



CLASS 12 · CBSE SOCIOLOGY (039)

Sociology Solved Board Papers

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

2022-2026

- ✓ 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, table and assertion-reason questions answered with the data shown
- ✓ Only the current syllabus: questions on deleted chapters are flagged

WHAT YOU GET

CBSE Sociology papers 2022–2026. Every question answered. Sorted chapter-wise.

5

board papers

182

solved questions

5

years · 2022–26

9

chapters

70

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 · 62

2025 · 62

2024 · 62

2023 · 62

2022 · 62 (Term 2)


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 objective questions 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 · 62 · Q34**. 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 concept, a sociologist or an Indian example. For passage and table questions, quote the line or figure that supports your answer.

Contents

Part A · Chapter-wise questions with solutions

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society 21 Qs | 5. Structural Change 14 Qs |
| 2. Social Institutions: Continuity and Change 21 Qs | 6. Cultural Change 13 Qs |
| 3. Patterns of Social Inequality and Exclusion 19 Qs | 7. Change and Development in Rural Society 24 Qs |
| 4. The Challenges of Cultural Diversity 21 Qs | 8. Change and Development in Industrial Society 26 Qs |
| | 9. Social Movements 23 Qs |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. CBSE 2026 · 62 solutions | 3. CBSE 2024 · 62 solutions |
| 2. CBSE 2025 · 62 solutions | 4. CBSE 2023 · 62 solutions |
| | 5. CBSE 2022 · 62 (Term 2) solutions |

182 questions in all. Questions are taken from the CBSE Class 12 Sociology board papers (one set, code 62, each year) and the answers are our own, checked against the official marking schemes wherever the board published one. All questions in this book are on the current syllabus (the 2023 paper had no published marking scheme; its answers follow the NCERT textbooks).

CHAPTER 1

The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society

Board weightage 2022–2026

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Questions	–	5	6	5	5
Marks	–	16	10	10	10

Most asked topics

Concepts in demography		7
Sex ratio, age structure and literacy		5
Rural-urban linkages		5
Theories of population		4

21 questions from 4 papers. Repeated questions are shown once with every year they were asked.

1 mark: MCQ and Assertion–Reason

CBSE 2026 · 62 · Q1

1 mark

Assertion (A): Female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy.

Reason (R): Literacy varies considerably across genders, across regions, and across social groups.

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

Solution

(B) Both statements are true (NCERT: female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy, partly because it started from a lower base; literacy also varies by gender, region and social group), but the variation in literacy does not explain why female literacy is rising faster.

CBSE 2026 · 62 · Q3

1 mark

_____ is a characteristic of the second/transitional stage in population growth of society.

- (I) High death rate and population explosion
 (II) Population explosion
 (III) Low sex ratio
 (IV) High maternal mortality rate

- (A) Only (I)
 (B) Only (II)
 (C) (II) and (III)
 (D) Only (IV)

Solution

(B) Only (II): population explosion. Theory of demographic transition: stage 1 — low growth (high birth and death rates); stage 2 (transitional) — death rate falls quickly with better medicine and food, but birth rate stays high, so population grows very fast (population explosion); stage 3 — low growth with low birth and death rates.

CBSE 2025 · 62 · Q3

1 mark

As per the theory of Demographic Transition, which of the following statements are correct?

- (I) Population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development.
- (II) Every society follows a typical pattern of development.
- (III) The development is related to population growth.
- (IV) There are four stages of population growth.

(A) (I) and (II)

(B) (II) and (IV)

(C) (I) and (III)

(D) (I), (II) and (III)

Solution

(D) (I), (II) and (III). The theory links population growth to economic development, and says every society follows a typical development-related pattern of population growth. It has **three** stages (not four): low growth in an underdeveloped society, transitional stage of population explosion, and low growth in a developed society.

CBSE 2025 · 62 · Q12

1 mark

While urbanization has been occurring at a rapid pace, it is the biggest cities – the metropolises – that have been growing the fastest. Which of the following statements related to urbanization is not true?

(A) These metros attract migrants from the rural areas as well as from small towns.

(B) The larger cities in India are not growing at such a rapid rate.

(C) Urban infrastructure can hardly keep pace.

(D) With the mass media's primary focus on these cities, the public face of India is becoming more and more urban rather than rural.

Solution

(B) is not true: the biggest cities are growing the **fastest**, attracting migrants from villages and small towns, and their infrastructure cannot keep pace.

CBSE 2024 · 62 · Q6

1 mark

Historically, all over the world, it has been found that there are slightly more females than males in most countries. Which of the following factors made this possible?

I. Women tend to outlive men at the other end of the life cycle.

II. Girl babies are resistant to boy babies in infancy.

III. Gender-based families with preference for sons.

IV. Gender neutral behaviour.

(A) I, II and III

(B) I and III

(C) III and IV

(D) I and II

Solution

(D) I and II. Girl babies appear to have an advantage over boy babies in resisting disease in infancy, and at the other end of the life cycle women tend to outlive men. Son preference (III) works the other way and lowers the sex ratio.

CBSE 2024 · 62 · Q10

1 mark

Sometimes cities may also be preferred by people for social reasons. Which of the following is not a reason?

