1/1 (Term 2)

2019 · 59/1/1


Complete Notes · Solved PYQs

CLASS 6–12 · ALL SUBJECTS

100%
QUESTIONS
SOLVED
Made for **board toppers**

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

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

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| 1. CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 solutions | 4. CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 solutions |
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664 questions in all. Questions are taken from the CBSE Class 12 Political Science board papers and the answers are our own, checked against the official marking schemes wherever the board published one. Older papers carried chapters since removed from the syllabus (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.

CHAPTER 1

The End of Bipolarity

Board weightage 2019–2026

Year	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Questions	8	–	4	13	16	14
Marks	28	–	14	38	52	50

Most asked topics

Disintegration of the USSR		30
The end of bipolarity		16
End of the Cold War		9

55 questions from 18 papers. Repeated questions are shown once with every year they were asked.

1 mark: MCQ and Assertion–Reason

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 · Q4

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

(A) Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: the first Soviet republics to declare independence (1990–91).

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 · Q10

1 mark

Which is NOT a consequence of shock therapy? (A) value of the rouble declined (B) the economy of the region was ruined (C) the system of social welfare got strengthened (D) the collective farm system disintegrated

Solution

(C) The old welfare system was systematically destroyed and subsidies withdrawn; welfare did not get stronger.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q1

1 mark

Which one was not a republic of the Soviet Union? (A) Tajikistan (B) Uzbekistan (C) Afghanistan (D) Azerbaijan

Solution

(C) Afghanistan: an independent neighbour, which the Soviet Union invaded in 1979.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q2

1 mark

Who was General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985? (A) Stalin (B) Gorbachev (C) Brezhnev (D) Khrushchev

Solution

(B) Mikhail Gorbachev, who began perestroika and glasnost.

CBSE 2025 · 59/2/1 · Q1

1 mark

Statement I: Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU from 1985, sought to reform the Soviet system. Statement II: Gorbachev's decision to normalise relations with the West and to democratise and reform the USSR had effects that neither he nor anyone else intended or anticipated. (A) both true (B) both false (C) I true, II false (D) I false, II 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 symbolised the division between the capitalist and 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).

CBSE 2025 · 59/4/1 · Q1

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

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (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

1 mark

Arrange chronologically: (i) Gorbachev became General Secretary (ii) socialist revolution in Russia (iii) the Berlin Wall was broken by the people (iv) disintegration of the USSR. (A) ii, i, iii, iv (B) i, ii, iii, iv (C) iv, iii, ii, i (D) iii, ii, iv, i

Solution

(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

1 mark

The three republics that declared the Soviet Union 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 2024 · 59/2/1 · Q1

1 mark

Arrange chronologically: (i) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (ii) Russian Revolution (iii) end of the civil war in Tajikistan (iv) fall of the Berlin Wall. (A) i, ii, iii, iv (B) ii, i, iv, iii (C) iii, iv, i, ii (D) iv, iii, ii, i

Solution

(B) ii, i, iv, iii: Russian Revolution (1917) → Afghanistan invasion (1979) → fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) → end of Tajik civil war (2001).

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/1 · Q2

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

(C) Chechnya and Dagestan.

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 · Q1

1 mark

Arrange chronologically: (i) Russian Revolution (ii) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (iii) disintegration of the USSR (iv) end of World War II. (A) i, ii, iii, iv (B) i, ii, iv, iii (C) i, iii, iv, ii (D) i, iv, ii, iii

Solution

(D) i, iv, ii, iii: Russian Revolution (1917) → end of World War II (1945) → Afghanistan (1979) → disintegration (1991).

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 · Q2

1 mark

Which Central Asian republic had a civil war for ten years till 2001? (A) Tajikistan (B) Kazakhstan (C) Uzbekistan (D) Azerbaijan

Solution**(A) Tajikistan.**

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q1

1 mark

Arrange chronologically: (i) Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (ii) 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**(C) iv, ii, iii, i: 1917 → 1979 → 1991 → 2001.**

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q11

1 mark

Which event marked the end of communism in the Soviet Union? (A) Cuban Missile Crisis (B) rise of a new world order (C) disintegration of the Soviet Union (D) rise in the US economy

Solution**(C) The disintegration of the Soviet Union (December 1991); the Communist Party was banned.**

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q1

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

(a) Mikhail Gorbachev became General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985; he introduced reforms (perestroika and glasnost) to normalise relations with the West and democratise the system.

