

Grade- 8 Social Science (Mastermind)

(Exploring Society India And Beyond)

Chapter 1 Natural Resources and Their Use

NCERT CORNER

Question 1.

Answer:

Human activities such as cutting down trees faster than they can grow back, polluting rivers with industrial and domestic waste, over-extracting groundwater, and excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides disturb Nature's ability to restore and regenerate itself.

These actions disrupt natural cycles, leading to soil degradation, water contamination, and loss of biodiversity. To help restore Nature's balance, we can take steps like planting native trees to rebuild forests, practising sustainable water management such as rainwater harvesting, reducing pollution by properly treating waste before disposal, and using organic farming methods that avoid harmful chemicals. These measures support natural restoration and regeneration, allowing ecosystems and resources to recover over time.

Question 2.

(Suggestive Answer) In my region, Delhi, the primary renewable resources are solar energy, wind energy, and biomass. Solar energy has grown with government incentives, but adoption is limited by high costs and space constraints. Wind energy is underdeveloped due to the city's flat terrain, and biomass remains untapped due to inefficient waste management. Delhi is working to increase its renewable energy capacity through initiatives like rooftop solar panels and projects such as a 1,000 MW solar plant and a 111 MW wind power plant.

The status of these resources has changed due to urbanisation and rising energy demand. While solar energy is growing, pollution and overcrowding reduce its efficiency. Wind energy has not progressed, and biomass potential remains

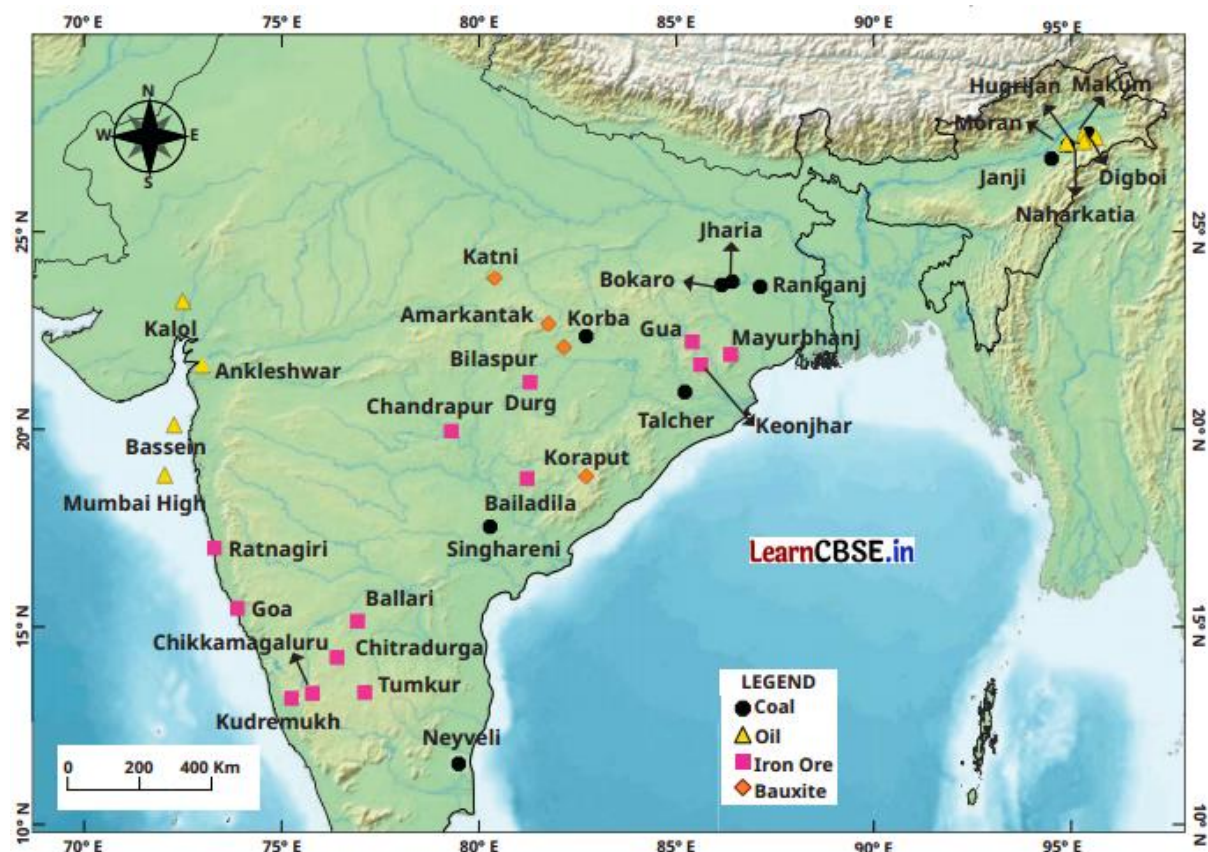
unused. To improve, Delhi needs stronger policies for solar adoption, better waste-to-energy systems, and urban planning focused on renewable energy.