- | | |
|--|---|
| (A) Cities offer relative anonymity. | (B) Urban life involves interaction with strangers. |
| (C) Continuous decline in common property resources like ponds, forests and grazing lands. | (D) The poorer sections of the socially dominant rural groups do not engage in low status work in cities. |

Solution

(D) is not a reason (and is wrong): the anonymity of cities in fact **allows** poorer members of dominant rural groups to do low-status work they would not do in the village. Anonymity and interaction with strangers are social attractions of the city; decline of common property resources pushes people out of villages.

CBSE 2023 · 62 · Q1

1 mark

The measure of comparing the portion of a population which is composed of dependents with the portion that is the working population is:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Age structure of the population | (b) Sex ratio |
| (c) Dependency ratio | (d) Growth rate of population |

Solution

(c) Dependency ratio: a measure comparing the portion of a population made up of dependents (the elderly who are too old to work and children who are too young to work) with the working-age population, usually 15–64 years.

CBSE 2023 · 62 · Q12

1 mark

Which of the following statements is true in the scenario of high fertility rate?

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) It takes more time to reach the replacement level. | (b) It takes less time to reach the replacement level. |
| (c) It does not impact the replacement level. | (d) The impact on replacement level cannot be determined. |

Solution

(a) It takes more time to reach the replacement level. The replacement level is the fertility rate at which a population just replaces itself (about 2.1 children per woman); the higher the fertility rate, the longer it takes to bring it down to this level.

2 marks: very short answer

CBSE 2026 · 62 · Q17

2 marks

"Malthus argued that human populations tend to grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which the means of human subsistence (specially food, but also clothing and other agriculture-based products) can grow. Therefore, humanity is condemned to live in poverty forever because the growth of agricultural production will always be overtaken by population growth." What are the methods that Malthus suggests to check the rise in population?

Solution

Malthus believed population grows geometrically while food grows arithmetically, so prosperity is possible only by controlling population growth. Two kinds of checks:

- (i) **Artificial or preventive checks** — postponing marriage, practising sexual abstinence or celibacy.
- (ii) **Positive (natural) checks** — famines, diseases (and wars) that increase deaths and bring population back in line with food supply.

CBSE 2026 · 62 · Q33.1

2 marks

The Rural and Urban population in India (1901 – 2011) is given below:

Table: Rural and Urban Population

Year	Population (Millions)		Percentage of Total Population	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1901	213	26	89.2	10.8
1911	226	26	89.7	10.3
1921	223	28	88.8	11.2
1931	246	33	88.0	12.0
1941	275	44	86.1	13.9
1951	299	62	82.7	17.3
1961	360	79	82.0	18.0
1971	439	109	80.1	19.9
1981	524	159	76.7	23.3
1991	629	218	74.3	25.7
2001	743	286	72.2	27.8
2011	833	377	68.8	31.2

Based on the above data, answer the following questions.

(33.1) 'Rural-urban migration is preferred for 'social reasons'. Mention any two reasons. (2)

Solution

Any two:

- Migration to the city gives the socially oppressed some protection from the **daily humiliation** they face in the village, where everyone knows their caste identity.
- The **anonymity** of the city lets poorer members of socially dominant rural groups do low-status work they could not do in the village.

- (Also) decline of common property resources (ponds, forests, grazing land) and limited opportunities for cash income in villages push people to cities.

CBSE 2025 · 62 · Q24

2 marks

The major epidemic diseases in the past were fevers of various sorts, plague, smallpox and cholera. But the single largest epidemic was the influenza epidemic of 1918 – 19, which killed about 5% of the total population of India at that time. Differentiate between epidemic and pandemic.

Solution

- **Epidemic:** a sudden increase in the rate at which a disease affects people of a given geographical area at a specific time (e.g. cholera in a district).
- **Pandemic:** an epidemic that spreads over a very wide area — national, international or global (e.g. the 1918–19 influenza, COVID-19).

CBSE 2025 · 62 · Q33(a)

2 marks

The declining Sex Ratio in India 1901 – 2011 is given below:

Year	Sex Ratio (all age groups)	Variation over previous decade	Child Sex Ratio (0 – 6 years)	Variation over previous decade
1901	972	–	–	–
1911	964	–8	–	–
1921	955	–9	–	–
1931	950	–5	–	–
1941	945	–5	–	–
1951	946	+1	–	–
1961	941	–5	976	–
1971	930	–11	964	–12
1981	934	+4	962	–2
1991	927	–7	945	–17
2001	933	+6	927	–18
2011	943	+10	919	–8

Based on the above data, answer the following questions.

(a) What are the reasons for the declining child sex ratio? (2)

Solution

Any two:

- Severe neglect of girl babies in infancy, leading to higher death rates.
- Sex-specific abortions that prevent girl babies from being born — modern techniques such as the **sonogram (ultrasound)** are misused to identify and abort female foetuses.
- Female infanticide due to religious or cultural beliefs (son preference).

CBSE 2024 · 62 · Q22

2 marks

Sometimes societies can experience a 'negative growth rate'. What is 'negative growth rate'? Name any two countries that have experienced it.

Solution

A **negative growth rate** means the population is shrinking: fertility has fallen **below the replacement level** (births are fewer than needed to replace the population), so deaths exceed births. Examples (any two): **Japan, Russia, Italy**, countries of Eastern Europe.