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q2

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

(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 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 and the economy is driven by free-market forces (demand and supply and the profit motive), not controlled by the government.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q1(b)

1 mark

What is meant by 'Eastern Alliance' formed during the Cold War period?

Solution

The **Eastern Alliance** was the military alliance led by the Soviet Union, known as the **Warsaw Pact** (1955); its members were the East European countries committed to socialism and communism.

2 marks: very short answer

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/1 · Q13

2 marks

Name any four republics of the Soviet Union.

Solution

Any four of the 15: **Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia**, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 · Q13

2 marks

Can shock therapy be called the best way to make the transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a liberal capitalist system? 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 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 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q6(a)

2 marks

Describe any two features of the Soviet System.

Solution

Any two: (1) The Soviet system was centred on 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; 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.

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

(1) These countries came under the control of the USSR; their political and economic systems were modelled on the Soviet system and they were called the "Second World" or the socialist bloc. (2) The **Warsaw Pact**, a military alliance, held them together under the leadership of the USSR.

4 marks: case-based / source-based

CBSE 2026 · 59/2/1 · Q20

4 marks

Why could the reforms started by Mikhail Gorbachev not save the Soviet Union from disintegration? Explain two reasons.

Solution

(i) **Reforms raised expectations** that could not be met: sections of society felt Gorbachev should move much faster, and were disappointed that perestroika and glasnost did not bring the benefits they hoped for. (ii) **Party members and the old guard** felt that their power and privileges were eroding and that he was moving too fast, leading to the coup attempt of August 1991. Pulled in opposite directions, he lost support on all sides; nationalist movements in the republics then broke the union apart.

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/1 · Q20

4 marks

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

Solution

(i) It brought **ruin to the economies** and disaster upon the people of the region. (ii) In Russia the large state-controlled industrial complex **almost collapsed**: about 90% of industries were sold at low prices: "the largest garage sale in history". (iii) The **rouble declined** dramatically and high inflation wiped out savings. (iv) The **collective farm system disintegrated**, causing food insecurity; withdrawal of subsidies pushed many into poverty, and a mafia emerged.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q19(a)

4 marks

"Indo-Russian relations are embedded in a history of trust and common interests." Four examples.

Solution

(i) Both share a vision of a **multipolar world** and co-existence of several powers, collective security and regional sovereignty. (ii) Over **80 bilateral agreements** under the 2001 Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement. (iii) Russia is India's major **arms supplier** and supports India on Kashmir; it supplies

energy and cooperates in nuclear energy (Kudankulam). (iv) Cooperation in **space**, science, and in forums like BRICS and SCO; Russian help in India's oil and gas sector.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q19(b)

4 marks

"The Soviet system was meant to ensure the welfare of the people." Four examples.

Solution

(i) The state ensured a **minimum standard of living** for all citizens. (ii) It **subsidised** basic necessities like health, education, child care and other welfare schemes. (iii) There was **no unemployment**; jobs were guaranteed. (iv) A complex **communications network**, vast energy resources and a domestic consumer industry produced everything from pins to cars; state ownership was the dominant form of ownership.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 · Q20

4 marks

Describe four changes in the world after the end of the Cold War.

Solution

(i) The end of **Cold War confrontations** and the arms race; many hoped for peace. (ii) A change in the **balance of power**: the world became unipolar with the US as the sole superpower, or the capitalist system became dominant (IMF and World Bank advised countries). (iii) The **emergence of new countries**: 15 independent states from the USSR (e.g. Baltic and Central Asian states), which wanted to join the EU or NATO. (iv) Greater attention to **new issues**: democracy, human rights, globalisation, terrorism, and the rise of regional groupings and other centres of power (EU, ASEAN, China).

