



Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir
Midterm Examination (2026-27)
SOCIAL SCIENCE (087)
SET 1
Marking Scheme

Class: VIII
Date: 22.09.2026

Maximum Marks: 80
Time Allowed: 2½ Hours

	SECTION – A HISTORY (45 Marks)	Marks
	Multiple Choice Questions: (1x9)	
1	What is a 'Sultanate'? D. A territory ruled by a 'Sultan', a title adopted by some Muslim rulers.	1
2	Which of the following was a direct result of the Treaty of Purandar? A. Shivaji agreed to visit Mughal court in Agra B. Sambaji had to enter Mughal service C. Shivaji had to give up a large part of his kingdom to Mughals.	1
3	Consider the statements given below and choose the correct option. Statement (A): The Maratha Empire declined due to internal divisions. Statement (R): The British formed strong alliances with Marathas. C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.	1
4	Who led the Santhal Rebellion? D. Sidhu and Kanhu	1
5	Match the items in Column I with their correct descriptions in Column II: D. 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C	1
6	Match the items in Column I with their correct descriptions in Column II: B. 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B	1
7	Consider the statements given below and choose the correct option. Statement (A): The British imposed high taxes even during famines. Statement (R): Their aim was to invest more in welfare schemes. C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.	1
8	The weapon shown in the image is known as the wagh nakh. Who famously used it to defeat the opponent? C. Shivaji	1
9	What does the given image symbolize? A. British controlling communication and Trade in Africa	1
	Very Short answer -based questions: (2x4=8)	
10	Mention positive and negative impacts during the medieval period on the daily lives, culture, and society of the people. (1+1) any 2 points • Many people suffered due to heavy taxes, wars and famines. • Some lost their land and became bonded labourers. • Religious persecution affected several communities. Despite hardships, art, literature and architecture flourished. Communities showed resilience by rebuilding their lives and preserving cultural traditions.	2
11	What were the main achievements of Ala-ud-din Khilji during his reign? (1+1) any 2 points Ans. <u>Military Expansion</u> : Expanded the Sultanate's territories across north, central, and southern India through campaign generals like Malik Kafur. <u>Mongol Defense</u> : Successfully repelled and defended India against multiple large-scale Mongol invasions.	2

	<u>Imperial Ambition:</u> Minted coins bearing the title Sikander Sani ("the second Alexander") to reflect his ambition for grand conquests.	
12	Why do you think guerrilla warfare was more effective for the Marathas than direct battles? (1+1) any 2 points Ans. The Deccan region had rugged hills and dense forests. • Marathas knew the difficult geography perfectly. • Light cavalry allowed quick, unexpected attacks. • They ambushed enemies and retreated before retaliation. It minimized their casualties against massive Mughal armies.	2
13	When and where was Shivaji born? Why was Raigad Fort important to Shivaji the Maratha Empire? (1/2 +1/2+1) Ans. Shivaji was born on 19 February 1630 at Shivneri Fort, near Junnar in present-day Maharashtra. Raigad Fort was Shivaji's capital and the place where he was crowned as Chhatrapati in 1674.	2
Short answer -based questions: (3x3=9)		
14	Compare the political strategies of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals. (1.1/2 +1.1/2) Ans. Similarities: • Both expanded territories through military conquest. • Both had centralized administration. • Both collected land revenue and appointed nobles or governors. Differences: any 3 • Delhi Sultans relied mainly on military power. • Mughal rulers like Akbar also used diplomacy and alliances. • The Mughals promoted religious tolerance and cultural inclusion. • Mughal administration was more organized and long-lasting.	3
15	"The British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power." What do you think this means? What evidence from the chapter supports this idea? (1+1+1) Any 3 points • This means that when the British wanted to rule India, the Marathas were the main power, not the Mughals. • The Mughal Empire was already weak, and the Marathas controlled most parts of India like Delhi, Gujarat, and Malwa. • The Marathas fought three wars with the British, and were the last strong Indian rulers before British rule started. • Hence, to take control of India, the British had to defeat the Marathas, not the Mughals. This shows how powerful the Marathas had become.	3
16	In what ways did the Maratha Empire influence the Indian history? (1+1+1) Ans. The Marathas played an important role in Indian history. • They stopped the Mughals from fully controlling India and built a strong empire. Shivaji promoted good rule, protected people, and respected all religions. • Their bravery and leadership later inspired Indians in the fight for independence against British rule. • Spreading across India, the Marathas shaped regional politics and stood firm against colonial powers, forging a legacy of loyalty, patriotic spirit, and decentralized governance that continues to influence India's political landscape today.	3
Long answer -based questions: (4x2=8)		
17	How did Akbar change from a ruthless conqueror to a tolerant ruler? (1+1+1+1) Ans. Akbar was exposed to different religions and cultures within his empire. • Scholars and advisers like Birbal and Abul Fazl influenced his thinking. • He realized that tolerance would help unite a diverse empire. • He abolished the <i>jizya</i> tax on non-Muslims. • He introduced the policy of Sulh-i-Kul (peace with all) to promote harmony.	4
18	Explain the main features of the Maratha governance. (1+1+1+1) Ans. • The Marathas followed a well-organized system of rule. Shivaji made sure officials were honest, ended old unfair rules, and built strong forts for protection.	4