CBSE 2024 · 62 · Q33(a)

2 marks

Age Composition of the Population of India 1961 – 2026

Year	Age groups			Total
	0 – 14 years	15 – 59 years	60+ years	
1961	41	53	6	100
1971	42	53	5	100
1981	40	54	6	100
1991	38	56	7	100
2001	34	59	7	100
2011	29	63	8	100
2026 (Projected)	23	64	12	100

Based on the above table, answer the following questions:

(a) What is meant by demographic dividend? (2)

Solution

Demographic dividend is the benefit that comes from an increase in the **proportion of workers relative to non-workers** in the population. When the working-age group (15–59) grows larger than the dependent groups (children and the elderly), there is potential for higher production, savings and growth — provided the workers are educated and employed.

CBSE 2024 · 62 · Q33(b)

2 marks

(Based on the table in Q33) (b) Based on the data given in the above table, compare the data of the years 1961 and 2026 and state your inferences. (2)

Solution

- The **0–14 share falls** from 41% (1961) to 23% (2026) — fertility is declining.
- The **working-age (15–59) share rises** from 53% to 64%.
- The **60+ share doubles** from 6% to 12% — the population is ageing.

Inference: the overall dependency ratio comes down by 2026 and the working population grows — a demographic dividend; but the rising elderly share will increase old-age dependency later.

CBSE 2024 · 62 · Q33(c)

2 marks

(Based on the table in Q33) (c) A falling dependency ratio can be a source of economic growth and prosperity. State how. (2)

(For Visually Impaired Candidates, in lieu of Q33, the same data are given as a passage, with the same three questions.)

Solution

A falling dependency ratio means a **larger proportion of working people** relative to non-workers (children and the old). More earners and fewer dependants mean more production, higher incomes, more **savings and investment**, and less spending on dependants — which leads to economic growth and prosperity (if jobs are available for the workers).

CBSE 2023 · 62 · Q28

2 marks

Explain the two types of Demography. (1 + 1 = 2)

Solution

(i) **Formal demography** is a mainly quantitative field concerned with the size, composition and changes of a population; it measures and analyses births, deaths, migration, etc. (ii) **Social demography** (population studies) enquires into the wider causes and consequences of population structures and change, i.e. the social, economic and political factors behind population trends.

4 marks: short answer

CBSE 2026 · 62 · Q33.2

4 marks

(Based on the table in Q33) (33.2) 'It is not a question of numbers alone, processes of modern development ensure that the economic and social significance of the agrarian-rural way of life declines relative to the significance of the industrial way of life.' Highlight the reasons for the decline in the agrarian-rural way of life. (4)

(For Visually Impaired Candidates, in lieu of Q33, a passage on the urban share of population rising from about 11% to about 28% in the twentieth century is given, with the same two questions.)

Solution

Any four:

- Agriculture now contributes only about **one-sixth of GDP**; the relative economic value of what rural people produce has fallen sharply.
- Rural people increasingly work in **non-farm occupations** — transport, business, craft manufacturing.
- **Mass media** bring images of urban lifestyles and consumption patterns into villages.
- **Mass transit and communication** are bridging the rural-urban gap.
- **Common property resources** (ponds, forests, grazing lands), which let the landless poor survive, have been privatised or exhausted.
- Opportunities for **cash income** in villages are limited, so people move to towns.

CBSE 2025 · 62 · Q33(b)

4 marks

(Based on the table in Q33) (b) Based on the above data, compare the data of the 20th century with that of the 21st century and state your inferences. (4)

(For Visually Impaired Candidates, in lieu of Q33, the same data are given as a passage, with the same two questions.)

Solution

- The overall sex ratio fell from **972** females per 1000 males in 1901 to **933** in 2001 — a long decline through the 20th century, reaching an all-time low of 927 in 1991.
- The child sex ratio (0–6) was generally higher than the overall ratio but fell very sharply: **945 (1991) → 927 (2001) → 919 (2011)**; in 1991–2001 the overall ratio rose 6 points while the child ratio fell 18, dropping below the overall ratio for the first time — as prosperous families have fewer children and may choose their sex.
- In the 21st century the overall ratio improved to **943** (2011), due to better nutrition, education, awareness and medical facilities.
- Inference: son preference and sex-selective abortion persist; policies like **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** and Ladli schemes aim to raise the child sex ratio.

6 marks: long answer

CBSE 2023 · 62 · Q36(a)

6 marks

"Malthus's theory of population growth was a rather pessimistic one. It was challenged by theorists." Justify the statement.

Solution

Malthus's theory: (i) Human populations grow much faster (geometrically: 2, 4, 8, 16...) than the means of subsistence such as food (arithmetically: 2, 3, 4, 5...). (ii) Therefore humanity is condemned to live in poverty forever, as population growth will always overtake agricultural growth. (iii) Population could be controlled by 'positive checks' (famines, diseases) or 'preventive checks' (postponing marriage, sexual abstinence). (3)

Challenges: (i) Historical experience proved him wrong: in Europe, population growth was matched and overtaken by rising agricultural production and living standards thanks to technology. (ii) **Liberal and Marxist scholars** argued that poverty and starvation were caused by the **unequal distribution** of economic resources rather than by population growth; an unjust social system allows a rich, privileged minority to live in luxury while the vast majority are poor. (iii) Birth rates fell in the 19th century, and the demographic transition theory explained population change in terms of economic development. (3)

CBSE 2023 · 62 · Q36(b)

6 marks

"Sometimes the city may be preferred for social reasons." Enumerate these social reasons.