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 · Q19

4 marks

Explain four reasons for economic stagnation in the 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 · 59/2/1 · Q24

4 marks

Passage: the Central Asian republics did not seek independence; in December 1991 Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared the USSR disbanded; the CPSU was banned; capitalism and democracy adopted; the CIS formed. (24.1) Which ideology was adopted by the post-Soviet countries? (A) socialist (B) capitalist and democratic (C) communist (D) democratic (24.2) The successor of the Soviet Union: (A) Belarus (B) Ukraine (C) CIS (D) Russia (24.3) A Central Asian country: (A) Chechnya (B) Dagestan (C) Tajikistan (D) Czechoslovakia (24.4) Which part 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

4 marks

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

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)

4 marks

"After the Soviet disintegration, Indo-Russian relations are reaching new heights." 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)

4 marks

"After World War II the Soviet Union was a superpower." 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 2024 · 59/2/1 · Q20

4 marks

Explain two reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses**: the political and economic institutions failed to meet people's aspirations: one-party rule, bureaucracy, no freedom, economic stagnation and consumer shortages, as huge resources went into the arms race and satellite states; people learned how far ahead the West was. (ii) **Gorbachev's reforms and nationalism**: perestroika and glasnost raised expectations and loosened control; some wanted faster change while hardliners resisted (coup of 1991); meanwhile nationalism and the desire for sovereignty rose in the republics (Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia), and Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared the USSR dissolved in December 1991.

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/1 · Q26

4 marks

Picture of the Berlin Wall. (i) What did the Berlin Wall symbolise? (ii) Between which two countries was it built? (iii) Highlight two outcomes of its breaking. [VI: year World War II ended; year the wall was built; year the USSR disintegrated; leader who became CPSU General Secretary in 1985]

Solution

(i) The **division between the capitalist and communist worlds**: the Cold War. (ii) Between **East Germany and West Germany** (separating East and West Berlin). (iii) Its fall (November 1989) led to the **unification of Germany** (1990) and the **end of the Cold War**: the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and soon the **disintegration of the USSR** (1991), leaving the US as the sole superpower. **VI**: 1945; 1961; 1991; Mikhail Gorbachev.

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 · Q20

4 marks

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

Solution

(i) Both share a vision of a **multipolar world**; the **Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001)** has led to over 80 bilateral agreements. (ii) Russia supports India on **Kashmir** and terrorism; India benefits from access to Central Asia and balancing China. (iii) **Defence**: India is one of Russia's largest arms buyers; most of its military hardware is Russian. (iv) **Energy and technology**: Russia supplies oil and gas, has helped during oil crises, and cooperates in nuclear energy (Kudankulam) and space (cryogenic rocket); both work in BRICS and SCO.

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q20(a)

4 marks

"After the Soviet disintegration India kept good relations with all new countries, but the most cordial relations remain with Russia." Two examples.

Solution

(i) **Strategic partnership:** the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001) with over 80 agreements; both want a multipolar world; Russia supports India on Kashmir and terrorism. (ii) **Defence, energy and technology:** India is one of Russia's largest arms markets; Russia supplies oil and gas, builds nuclear plants (Kudankulam) and cooperates in space (cryogenic engines).

CBSE 2024 · 59/5/1 · Q20(b)

4 marks

During the Cold War the US economy was more developed, yet the Soviet system had special features distinguishing it from the US. Evaluate two such features.

Solution

(i) **Welfare and equality:** the state ensured a minimum standard of living for all; health, education, childcare were subsidised; there was **no unemployment**. (ii) **State ownership and planning:** land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the state; the economy was planned; it had a complex communications network, vast energy resources and a domestic industry making everything from pins to cars, though it was bureaucratic and lacked freedom.

5 marks: long answer

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q17(a)

5 marks

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the question that follow:

It is important to remember that India chose to involve other members of the non-aligned group in this mission of reducing tension. During the Cold War, India repeatedly tried to activate those regional and international organizations, which were not a part of alliances led by the US and the USSR. Nehru reposed great faith in 'a genuine commonwealth of free and co-operating nations' that would play a positive role in softening, if not ending, the Cold War.

- (i) Explain the meaning of Cold War. (1)
- (ii) Explain India's response to then ongoing Cold War. (2)
- (iii) Highlight any two features of India's policy of Non-alignment. (2)

Solution

- (i) The **Cold War** was the competition, tension and series of confrontations between the US and the USSR, backed by their allies, which never escalated into a "hot war" (full-scale war) between the two superpowers.
- (ii) India's response was two-fold: (a) it took care to stay away from the two military alliances; (b) it raised its voice against newly decolonised countries joining these alliances, and judged issues on merit (non-alignment).
- (iii) Any two: (a) it was not isolation or neutrality but active participation in world affairs to soften Cold War rivalries, e.g. India mediated in the Korean War; (b) India involved other non-aligned countries and tried to activate organisations not part of the alliances; (c) it gave India an independent foreign policy serving its national interest, allowing it to take decisions and stances that served its interests.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q17(b)

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? (1)
- (ii) Explain any two factors responsible for strong relations between India and Russia. (2)
- (iii) How are India's relations with Russia an important aspect of India's foreign policy? (2)

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.
- (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); 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.