Question 3.

Answer:

Non-renewable resources that we use daily, either directly or indirectly, include coal, petroleum, natural gas, and metals like iron and copper. These are used for electricity, transportation, heating, and manufacturing many products. Possible renewable substitutes include solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, biofuels, and sustainably managed timber. To transition to renewable resources, we need to increase the use of clean energy sources, improve energy efficiency, develop better energy storage, promote electric vehicles and public transport, and protect natural ecosystems. Additionally, raising awareness and supporting government policies that encourage sustainable use of resources are vital to ensure this transition is successful.

Question 4.



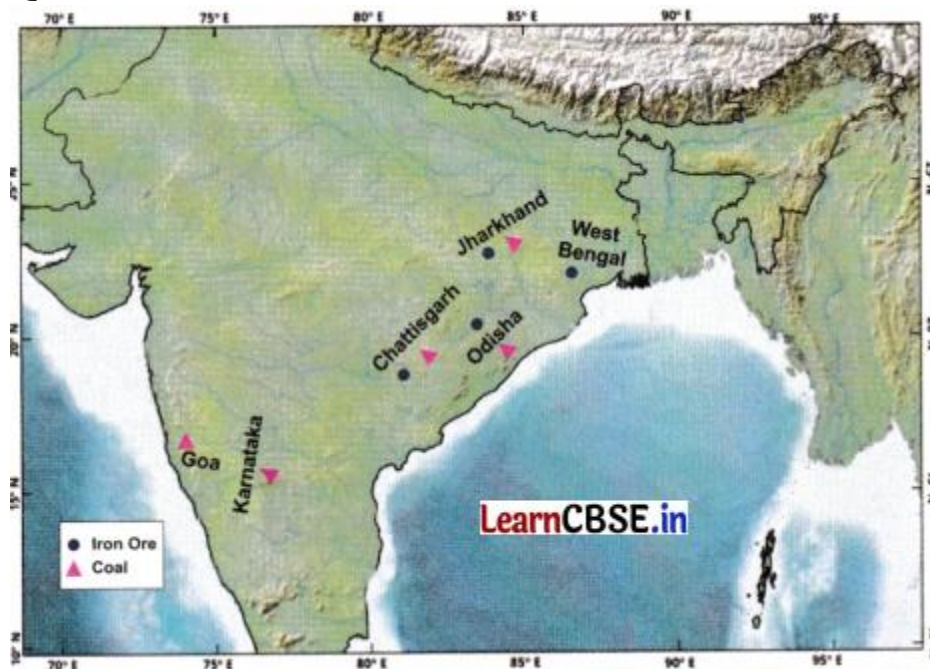
Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) The map shows that minerals are unevenly distributed across India. Coal is mainly found in eastern and central regions like Jharia, Raniganj, and Korba, as well as in the south at Neyveli and Singhareni. Iron ore

is abundant in central, eastern, and southern parts, including Bailadila and Mayurbhanj. Bauxite deposits are mostly in central and eastern India, such as Katni and Koraput in southern Odisha. Petroleum and natural gas fields are located along the western coast near Mumbai High and Ankleshwar, and in the northeast at Digboi. This uneven distribution reflects India's varied geology, with certain regions rich in specific minerals.