Solution

- (i) Cities offer **relative anonymity**: urban life involves interaction with strangers, so for socially oppressed groups (e.g. lower castes) caste and community identity matters less, and they can escape everyday humiliation. (ii) The **poorer sections of socially dominant rural groups** may

prefer the city, as they cannot do lowly work in the village without loss of status. (iii) The city offers more **opportunities**: education, jobs, health facilities and entertainment. (iv) The city has a greater variety of occupations and ways of life, and offers freedom from rigid rural social control. (v) Common property resources (ponds, forests, grazing land) in villages are declining, pushing people to cities. (vi) Cities are seen as symbols of modernity and progress, and attract migrants who seek a better life.

CBSE BOARD PAPER

2026 · Q.P. Code 62

Time: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

Section A: Objective type questions (1 mark each)

1. Assertion (A): Female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy. 1
Reason (R): Literacy varies considerably across genders, across regions, and across social groups.
 (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
 (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

2. Assertion (A): Some communities were characterised as 'martial races', some others as effeminate or cowardly, yet others as untrustworthy. 1
Reason (R): Stereotypes are fixed and inflexible characterisations of a group of people.
 (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
 (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

3. _____ is a characteristic of the second/transitional stage in population growth of society. 1
 (I) High death rate and population explosion
 (II) Population explosion
 (III) Low sex ratio
 (IV) High maternal mortality rate
 (A) Only (I) (B) Only (II)
 (C) (II) and (III) (D) Only (IV)

4. Assertion (A): The government sells its shares in several public sector companies as part of the process of disinvestment. 1
Reason (R): Many government workers are scared that they will lose their job after disinvestment.
 (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
 (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

5. Which of the following are not the changes brought about by colonialism to the caste system? 1
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) Numbering and recording of castes through census.</p> <p>(C) Linking castes to traditional occupations.</p> | <p>(B) Hundreds of petitions were addressed to the Census Commissioner by representatives of different castes claiming a higher position in the social scale.</p> <p>(D) Making 'Schedules' of castes for special treatment by the State.</p> |
|--|---|
6. Which of the following institutional incentives helps to build a feeling of unity in diversity? 1
- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(A) Citizens can find the institutional and political space to identify with both their country and cultural identities.</p> <p>(C) Citizens do not participate in and support democratic politics.</p> | <p>(B) Citizens cannot build trust in common institutions.</p> <p>(D) Explicit efforts are not required to end the cultural exclusion of diverse groups.</p> |
|--|--|
7. An authoritarian state is the opposite of a democratic state because: 1
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) It is a state in which people have no voice.</p> <p>(C) The state responds well to the needs of the people.</p> | <p>(B) Those in power are accountable to everyone.</p> <p>(D) Authoritarian state does not abolish civil liberties.</p> |
|--|---|
8. Assertion (A): Sanskritisation operated similarly in different parts of the country. 1
Reason (R): In regions where the non-Sanskritic were dominant, it was their influence that was stronger.
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).</p> <p>(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.</p> | <p>(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).</p> <p>(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.</p> |
|--|---|
9. Which of the following is a public perception of disability? 1
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(A) Disabilities are not understood as biologically given.</p> <p>(C) Disability is not linked with an individual's self-perception.</p> | <p>(B) The disabled person is not seen as a victim.</p> <p>(D) The idea of disability suggests that they are in need of help.</p> |
|---|---|
10. Assertion (A): India is still largely an agricultural country. 1
Reason (R): Very few people in India have access to secure jobs.
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).</p> <p>(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.</p> | <p>(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).</p> <p>(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.</p> |
|--|---|

- 11.** Based on the following passage, answer Q. No. 11 and 12. Very few people who relax on their day off realise that this holiday is the outcome of a long struggle by workers. That the work-day should not exceed eight hours, that men and women should be paid equally for doing the same work, that workers are entitled to social security and pension — these and many other rights were gained through social movements. 1
- How have social movements shaped the world we live in?
- | | |
|---|---|
| (A) In the 19th century, reform movements did not influence caste and gender. | (B) Asia and Africa had nationalist movements, which ended colonialism. |
| (C) The Civil Rights Movement in the USA did not bring equal rights. | (D) Anti-apartheid struggle did not change society in South Africa. |
- 12.** Which of the following is not true about Karl Marx's view on violent collective action? 1
- | | |
|--|--|
| (A) 'Crowds' and 'mobs' were not made up of anarchic hooligans out to destroy society. | (B) Poor people in urban areas had a good reason for protesting. |
| (C) They often resorted to public protest because they had no other way of expressing their anger against deprivation. | (D) 'Crowds' and 'mobs' have no shared understanding of right and wrong. |
- 13.** Based on the following passage, answer Q. No. 13 and 14. The term 'Adivasi' connotes political awareness and the assertion of rights. Literally meaning 'original inhabitants', the term was coined in the 1930s as part of the struggle against the intrusion by the colonial government and outside settlers and moneylenders. 1
- Which of the following is not true about Adivasis?
- | | |
|--|--|
| (A) Their economic conditions were better than the non-Adivasis. | (B) They are found mainly in the north-eastern parts of India. |
| (C) They were believed to be the people of the forest. | (D) They had practised shifting cultivation. |
- 14.** Write the following statements in the correct order: 1
- (I) The resource extraction in areas inhabited by tribes can be traced to the British Government.
- (II) Since the 1990s, when economic liberalisation policies were officially adopted by the Indian Government, the process of resource extraction in Adivasi areas has become even more powerful.
- (III) The term 'Adivasi' was coined in the 1930s as part of the struggle against intrusion by the colonial government and outside settlers.
- (IV) The most significant achievement of Adivasi movements includes attainment of statehood for Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in the year 2000.
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (A) (III), (I), (II), (IV) | (B) (I), (II), (III), (IV) |
| (C) (IV), (I), (III), (II) | (D) (III), (II), (IV), (I) |