6 marks: long answer

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 · Q28(a) | CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q27(a) asked 2 times

6 marks

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

Solution

- (i) **Political and economic weakness:** the system became bureaucratic and authoritarian, with one-party rule, no freedom of speech and stagnation; it failed to meet people's aspirations. (ii) **Huge military spending** in the arms race and on satellite states in Eastern Europe and Afghanistan led to economic stagnation and severe consumer shortages; people learned the West was far ahead. (iii) **Gorbachev's reforms** (perestroika and glasnost) raised expectations; people wanted faster change while party members felt they were losing power, so the system collapsed. (iv) **Rise of nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in republics like the Baltic states, Ukraine and Georgia was the most immediate cause.

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 · Q28(b)

6 marks

Examine any three consequences of the Shock therapy.

Solution

- (i) It **ruined economies:** about 90% of industries were sold to private individuals at low prices: "the largest garage sale in history". (ii) The **rouble declined** dramatically and high inflation wiped out

people's savings. (iii) **Withdrawal of subsidies** and the collapse of collective farms pushed large sections into poverty and food insecurity; a mafia emerged and economic inequality between rich and poor regions widened.

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/1 · Q27(a)

6 marks

Why is shock therapy considered a painful transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system? Three reasons.

Solution

Shock therapy (advised by the World Bank and IMF) meant a sudden, total shift to private ownership and free markets, which caused great pain: (i) the economy was ruined: about 90% of industries were sold to private individuals at throwaway prices: "the **largest garage sale in history**"; (ii) the **rouble crashed** and high inflation wiped out savings; (iii) the **collective farms** disintegrated, causing food insecurity, and the old **social welfare system** was destroyed, pushing people into poverty; a mafia emerged, inequality grew, and democratic institutions were weak (constitutions drafted in a hurry, strong executive).

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/1 · Q27(b)

6 marks

Explain four reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Solution

(i) **Internal weaknesses** of the political and economic system: bureaucratic, authoritarian, one-party rule, no freedom. (ii) **Economic stagnation** and consumer shortages because resources went into the arms race and maintaining satellite states (and the Afghan war). (iii) **Gorbachev's reforms** released forces that could not be controlled: expectations rose and the party old guard resisted. (iv) **Nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in republics (Baltic states, Ukraine, Georgia): the most immediate cause; Russia, Ukraine and Belarus announced its end in December 1991.

CBSE 2025 · 59/5/1 · Q27(a)

6 marks

Examine three reasons 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)

6 marks

Examine three reasons for friendly relations between India and Russia after the Soviet Union's disintegration.

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 tensions and conflicts in 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 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 2024 · 59/1/1 · Q27(a)

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**: both want a **multipolar world**: co-existence of several powers, collective security, greater regionalism, negotiated settlement of disputes and an independent foreign policy for all, with decisions through bodies like the UN. (ii) **Strategic cooperation**: over 80 bilateral agreements under the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement (2001); Russia supports India on **Kashmir** and terrorism; India is one of Russia's largest **arms** markets and most Indian military hardware is Russian. (iii) **Energy and technology**: Russia supplies oil and gas, has helped India

during oil crises, and cooperates in **nuclear energy** (Kudankulam) and **space** (cryogenic rocket); both work together in BRICS and SCO.

CBSE 2024 · 59/1/1 · Q27(b)

6 marks

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

Solution

(i) **Economic ruin:** the large state-controlled industrial complex collapsed; about 90% of industries were sold to private companies at low prices ("largest garage sale in history"). (ii) **Currency and savings:** the rouble declined dramatically; high inflation wiped out people's savings. (iii) **Social distress:** collective farms disintegrated, causing food insecurity; withdrawal of subsidies and the end of the welfare system pushed large numbers into poverty; a mafia emerged and controlled many activities; inequality grew sharply, and democratic institutions were weak (strong executive, weak parliament).