In my region, Jharkhand, several important minerals are found. The state is especially rich in coal, with major coalfields located in Jharia, Bokaro, and Dhanbad. Iron ore is another key resource, mainly found in the Singhbhum district. Jharkhand also has deposits of bauxite, copper, mica, and uranium, spread across different parts of the state. These minerals are mostly located in the eastern and central parts of Jharkhand, making it one of India's most resource-rich areas. The distribution of these resources supports many industries and plays a vital role in the state's economy.

Question 5.



Img- 1

Answer:

Coal and iron ore are two important natural resources found in different parts of India. Coal is mainly found in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal, while iron ore is mostly found in Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, and Goa. Their distribution is uneven, with large deposits located in the eastern and southern regions. This has led to the growth of mining and related industries in these areas. Coal is used mainly for electricity generation and in industries, while iron ore is used to make steel, supporting construction and manufacturing activities.

Question 6.

Answer:

The extraction of natural resources brings economic benefits but often leads to the displacement of communities, loss of cultural heritage, and environmental damage. Over time, it depletes resources, harms ecosystems, and creates sustainability challenges for future generations.

To use Nature's gifts responsibly, it is essential to adopt sustainable extraction methods, prioritise renewable energy, and implement effective resource management. Supporting policies that promote conservation and respect local communities' rights is crucial. Encouraging a circular economy, where resources are reused and recycled, helps reduce waste and ensures long-term sustainability. Educating future generations on the importance of preserving natural resources is key to safeguarding the Earth for the future.

Question 7.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) An international example of a conflict over natural resources is the ongoing tension between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan regarding the Nile River. Ethiopia has constructed the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) to generate electricity, but Egypt and Sudan, situated downstream, are concerned that the dam could reduce their access to essential water supplies, with Egypt relying on the Nile for nearly 90% of its water. Despite numerous rounds of negotiations, a permanent solution has not been reached. This situation highlights how shared natural resources, such as rivers, can lead to significant disputes between countries.

Question 8.

Answer:

To make the best use of natural resources in different geographical areas, several key inputs are needed. These include skilled people with the right knowledge to manage and develop the resources efficiently, good governance to ensure fair use and prevent corruption, and proper planning to avoid overdependence on a single resource. Investment in infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and transport is essential, along with the use of modern technology to extract and process resources safely and effectively. Environmental care and respect for local communities are also important to ensure sustainability. Finally, access to markets allows countries to sell resources and products at fair prices, helping to turn natural wealth into long-term development.

Questions and Activities

Question 1.

Answer:

A renewable resource can become non-renewable if its consumption rate exceeds its natural regeneration rate, such as overfishing, deforestation, or excessive groundwater extraction. For example, when water is taken from underground reserves faster than it can be naturally replenished, the resource is depleted.

To prevent this, adopting sustainable management practices is essential. Controlled water harvesting, reducing waste, and using resources efficiently are key steps. Restoration efforts, such as reforestation or implementing water conservation technologies, can also play a vital role in maintaining balance. By prioritising responsible practices in areas like agriculture and resource management, the regeneration of these resources can be safeguarded for future generations.

Question 2.

Answer:

Ecosystems provide several crucial functions that directly support human life and well-being. These include:

1. **Pollination:** Insects such as moths, flies, and other pollinators help in the reproduction of many crops and plants, supporting food production.
2. **Water Purification:** Ecosystems like wetlands and forests naturally filter and clean water, ensuring access to clean resources.
3. **Climate Regulation:** Ecosystems absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, helping to regulate the climate and maintain environmental stability.
4. **Soil Fertility:** Processes like decomposition and nutrient cycling in ecosystems support soil formation and fertility, which is essential for agriculture.
5. **Provision of Food:** Ecosystems provide diverse food sources, including plants, animals, and fish, which are vital for human nutrition and survival.