15. Which statement is true regarding the many-sided and paradoxical impact of the English language in India? 1
- (A) English is not widely used in India. (B) We do not have an impressive body of literary writings by Indians in English.
- (C) The knowledge of English has given Indians an edge in the global market. (D) For those who were traditionally deprived of access to formal education, such as Dalits, knowledge of English did not open doors of opportunities.
16. Assertion (A): Constitutional provisions define the powers of the States and the Centre. Reason (R): Respecting regional sentiments is not just a matter of creating States but it has to be backed up with an institutional structure. 1
- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A). (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false. (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Section B: Very short answer (2 marks each)

17. "Malthus argued that human populations tend to grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which the means of human subsistence (specially food, but also clothing and other agriculture-based products) can grow. Therefore, humanity is condemned to live in poverty forever because the growth of agricultural production will always be overtaken by population growth." What are the methods that Malthus suggests to check the rise in population? 2
18. (a) "Social exclusion is not accidental but systematic – it is the result of structural features of society." In the context of the above statement, highlight the meaning of social exclusion. 2
- OR**
- (b) "Untouchability is an extreme and vicious aspect of the caste system." Explain any two dimensions of untouchability. 2
19. "Many of our cultural practices and patterns can be traced to our agricultural background. There is a close relationship between agriculture and culture." Give one reason to support the given statement and name any two agriculture-related festivals. 2
20. "Our community provides us the language (our mother tongue) and the cultural values through which we comprehend the world. It also anchors our self-identity. Community identity is what we 'are' rather than what we have 'become'." How can you say that community identity is ascriptive? 2
21. The 'Schedules' listing the castes and tribes recognised as deserving of special treatment because of the massive discrimination practiced against them were drawn up in 1935, by the British Indian government. Post-independence, which was the most important initiative taken by the government to compensate for this discrimination? Write briefly about it. 2

22. (a) The notion of minority groups usually involves some sort of a relative disadvantage. Exemplify the statement. 2
- OR**
- (b) Highlight the meaning of Secularism in both, the Western and Indian context. 2
23. "In a country where half the children in the age group of 5 – 14 years are out of school, how can there be space for children with disabilities, especially if a segregated schooling is being advocated for them?" State two ways by which a disabled child can achieve autonomy. 2
24. "In India, over 90% of the work, whether it is in agriculture, industry or services is in the unorganised or informal sector." What are the social implications of this small size of the organised sector? 2
25. "In our current information age, social movements around the globe are able to join together in huge regional and international networks." Give suitable examples to support the statement. 2

Section C: Short answer (4 marks each)

26. "Globalisation of agriculture or the incorporation of agriculture into the larger global market – a process that has had direct effects on farmers and rural society." Discuss the role of 'contract farming' in this process of globalisation. 4
27. "The post-independent Indian state inherited and reflected the contradictions of the pre-independent period." Comment on the given statement with respect to the role of caste in the public sphere. 4
28. "In Indian nationalism, the dominant trend was marked by an inclusive and democratic vision." Explain. 4
29. "A considerable part of ritual in India has a direct reference to the pursuit of secular ends. Rituals have secular dimensions as distinct from secular goals." Justify with the help of suitable examples. 4
30. "Jan Breman identified the change in the nature of relationship between landlords and agricultural workers." Explain the meaning of the phrase 'from patronage to exploitation' stated by him. 4
31. (a) "Cities played a key role in the economic system of empires." Elucidate the statement with the help of suitable examples. 4

OR

- (b) "The laws of a colonised country did not have to stick to the democratic norms that the British back home had to follow." In what ways did the colonial laws favour the owners and managers of the tea industry? 4

32. "Because the tribal areas were located in mineral-rich and forest-covered parts of the country, tribals have paid a disproportionate price for the development of the rest of Indian society." How has national development been a challenge for the tribal population of India, post-Independence? 4

Section D: Long answer (6 marks each)

- 33.1. The Rural and Urban population in India (1901 – 2011) is given below: 2

Table: Rural and Urban Population

Year	Population (Millions)		Percentage of Total Population	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1901	213	26	89.2	10.8
1911	226	26	89.7	10.3
1921	223	28	88.8	11.2
1931	246	33	88.0	12.0
1941	275	44	86.1	13.9
1951	299	62	82.7	17.3
1961	360	79	82.0	18.0
1971	439	109	80.1	19.9
1981	524	159	76.7	23.3
1991	629	218	74.3	25.7
2001	743	286	72.2	27.8
2011	833	377	68.8	31.2

Based on the above data, answer the following questions.