CBSE 2023 · 59/1/1 · Q27(b)

6 marks

Analyse any two reasons for the beginning of 'Arab Spring' and any two outcomes of this movement. ($4 \times 1\frac{1}{2} = 6$)

Solution

Reasons: (1) Widespread **corruption** and **unemployment**, especially among the youth, along with poverty and 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) Several long-standing **dictators were removed** (e.g. in Tunisia and Egypt, where Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in 2011), though in some countries it led to civil war and instability.

CBSE 2019 · 59/1/1 · Q22(a)

6 marks

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

Solution

(1) It meant the **end of Cold War** confrontations; 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 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) **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 · 59/1/1 · Q22(b)

6 marks

Describe any four reforms proposed by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the development of least developed countries.

Solution

The UNCTAD report "Towards a New Trade Policy for Development" (1972) proposed a reform of the global trading system (New International Economic Order): (1) giving the LDCs control over their **natural resources** exploited by the developed Western countries; (2) obtaining **access to Western markets** so the LDCs could sell their products and make trade more beneficial for poorer countries; (3) **reducing the cost of technology** from the Western countries; (4) providing the LDCs with a **greater role in international economic institutions**. NAM took up these demands, turning into an economic pressure group.

CBSE BOARD PAPER**2026 · Q.P. Code 59/1/1**

Time: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

Section A: Multiple choice questions (1 mark each)

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) China 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

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:

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.

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Princely states were ruled by the princes.

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

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

(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:

List-I

List-II

(a) Violation of Human Rights (i) Britain

(b) 'Mad-Cow' disease

(c) Disarmament Treaty

(d) 9/11 terrorist attack

(ii) Chemical weapons convention

(iii) World Trade Centre in America

(iv) Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

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

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

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

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

8. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

(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.

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Morarji Desai

(C) Rajiv Gandhi

(B) Lal Bahadur Shastri

(D) Indira Gandhi

- 10.** Choose the statement that best describes the concept of globalisation. 1
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(A) The process of rapid integration or inter-connection among countries of the world through the flow of goods, capital, people and ideas.</p> <p>(C) Globalisation has given freedom to consumers to choose from limited alternatives.</p> | <p>(B) Globalisation has increased states capabilities in the political field.</p> <p>(D) Globalisation has reduced the various opportunities of employment to the people.</p> |
|---|--|
- 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
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(A) Indian National Congress (INC)</p> <p>(C) Shiv Sena (SS)</p> | <p>(B) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)</p> <p>(D) Communist Party of India (CPI)</p> |
|---|---|
- 12.** Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty refers to: 1
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) Peaceful use of nuclear energy</p> <p>(C) Development of nuclear fusion</p> | <p>(B) Spread of nuclear weapons</p> <p>(D) Reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles</p> |
|--|---|

Section B: Short answer (2 marks each)

- 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

Section C: Short answer (4 marks each)

- 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

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

Section D: Passage, map and cartoon based (4 marks each)

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.

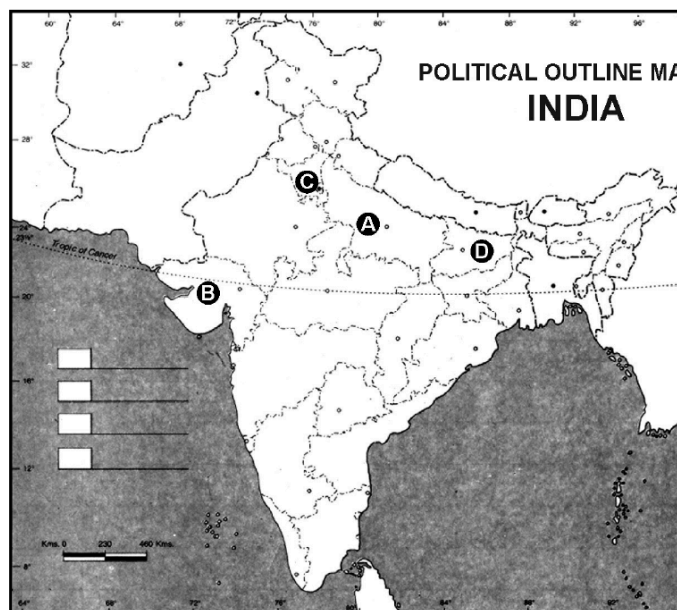
25. Study the given cartoon carefully and answer the questions that follow:



- (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)

(For Visually Impaired Candidates, in lieu of Q25: (i) Name the speech given by Jawaharlal Nehru at the hour of midnight on 14-15 August 1947. (ii) Name the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. (iii) Explain the two nation theory.)