Question 3.

Answer:

Renewable resources are natural materials that regenerate over time, such as sunlight, wind, water, and wood. Unlike non-renewable resources like fossil fuels and minerals, they are not exhausted when used responsibly, as they

replenish naturally. Non-renewable resources, however, are limited and cannot be restored within a human timescale.

To keep renewable resources available for the future, they must be managed with care. This involves using clean energy sources such as solar energy and wind power, minimising waste, and adopting sustainable practices like responsible forestry. For instance, installing solar-powered street lighting helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Second example is to replant trees after timber harvests ensures forest renewal.

Question 4.

Answer:

In our home and neighbourhood, several cultural practices reflect a mindful approach to using natural resources. Firstly, certain trees such as the peepal and banyan are regarded as sacred and are never cut down, promoting tree conservation. Secondly, forest patches known as sacred groves are preserved due to their spiritual significance, helping protect biodiversity.

Thirdly, traditional festivals involve the use of eco-friendly materials, for example, banana leaves for serving food, clay for making idols, and natural dyes for decoration. Additionally, water bodies like ponds and wells are cleaned and honoured through rituals, encouraging water conservation. Lastly, practices such as fasting and simple living during religious observances help reduce unnecessary consumption and promote sustainability.

Question 5.

Answer:

In producing goods for current use, it's essential to prioritise sustainability by using renewable resources and eco-friendly materials. Energy efficiency should be considered to minimise carbon footprints, which refers to the amount of harmful gases, like carbon dioxide, released into the air from activities such as production and transportation. Waste can be reduced by recycling and reusing materials. Ethical sourcing ensures that materials are obtained responsibly, while goods should be designed for durability to reduce the need for frequent replacements. Additionally, production should support local communities and reduce transportation emissions, contributing to both environmental and social sustainability.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Option

1. (d) Natural beauty

2. (c) Sunlight
3. (c) Sikkim
4. (c) Kaveri
5. (c) France

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. thing/object
2. crop planning
3. groundwater
4. Wind
5. lokasangraha

C. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True

D. Match the Columns

1. Digboi (Assam) → Petroleum refinery town
2. Sikkim → Organic farming success
3. Jharkhand → Rich in coal and iron ore
4. ISA → International solar cooperation
5. Jaisalmer Fort → Mud structure refurbished with sandstone

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

A natural resource is anything obtained from nature that is useful to humans. Examples include air, water, forests, soil, and minerals.

2.

Two resources essential for life are:

- Air
- Water

3.

Jharkhand is rich in coal and iron ore.

4. Vrikshayurveda means the science and knowledge related to plants and trees. It explains methods of planting and protecting trees.

5.

Purification of air by forests is an example of an ecosystem service.

F. Short Answer Questions

1.

Renewable resources are those resources that can be naturally replenished in a short period of time. Examples are sunlight, wind, water, and forests.

Non-renewable resources are those resources that take millions of years to form and cannot be replaced quickly after use. Examples are coal, petroleum, and natural gas.

2.

Soil is called the foundation of our food supply because crops grow in soil. It provides nutrients, water, and support to plants. Fertile soil helps farmers produce grains, fruits, and vegetables that humans depend on for food

3.

In Punjab, farmers extracted groundwater continuously for irrigation, especially during the Green Revolution. Water was pumped out faster than it could be naturally replenished. As a result, groundwater levels decreased and water scarcity increased.

4.

1. Forests release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, helping to maintain the balance of gases in the atmosphere.
 2. Forests prevent soil erosion and help in maintaining the water cycle and rainfall.
5. Fairness in access to resources is important because resources belong to everyone. Equal access helps reduce conflicts and ensures that both present and future generations can use resources properly and sustainably.

G. Long Answer Questions

1.