	• He formed a group of eight ministers to help in governance and worked for the welfare of all people, no matter of their religion. • They implemented a periodically transfer system for many officials to control their powers and prevent exploitation. • Shivaji even gave pensions and offered jobs in military to the wives and sons of the soldiers who died in battle.	
19	Read the given text and answer the following questions: (1+1+1) 19.1 What areas did the new Sikh Empire cover? Ans. It covered much of the Northwest, including parts of Kashmir. 19.2 Which group launched major onslaughts against the Mughal Empire? Ans. The Marathas launched the onslaughts. 19.3 Until when did the Sikh Empire resist British and Mughal threats? Ans. It resisted until the mid-19th century.	3
20	Read the given text and answer the following questions: (1+1+1) 20.1 Who were referred to as "hat-wearers" in the passage, and why did the writer consider them different from other merchants? Ans. The "hat-wearers" refer to European trading groups like the Portuguese, English, Dutch, French, and Danes. They were different because unlike normal traders, their main goals were to capture territory and spread their religion, rather than just engage in commerce. 20.2 What were the three primary intentions of these European merchants? Ans. Their intentions are to enter the land, increase their territory, and propagate their religion. 20.3 What two restrictions does the text suggest placing on these merchants? Ans. The text suggests controlling their trade traffic and forbidding them from building strong structures.	3
21	 A. Goa B. Delhi C. Madras D. Surat E. Cochin	5
SECTION B		
GEOGRAPHY (20 Marks)		
Multiple Choice Questions: (1X6=6)		
22	The process by which nature repairs itself and returns to a healthy state is called: B. Restoration	1
23	What is the main cause of water crises in Punjab? A. Over-exploitation of ground water	1
24	Consider the statements given below and choose the correct option. Statement (A): Solar energy is a nonrenewable resource. Statement (R): Solar energy is available only during the daytime. D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.	1
25	Match the items in Column I with their correct descriptions in Column II: A. 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C	
26	A farmer wants to practice farming without using synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides, Which State in India is well known for promoting 100% organic farming? C. Sikkim	