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:



- (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.
- (For Visually Impaired Candidates, in lieu of Q26: (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.)

Section E: Long answer (6 marks each)

27. (a) Explain the composition and one function of any three organs of the United Nations. (3 + 3 = 6) 6
- OR**
- (b) Name any three agencies of the United Nations and explain one function of each. (3 + 3 = 6) 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
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 · 59/1/1

- Q1** (A) **Both statements are true.** China's open-door reforms from 1978 ended economic stagnation and made it the fastest-growing economy, but growth also brought rising unemployment, environmental degradation and corruption.
-
- Q2** (C) Potti Sriramulu died after a 56-day fast for a separate Andhra state; the violent protests that followed forced Nehru to announce the formation of Andhra state in December 1952.
-
- Q3** (C) China did not go for shock therapy; it opened its economy step by step: privatisation of agriculture (1982), then industry (1998), special economic zones and foreign investment.
-
- Q4** (C) **Haryana.** In 1967 MLA Gaya Lal changed his party three times in a fortnight; the phrase came to describe frequent defections.
-
- Q5** (C) **A is false, R is true.** Under globalisation the old welfare state is giving way to a more minimalist state; the market, not the state, increasingly sets priorities.
-
- Q6** (B) is not correct: almost all states signed the Instrument of Accession, but Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur were difficult cases, so not all accepted at once.
-
- Q7** (A) **a-iv, b-i, c-ii, d-iii.** Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (human rights abuses), mad-cow disease spread from Britain, the Chemical Weapons Convention (1992) is a disarmament treaty, and 9/11 struck the World Trade Centre, New York.
-
- Q8** (C) **iv, ii, i, iii:** Mandal Commission report (1980) → National Front coalition government (1989; the board treats it as the first non-Congress coalition, though the first non-Congress government was the Janata Party in 1977) → Rajiv Gandhi assassinated (May 1991) → 16th Lok Sabha election (2014).
-
- Q9** (D) **Indira Gandhi.** After the Supreme Court struck down her 1970 order, the 26th Amendment (1971) abolished privy purses.
-
- Q10** (A) Globalisation is the flow of ideas, capital, commodities and people across the world, creating worldwide interconnectedness.
-
- Q11** (B) **BJP:** 116 seats (2009) → 282 (2014) → 303 (2019).
-

- Q12** (D) as per the board key. (Strictly, the NPT of 1968 aims to stop the *spread* of nuclear weapons to countries that did not have them before 1967; it is an arms-control treaty.)
-
- Q13** The Planning Commission (set up March 1950 by a simple resolution, PM as chairman) aimed at: (i) **planned economic development** by using national resources efficiently through Five Year Plans; (ii) **poverty alleviation and social justice**, reducing the concentration of wealth in a few hands and distributing material resources for the common good. (Also: industrialisation, modernisation, raising the standard of living.)
-
- Q14** South Asia is naturally insulated: the **Himalayas** in the north and the **Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal** in the south, west and east. This isolation from the rest of Asia let the region develop its own **linguistic, social and cultural distinctiveness**: shared languages, festivals, food, social rituals and religious traditions that are common across the subcontinent and different from neighbouring regions.
-
- Q15** (i) **Deforestation**: cutting trees for agriculture, timber and urban growth destroys habitats and biodiversity and causes soil erosion. (ii) **Burning fossil fuels and industrial pollution**: emissions from factories and vehicles pollute air and raise greenhouse gases, causing global warming. (Also: overuse of resources, chemical fertilisers, rising population, urbanisation.)
-
- Q16** Globalisation has **political, economic and cultural** dimensions. **Politically**, it erodes state capacity: the welfare state gives way to a minimalist state (though technology also helps states gather information). **Economically**, flows of trade and investment increase and institutions like the IMF and WTO shape policies everywhere. **Culturally**, people get new choices in food, dress and entertainment (e.g. jeans, burgers), which can lead to homogenisation or hybrid cultures. So it cannot be seen only in economic terms.
-
- Q17** (i) **Economic and food crisis**: the effects of the 1962 war with China, failed monsoons and drought caused a serious food shortage. (ii) **War with Pakistan (1965)**: Shastri led the country during the war and signed the Tashkent Agreement (1966); he gave the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".
-
- Q18** India took a **democratic approach**: regional demands were not treated as anti-national but settled through negotiation, which made the people of those regions partners in the nation. E.g. the **Rajiv Gandhi–Longowal accord (1985)** for Punjab, the **Assam Accord (1985)** on outsiders and the **Mizo Accord (1986)** brought these regions back into normal democratic politics, strengthening national unity.
-
- Q19** (i) **Method**: the Socialist Party believed in **democratic socialism** and peaceful, parliamentary means; the CPI initially believed the 1947 transfer of power was not true freedom and supported a **violent uprising** (Telangana), before abandoning violence and joining the 1952 elections. (ii) **Ideological base**: the socialists (Congress Socialist Party, formed 1934 inside the Congress, led by Narendra Dev, Lohia, JP) favoured a radical but democratic programme for workers and peasants against capitalists and landlords; the CPI (formed 1920s) was inspired by the Bolshevik revolution and Marxism-Leninism, with leaders like A.K. Gopalan, S.A. Dange and E.M.S. Namboodiripad.
-