A thing becomes a resource only when it satisfies certain conditions. These conditions are:

1. **Usefulness** – It must satisfy human needs.
2. **Technological Accessibility** – Humans should have the technology to use it.
3. **Economic Feasibility** – It should be affordable and profitable to use.
4. **Cultural Acceptability** – Society should accept its use.

For example:

- Petroleum became an important resource after technology was developed to extract and refine it.
- Solar energy is useful because solar panels can convert sunlight into electricity.
- River water becomes a resource when it is used for irrigation, drinking, or generating hydroelectricity.

Thus, a thing becomes a resource only when humans can use it effectively according to their needs.

2.

Resources are unevenly distributed because of differences in climate, relief, geology, and natural conditions.

In the World:

- The Middle East has abundant petroleum resources but very little fresh water.

- Africa is rich in minerals like gold and diamonds.
- Countries near the equator receive more solar energy.

In India:

- Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh are rich in coal and iron ore.
- Rajasthan has large deposits of sandstone and high solar energy potential.
- Punjab has fertile plains suitable for agriculture.
- Kerala receives heavy rainfall and has abundant water resources.

This unequal distribution affects economic development, industries, and the lifestyle of people in different regions.

3.

The “Natural Resource Curse” refers to a situation where countries or regions rich in natural resources remain economically weak or face problems like poverty, corruption, conflicts, and environmental damage instead of development.

Sometimes excessive dependence on resources reduces innovation and balanced growth.

Examples:

- Some oil-rich countries face political instability despite having huge oil reserves.
- Mining regions may suffer from pollution, deforestation, and poor living conditions.
- In India, excessive mining in some areas has caused environmental degradation and displacement of local communities.

4.

India has played an important role in promoting renewable energy through the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. ISA was launched by India and France in 2015 to encourage the use of solar energy among countries located in sunny regions.

India promotes:

Solar power projects

- Clean and sustainable energy

- International cooperation in renewable energy
- Reduced dependence on fossil fuels

Through ISA, India helps countries share technology, investment, and knowledge for solar energy development. This leadership supports global environmental protection and sustainable growth.

5.

Vrikshayurveda is an ancient Indian text related to plants, trees, and environmental conservation. It contains traditional ecological wisdom about protecting nature and maintaining balance in the environment.

The text explains:

- Scientific methods of planting and caring for trees
- Importance of soil fertility and water conservation
- Use of natural manure and organic farming methods
- Protection of forests and biodiversity
- Relationship between humans and nature

Vrikshayurveda teaches that nature should be respected and resources should be used wisely. Its ideas support sustainable development and environmental conservation even today.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion and Reasoning

Assertion (A):

Renewable resources can never be exhausted.

Reason (R):

They replenish themselves through natural cycles.

Correct Answer:

(b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) does not explain (A).

2. Source-Based Questions

(a) Name one reason for groundwater depletion in Punjab.

One major reason is excessive pumping of groundwater for irrigation purposes.

(b) What is the long-term effect of over-pumping groundwater?

Over-pumping lowers the groundwater table, creates water scarcity, reduces soil quality, and causes long-term environmental problems.

Ch – 2 Reshaping India’s Political Map

NCERT CORNER

Let’s Explore

Question 1.



Answer:

Ala-ud-din Khilji called himself ‘the second Alexander’ on his coin to show his ambition and military strength. He wanted to compare his conquests across north and central India and his defence against his Mongol invasions to Alexander the Great’s achievements in building a vast empire.

Question 2.

Answer:

Maintaining an army in those days required a wide range of resources. Weapons such as swords, bows, and later gunpowder artillery were essential for combat. Soldiers’ and animals needed a steady supply of food, including grain and other provisions. Animals like horses, elephants, and camels were important for both transport and fighting. Good infrastructure, including roads and bridges, was necessary to allow armies to move quickly and efficiently. Financing the army came from taxes imposed on common people and plunder from military campaigns, which paid for soldiers’ salaries, equipment, and fortifications. In addition, skilled artisans were needed to produce weapons, and labourers supported logistics and construction work.

Question 3.