(33.1) 'Rural-urban migration is preferred for 'social reasons'. Mention any two reasons. (2)

- 33.2. (Based on the table in Q33) (33.2) 'It is not a question of numbers alone, processes of modern development ensure that the economic and social significance of the agrarian-rural way of life declines relative to the significance of the industrial way of life.' Highlight the reasons for the decline in the agrarian-rural way of life. (4) 4
(For Visually Impaired Candidates, in lieu of Q33, a passage on the urban share of population rising from about 11% to about 28% in the twentieth century is given, with the same two questions.)

34. 'Home-based work is an important part of the economy.' Elaborate on the functioning of any one 'Home-based' Industry. 6

35. How have the women's movements evolved over the period of history? 6

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- Q1** (B) Both statements are true (NCERT: female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy, partly because it started from a lower base; literacy also varies by gender, region and social group), but the variation in literacy does not explain why female literacy is rising faster.

- Q2** (A) Both are true and R explains A. Such labels (often made in colonial times) are **stereotypes**: fixed, inflexible characterisations that treat a whole group as homogeneous, ignoring differences between individuals.
-
- Q3** (B) **Only (II): population explosion.** Theory of demographic transition: stage 1 — low growth (high birth and death rates); stage 2 (transitional) — death rate falls quickly with better medicine and food, but birth rate stays high, so population grows very fast (population explosion); stage 3 — low growth with low birth and death rates.
-
- Q4** (B) Both are true. Under liberalisation the government sells its shares in public sector companies (disinvestment); workers fear job losses (as happened in Modern Foods after its sale). But the workers' fear is not the reason for disinvestment.
-
- Q5** (C) **Linking castes to traditional occupations.** Caste was tied to hereditary occupation long before colonial rule. The census (from the 1860s; Herbert Risley's 1901 census recorded social hierarchy), the caste petitions to the Census Commissioner and the 1935 Schedules were colonial changes that made caste more rigid and more visible.
-
- Q6** (A) When citizens have institutional and political space to identify both with the nation and their own cultural identity, they build trust in common institutions and take part in democratic politics — the basis of unity in diversity. (B), (C) and (D) state the opposite.
-
- Q7** (A) In an authoritarian state people have no voice; those in power are not accountable to anyone; it often limits or abolishes civil liberties (freedom of speech, press, political activity, protection from abuse of power). The Emergency (1975–77) gave Indians a brief experience of authoritarian rule.
-
- Q8** (D) A is false: Sanskritisation did not operate the same way everywhere. R is true: where non-Sanskritic castes were dominant (e.g. in Punjab culture), their influence was stronger — a process sometimes called "de-Sanskritisation".
-
- Q9** (D) Common features of public perception of disability: it is seen as biologically given; the disabled person is seen as a victim; disability is linked with the individual's self-perception; and the very idea of disability suggests that disabled people are in need of help.
-
- Q10** (B) Both are true: most Indians still work in agriculture, and only a small share have secure organised-sector jobs with benefits. But the lack of secure jobs does not explain why India is an agricultural country.
-
- Q11** (B) Nationalist movements in Asia and Africa ended colonialism. The other options are false: 19th-century reform movements did change caste and gender practices; the Civil Rights Movement won equal rights for African-Americans; the anti-apartheid struggle transformed South Africa.
-
- Q12** (D) This is the view of thinkers who saw crowds as irrational mobs. Historians influenced by Marx argued the opposite: crowds were not anarchic hooligans; the urban poor had good reasons to protest and did so because they had no other way to express their anger; they acted on a shared sense of right and wrong.
-

- Q13** (A) is not true: Adivasis were dispossessed of land and forests and are among the poorest groups. They are concentrated in central India and the north-east, were seen as forest people, and practised shifting cultivation.
-
- Q14** (A) (III), (I), (II), (IV) — the order given in the marking scheme. (Chronologically, colonial resource extraction (I) began before the 1930s, so the board's order follows the passage: coining of "Adivasi", its colonial roots, intensification after 1990s liberalisation, statehood in 2000.)
-
- Q15** (C) English is widely used, Indians have produced an impressive body of English literature, and knowledge of English has given Indians an edge in the global market. Paradoxically, it remains a privilege of a few, yet for groups like Dalits who were denied education it opened doors to new opportunities.
-
- Q16** (A) Both are true and R explains A. Accommodating regionalism needs an institutional structure that ensures the viability and autonomy of states; so the Constitution defines the powers of the Centre and States (Union, State and Concurrent lists), the Rajya Sabha represents states, and Finance Commissions share revenue.
-
- Q17** Malthus believed population grows geometrically while food grows arithmetically, so prosperity is possible only by controlling population growth. Two kinds of checks:
 (i) **Artificial or preventive checks** — postponing marriage, practising sexual abstinence or celibacy.
 (ii) **Positive (natural) checks** — famines, diseases (and wars) that increase deaths and bring population back in line with food supply.
-
- Q18(a)** **Social exclusion** refers to the ways in which individuals may become cut off from full involvement in the wider society. It is the combined outcome of deprivation and discrimination that prevents individuals or groups from participating fully in the economic, social and political life of their society. It is structural: it results from social processes and institutions, not from individual choice (e.g. Dalits being kept away from common wells and temples).
OR
-
- Q18(b)** Any two of the three dimensions:
 • **Exclusion** — Dalits are barred from sharing drinking-water sources and from collective religious worship, ceremonies and festivals.
 • **Humiliation-subordination** — gestures of deference such as taking off footwear, bowing, not wearing new or bright clothes; forced, unpaid or underpaid labour.
 • **Exploitation** — economic exploitation of various kinds, such as confiscation of property and forced labour.
-
- Q19** **Reason:** land is not just a means of production or a form of property, and agriculture is not just a livelihood — it is a **way of life**; our cultural practices and patterns grow out of our agrarian background.
Festivals: any two — Pongal (Tamil Nadu), Bihu (Assam), Baisakhi (Punjab), Ugadi (Karnataka); all celebrate the harvest.
-