- Q20** (i) **Deterrence and defence (military strength):** a country builds armed forces to prevent war or to defend itself if attacked. (ii) **Balance of power and alliance building:** states keep a favourable balance of power and form alliances (e.g. NATO) to add to their strength against a threat. (Also traditional cooperative measures: disarmament, arms control, confidence-building measures.)
-
- Q21** (i) The **Club of Rome** published *Limits to Growth* (1972), warning of resource depletion as population grows. (ii) **UNEP** and other agencies held international conferences and promoted studies for a coordinated response. (iii) The **Brundtland Report, Our Common Future (1987)**, warned that traditional patterns of development were not sustainable. (iv) The **Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro (1992)** produced conventions on climate change, biodiversity, forestry and **Agenda 21**. (Also the Kyoto Protocol 1997, Paris Agreement.)
-
- Q22(a)** (i) **New states** were created to meet regional aspirations: linguistic states after 1956, and Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand in 2000; this satisfied people and strengthened integration. (ii) Regional parties and movements (AASU and AGP in Assam, Mizo National Front in Mizoram) were allowed to contest elections and form governments; accords with them brought peace.
-
- Q22(b)** Yes: (i) under the 1985 accord with AASU, foreigners who entered Assam during and after the Bangladesh war were to be identified and deported, ending a six-year agitation; (ii) AASU and the Asom Gana Sangram Parishad formed the **Asom Gana Parishad**, which won power in 1985, bringing the movement into democratic politics. (One can also argue **No**: the immigration problem was not fully solved and the "outsider" issue remains alive in Assam.)
-
- Q23(a)** The ASEAN Way is a form of interaction that is **informal, non-confrontational and cooperative**, respecting national sovereignty. It helped members settle disputes by negotiation; ASEAN mediated an end to the Cambodian conflict and the East Timor crisis, and set up the **ASEAN Regional Forum (1994)** for security and foreign-policy coordination.
-
- Q23(b)** The Security Community rests on the conviction that territorial disputes should not escalate into armed conflict; by 2003 members had agreements to uphold **peace, neutrality, cooperation and non-interference**. This stable environment let ASEAN grow faster than the US, EU or Japan and move towards a **free trade area** for investment, labour and services; the US and China have negotiated FTAs with it.
-
- Q24** (i) **(C) Afghanistan** (joined in 2007). (ii) **(A) USA**. (iii) **(D)** cooperation among members through multilateral means. (iv) **(A)** a common currency is not a SAFTA objective.
-
- Q25** (i) **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. (ii) The rulers of princely states lived off and suppressed the ordinary, poor people of their states. (iii) Patel persuaded (and where needed pressured) the princes to sign the **Instrument of Accession**, freeing the people from princely rule and unifying the country. **VI:** (i) "Tryst with Destiny"; (ii) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; (iii) the Muslim League's theory that India consisted of two "people", Hindus and Muslims, so a separate country (Pakistan) was needed for Muslims.
-
- Q26** (i) **B – Gujarat** (the Navnirman students' movement began in Gujarat in January 1974; Bihar's movement followed in March). (ii) **A – Uttar Pradesh**. (iii) **D – Bihar**. (iv) **C – Haryana** (Congress

lost every seat in Bihar, UP, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab). **VI:** Morarji Desai; 1975 (25 June); Jayaprakash Narayan; Janata Party.