Answer:

Medieval forts like Kumbhalgarh were built in strategic locations such as the Aravalli hills for several reasons.

The elevated terrain offered natural defence, better visibility for surveillance, and made it difficult for enemies to access. Surrounding forests provided resources. However, the isolation made it hard to get quick reinforcements, and the steep terrain complicated supply lines and construction.

Question 4.

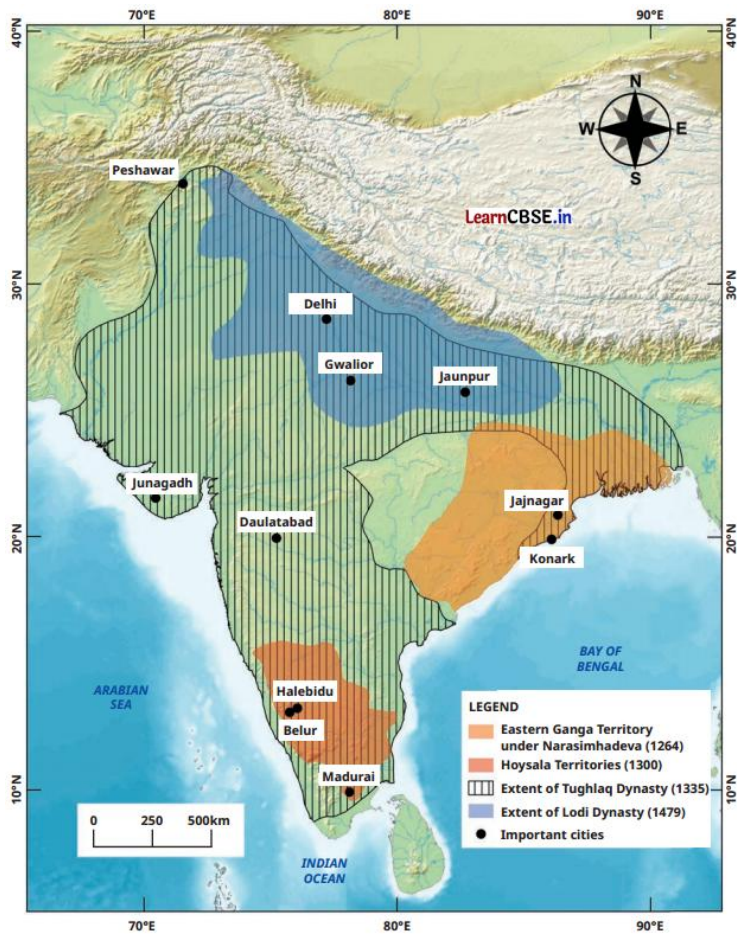


Answer:

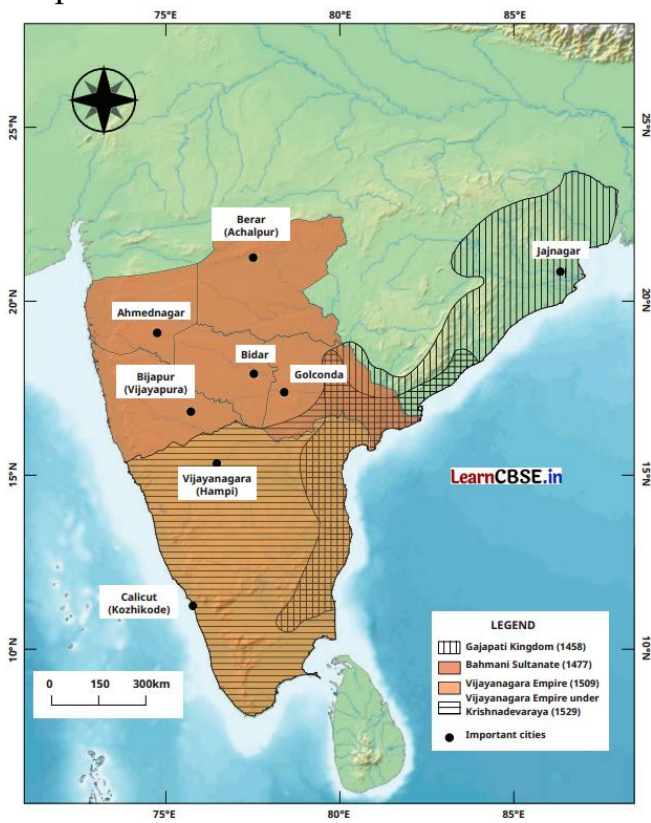
In above figure from the Vitthala temple shows warriors swords, spears, and shields, along with horses, and battle scenes. These elements show a society that valued warfare, where animals played an integral role in fighting and transport, reflecting a vibrant, conflict- driven culture.