- Q20** Community identity is **ascriptive** because it is based on **birth and belonging**, not on any qualification or achievement — we do not choose the family, community, language or religion we are born into. Yet people feel a deep sense of **security and satisfaction** in belonging to these communities, even though their membership is entirely accidental; this is why such identities are so strongly felt.
-
- Q21** The most important initiative is **reservation** (the policy of affirmative action): seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State and Central legislatures (Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas), in jobs in government service across all departments and public sector companies, and in educational institutions, roughly in proportion to their share of the population.
(The board also accepts: the 93rd Amendment extending reservation to OBCs in higher education; Article 17 abolishing untouchability; the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.)
-
- Q22(a)** Minorities are small groups in a society who are subjected to prejudice and discrimination; this gives them a strong sense of **group solidarity**, togetherness and belonging. The disadvantage need not be economic: religious minorities like the **Parsis or Sikhs** may be relatively well-off economically, yet they are disadvantaged in a **cultural sense** because of their small numbers relative to the overwhelming Hindu majority. (Privileged minorities, like the very rich, are not usually called minorities.)
OR
-
- Q22(b)** **Western sense:** separation of Church and State — the progressive retreat of religion from public life. **Indian sense:** includes the Western meaning but also means that the state does not favour any particular religion over others; it respects all religions equally (sarva dharma sambhava).
-
- Q23** (i) **Inclusive education** — recognising disability within the wider educational discourse and educating disabled children in regular schools alongside others, instead of segregated schools.
(ii) **Vocational and skill-based education**, so that the disabled child can earn a living and become self-reliant (also: accessible buildings and transport, assistive devices, removing social stigma).
-
- Q24** Any two:
- Very few people have the experience of working in large firms where they meet people from other regions and backgrounds.
 - Very few have secure jobs with benefits (pension, provident fund), so most must depend on their children in old age.
 - Unorganised workers rarely have the experience of collectively fighting (through unions) for proper wages and safe working conditions.
 - Personal relationships decide much of work life: if the employer likes you, you may get a raise; if you quarrel, you may lose your job.
 - No well-defined rules or transparency in recruitment, and no mechanism for complaints and redressal.
-
- Q25** • Non-governmental organisations, religious and humanitarian groups, human rights associations, consumer protection advocates and environmental activists campaign together

in the public interest across countries.

- The huge protests against the **World Trade Organisation in Seattle** (1999) were organised in part through internet-based networks. (Similarly, environmental and women's movements share campaigns across borders.)

Q26

- **What it is:** in regions such as Punjab and Karnataka, farmers sign contracts with multinational companies (such as PepsiCo) to grow particular crops (tomatoes, potatoes), which the company then buys for processing or export.
- **How it works:** the company identifies the crop, provides seeds and other inputs, the know-how and often working capital; in return the farmer is assured of a market and price.
- **Effects on production:** it caters mainly to elite items (flowers, gherkins, export vegetables), which are often not ecologically sustainable, and diverts land away from food-grain production.
- **Insecurity:** though it seems to give financial security, farmers become dependent on the company for their livelihood.
- **Sociological significance:** it disengages many people from the production process and makes farmers' indigenous knowledge of agriculture irrelevant.

Q27

- The state was committed to the **abolition of caste** and wrote this into the Constitution, but it was unable and unwilling to push through radical reforms (such as thorough land reform) that would have undermined the economic basis of caste inequality.
- The state assumed that if it acted in a **caste-blind** manner (merit-based jobs, equal citizenship), caste privileges would automatically wither away — but upper castes, already educated, gained most.
- Democratic politics became deeply conditioned by caste; caste remains central to **electoral politics** (vote banks, caste-based parties).
- State-led development and private industry affected caste indirectly by speeding up economic change: modern industry created new jobs with no caste rules, and urbanisation weakened caste in everyday public life, while it persisted in private life (marriage).

Q28

- **Inclusive:** it recognised India's diversity and plurality (religion, language, region) rather than trying to impose one identity.
- **Democratic:** it sought to do away with discrimination and exclusion and to bring about a just and equitable society.
- This vision, along with ideas of humanism, guided nationalist leaders in framing strategies for **minority rights** and nation building (e.g. Constitution guaranteeing cultural and educational rights to minorities).
- Nationalists recognised that a strong democratic nation needs special constitutional provisions to protect the rights of all groups, especially minorities, so that the majority cannot dominate them.