27	Consider the statements given below and choose the correct option. Statement (A): Forests can be considered renewable resources if used sustainably. Statement (R): Trees and forest ecosystems can regenerate over time if managed properly. Options: A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).	1
	Very Short answer -based questions: (2x2=4)	
28	What factors should be considered while producing goods to meet our present needs without harming future generations? (1+1) Ans. Important considerations include minimizing pollution, sustainable extraction of resources, choosing renewable or recyclable materials, reducing waste, conserving energy and water, and ensuring minimal environmental impact for the benefit of present and future generations.	2
29	What is meant by biodiversity loss? Ans. Biodiversity loss refers to the worldwide decline, disappearance, or extinction of different biological species (plants, animals, and microorganisms) and the degradation of their natural habitats. This disrupts the balance of ecosystems and reduces nature's ability to provide crucial resources for human survival.	2
	Short answer -based questions: (3x1=3)	
30	What is the connection between the distribution of natural resources and different aspects of life? (1+1+1) Ans. The distribution of natural resources impacts various aspects of life in the following ways: 1.Human settlements, trade, and international relations. Areas rich in resources tend to attract industries, which fosters economic growth and creates job opportunities. 2. Unequal distribution can lead to conflicts over access to resources, such as water or minerals, both within countries and between nations. 3. It also shapes the development of infrastructure and can create disparities in quality of life, with some regions benefiting more from their resources than others.	3
	Long answer -based questions: (4x1=4)	
31	How do we categorize natural resources? Explain in detail with suitable examples. Ans. Natural resources can be categorised based on their use and renewability. 1.Based on use: (a)Essential resources like air, water, and soil, which are essential for life. (b) Material resources like wood, coal, and metals, used to manufacture products. (c)Energy resources like solar, wind, and fossil fuels, which are used for generating electricity and running industries. 2.Based on renewability: (a)Renewable resources such as timber, water, and solar energy, which can regenerate over time. (b) Non-renewable resources like coal, petroleum, and minerals, which are limited and take millions of years to form, making them hard to replace, once used. (2+2)	4
32	Read the given text and answer the following questions: (1+1+1=3) 32.1 Why is cement important for us? Ans. We need it to build houses, schools, hospitals, bridges, roads, and airports. 32.2 How does cement production harm the environment and living things? Ans. It releases fine dust that hurts human and animal lungs, lowers plant crop yields, and pollutes soil and water. 32.3 Who makes the guidelines? Why are guidelines necessary for cement factories? Ans. The Central Pollution Control Board made guidelines to lower or stop this pollution.	3
	SECTION C	
	POLITICAL SCIENCE (15 Marks)	
	Multiple Choice Questions: (1X5=5)	
33	Which of the following legislative bodies is never dissolved? A. Rajya Sabha	1
34	What is the purpose of the indelible ink applied to the voter's finger. B. only ii	1
35	During an election, Sanya feels that none of the candidates contesting for her constituency	1

	represents her views. She decides to choose the _____ option while voting. C. NOTA	
36	Match the items in Column I with their correct description in Column II: C. 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C	1
37	Consider the statements given below and choose the correct option. Statement (A): India uses EVMs for transparent elections. Statement (R): EVMs helps in faster counting and reduces paper waste A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).	1
Very Short answer -based questions: (2x2=4)		
38	What is the meaning of 'secret ballot'? Why is this important in a democracy? (1+1) Ans. A secret ballot means voting in private so that no one knows who a person has voted for. It is important in democracy as it protects voters from pressure or threats and ensures free and fair elections by allowing people to vote without fear or influence.	2
39	How is the election of the Vice President conducted? (1+1) Ans. The election of the Vice President of India is conducted through a single vote system in which each Member of Parliament casts one vote for the candidate they prefer. Each MP votes for only one candidate and the candidate who receives the maximum number of votes is declared elected as the Vice President.	2
Short answer -based questions: (2x3=6)		
40	Highlight the scale of operations involved and the role of the Election Commission of India in conducting elections, using the Lok Sabha election 2024 as an example. Any 3 points Ans. - Managing the electoral process in India is considered a mammoth task due to the massive scale and complexity involved. - The Election Commission of India is responsible for ensuring that the elections are conducted freely and fairly, while also keeping up with the needs of modern India. - The process requires constant upgrading of its systems and operations. - Taking the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as an example, the scale becomes evident: there are 980 million voters, 543 parliamentary constituencies and approximately 1 million polling stations. Such vast numbers demand efficient coordination and extensive manpower. Moreover, elections in India are not held all at once but occur at different times across various regions with some regularity, making the process even more complex.	3
41	Why does the number of constituencies differ from state to state in India? 3 points Ans. - The number of constituencies differs from state to state in India because it is based on the population of each state. - States with larger populations have more constituencies to ensure fair and equal representation in the Parliament. - This system ensures that every citizen's vote carries the same weight, maintaining the principle of proportional representation in a diverse and populous country like India.	3