-
- Q27(a)** (i) **General Assembly:** all 193 members, one vote each; important decisions by two-thirds majority. Function: approves the budget, elects non-permanent Security Council members and, on its recommendation, appoints the Secretary-General. (ii) **Security Council:** 15 members: 5 permanent with veto (US, UK, France, Russia, China) and 10 non-permanent elected for two years. Function: maintains international peace and security; its decisions bind all members; it can authorise sanctions or military action. (iii) **International Court of Justice** (The Hague): 15 judges elected for 9 years by the General Assembly and Security Council. Function: settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions. (Also the **Secretariat**, headed by the Secretary-General, chosen for 5 years, runs day-to-day work; **ECOSOC**, 54 members elected for 3 years, coordinates economic and social work.)
-
- Q27(b)** (i) **WHO:** works to control epidemics and improve health (e.g. vaccination drives). (ii) **UNICEF:** welfare and rights of children: health, nutrition, education. (iii) **IAEA:** promotes the **peaceful** use of nuclear energy and prevents its use for military purposes through inspections. (Also **ILO:** sets labour standards; **UNESCO:** education, science, culture; **UNHRC:** human rights.)
-
- Q28(a)** (i) **Political and economic weakness:** the system became bureaucratic and authoritarian, with one-party rule, no freedom of speech and stagnation; it failed to meet people's aspirations. (ii) **Huge military spending** in the arms race and on satellite states in Eastern Europe and Afghanistan led to economic stagnation and severe consumer shortages; people learned the West was far ahead. (iii) **Gorbachev's reforms** (perestroika and glasnost) raised expectations; people wanted faster change while party members felt they were losing power, so the system collapsed. (iv) **Rise of nationalism** and the desire for sovereignty in republics like the Baltic states, Ukraine and Georgia was the most immediate cause.
-
- Q28(b)** (i) It **ruined economies:** about 90% of industries were sold to private individuals at low prices: "the largest garage sale in history". (ii) The **rouble declined** dramatically and high inflation wiped out people's savings. (iii) **Withdrawal of subsidies** and the collapse of collective farms pushed large sections into poverty and food insecurity; a mafia emerged and economic inequality between rich and poor regions widened.
-
- Q29(a)** (i) Through **non-alignment** India kept its sovereignty and an independent foreign policy, avoiding Cold War blocs. (ii) It obtained **aid and support from both blocs:** economic and technical help from the US and the USSR, and the Indo-Soviet Treaty (1971) during the Bangladesh war. (iii) It maintained **cordial relations** with neighbours (Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka) and, through Panchsheel and its nuclear policy of a credible minimum deterrent, protected its security.
-
- Q29(b)** Article 51 asks the state to promote international peace and security, just and honourable relations, respect for international law and settlement of disputes by arbitration. (i) **Peace:** Panchsheel (1954) with China, support for disarmament; India's nuclear programme is for minimum deterrence with no first use. (ii) **Honourable relations:** treaties with neighbours (e.g. the Simla Agreement with Pakistan, 1972). (iii) **Peaceful settlement and the UN:** India sends troops to UN peacekeeping missions and supports dispute settlement through talks.
-

Q30(a) (i) **Decline of the Congress:** after 1989 the Congress lost its dominant position and no party won a majority. (ii) **Rise of regional parties** that won many seats and became necessary partners. (iii) **Mandal politics:** the rise of OBC-based parties (e.g. Janata Dal, SP, RJD) after 1990 fragmented votes. (iv) **Rise of the BJP** and new issues (Ayodhya) changed alignments, leading to coalitions such as the National Front (1989), United Front (1996), NDA (1998) and UPA (2004).

Q30(b) (i) **New economic policy:** most parties support liberalisation. (ii) **Acceptance of the political and social claims of backward castes**, including reservations in education and jobs for OBCs. (iii) **Acceptance of the role of state-level parties** in national governance. (iv) **Pragmatism over ideology:** alliances are formed for power without ideological agreement.



All the best for your boards!

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