Q29

- Rituals have **secular dimensions** besides their religious meaning:
- They give men and women occasions for **socialising** with peers and superiors (weddings, festivals).
 - They are used to **show off the family's wealth**, clothing and jewellery.
 - In recent decades the **economic, political and status** dimensions of ritual have become increasingly conspicuous.
 - Example: the number of cars lined up outside a wedding house and the VIPs who attend are

an index of the household's standing in the community. Rituals are also performed for secular goals such as passing an exam, getting a job or recovering from illness.

Q30

Jan Breman (study in Gujarat) showed how capitalist farming changed the old ties:

- Agriculture became **capitalist and more intensive**, increasing the use of hired agricultural labour.
- Cultivation became **commercialised** and villages were integrated into the wider market economy.
- Payment shifted from **kind (grain) to cash**.
- Traditional hereditary bonds between landowners and labourers (a kind of bonded labour that also carried **patronage** — protection, loans, help in hard times) loosened.
- A class of "free" wage labourers emerged, separated from the means of production. Workers were freed from bondage but lost the landlord's protection and were paid low cash wages — hence "from patronage to exploitation".

Q31(a)

- Colonial port cities were placed so that **primary commodities could be easily exported** and **manufactured goods cheaply imported**.
- They were the prime link between the economic **core** (Britain) and the **periphery** (colonised India) — the concrete expression of global capitalism.
- **Bombay** was planned and re-developed so that by 1900 over three-quarters of India's raw cotton was shipped through it.
- **Calcutta** exported jute to Dundee, and **Madras** sent coffee, sugar, indigo and cotton to Britain.

OR**Q31(b)**

- The colonial government used unfair means to hire labourers and forcibly keep them on plantations, acting on behalf of British planters.
- Administrators openly took harsh and undemocratic measures against labourers to benefit planters.
- Labour had to be brought from far-off homes to unhealthy lands with strange fevers, which needed financial incentives the Assam tea planters were unwilling to offer.
- Instead they used fraud and coercion, and persuaded the government to pass **penal laws** (labour contract laws making it a crime for workers to leave) to aid them.

Q32

- National development meant building **large dams, factories and mines**; this benefited the mainstream at the expense of tribes.
- Tribals were **dispossessed of their land** as a by-product of mineral exploitation and of hydroelectric projects sited in tribal areas (e.g. Narmada dam displacement).
- The coming of **private property in land** hurt tribals whose community-based collective ownership was placed at a disadvantage.
- Tribal regions faced heavy **in-migration of non-tribals**, which threatens to overwhelm tribal communities and cultures and speeds up their exploitation (e.g. Jharkhand, Tripura). Loss of forest rights also hit their livelihood.

Q33.1

Any two:

- Migration to the city gives the socially oppressed some protection from the **daily humiliation** they face in the village, where everyone knows their caste identity.
- The **anonymity** of the city lets poorer members of socially dominant rural groups do low-

status work they could not do in the village.

- (Also) decline of common property resources (ponds, forests, grazing land) and limited opportunities for cash income in villages push people to cities.

Q33.2 Any four:

- Agriculture now contributes only about **one-sixth of GDP**; the relative economic value of what rural people produce has fallen sharply.
- Rural people increasingly work in **non-farm occupations** — transport, business, craft manufacturing.
- **Mass media** bring images of urban lifestyles and consumption patterns into villages.
- **Mass transit and communication** are bridging the rural-urban gap.
- **Common property resources** (ponds, forests, grazing lands), which let the landless poor survive, have been privatised or exhausted.
- Opportunities for **cash income** in villages are limited, so people move to towns.

Q34 Home-based work includes making lace, zari or brocade, carpets, bidis, agarbattis and many other products. It is done mainly by **women and children**; an **agent** supplies raw material and collects the finished product; workers are paid on a **piece-rate** basis.

Example: the bidi industry

1. In forested villages, villagers pluck **tendu leaves** and sell them to the forest department or a private contractor (who sells to the department); a person can collect about 100 bundles of 50 leaves a day.
2. The government **auctions** the leaves to bidi factory owners, who give them to contractors.
3. The contractor supplies tobacco and leaves to **home-based workers**, mostly women.
4. The women **roll the bidis**: dampen the leaves, cut them, fill tobacco evenly and tie them with thread.
5. The contractor picks up the bidis and sells them to the **manufacturer**, who roasts them and puts on his brand label.
6. The manufacturer sells to a **distributor**, who supplies wholesalers, who sell to neighbourhood pan shops. The workers at the bottom earn very little and have no job security.

Q35

- **19th-century reform**: anti-sati campaign by Raja Rammohun Roy in Bengal; widow remarriage movement in the Bombay Presidency (Ranade); Jyotiba Phule's attack on caste and gender oppression; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's movement for women's education; women reformers such as Tarabai Shinde and Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.
- **Early 20th century**: growth of women's organisations at national and local levels — Women's India Association (1917), National Council for Women in India (1925), All India Women's Conference (1926); they began with a limited focus but widened their scope.
- Women took part with men in the national movement and in tribal and peasant revolts in the colonial period. Some argue this was not yet a social movement, but it had organisations, ideology, leadership, a shared understanding and aims of change.
- **Mid-1970s renewal** — the "second phase": changes in organisational strategy (autonomous women's groups) and ideology.
- **New issues**: violence against women (dowry deaths, rape, sexual harassment), campaigns that led to school forms carrying both father's and mother's names.
- **Legal changes** won by campaigns — on land rights, employment, sexual harassment and dowry.



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