Question 5.

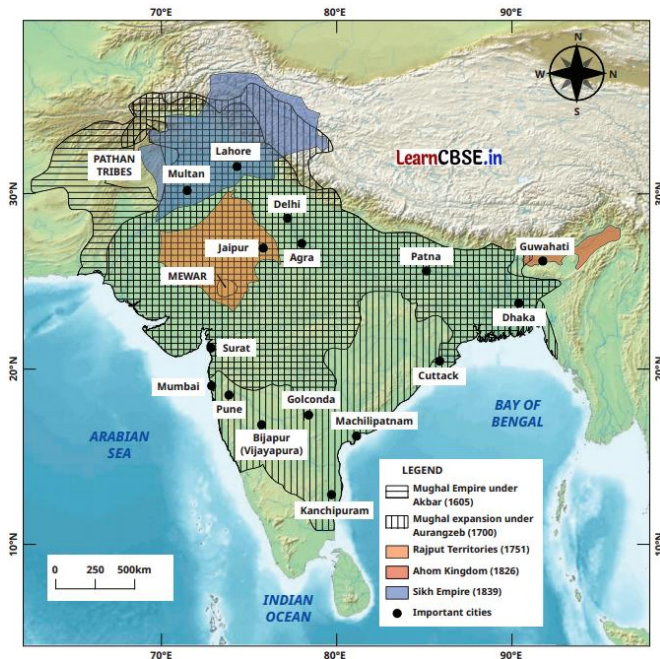
Map -1



Map – 2



Map – 3



Answer:

The maps show clear differences over time. Fig. 2.3 displays the Delhi Sultanate’s control mainly over northern India between the 13th and 15th centuries, while southern and eastern regions remained under independent kingdoms like the Hoysalas and Eastern Gangas. Fig. 2.12 illustrates the rise of the Vijayanagara Empire dominating the south, the Bahmani Sultanate ruling the Deccan, and the Gajapati kingdom in the east, reflecting a period of regional fragmentation.

Fig. 2.16 shows the Mughal Empire expanding to cover most of India during the reigns of Akbar and Aurangzeb, although some regional powers such as the Sikhs in northwestern tip and the Rajputs continued to resist. The reshaping that occurred involved a shift from the Delhi Sultanate’s mainly northern focus, to the emergence of strong southern and eastern powers like Vijayanagara and the Gajapatis, followed by the near-unification of India under the Mughals, influenced by invasions, regional resistance, and the rise of new dynasties.

Question 6.

Aurangzeb’s- letters reveal regret as he imprisoned his father, killed his brothers for the throne and killed several thousands of people during his brutal rule. During his last years, all wrong doings done by him including mass destruction of schools, temples, cities and loots must have reflected to him, that’s why he mentioned that he had NOT done well for the country and the people. Besides his regret, letters also reflects his loneliness during his last days of life and negative impact on. society at that time due to his atrocious rule and policies.

Question 7.**Answer:**

The paik system gave every able-bodied man land rights in return for labour or military service. This helped provide economic stability and ensured the king had a ready workforce and army without the need for permanent soldiers, saving costs. However, the mandatory service also disrupted daily life and put pressure on families due to the demands of labour. Overall, the system allowed the Ahom rulers to build important infrastructure like roads and canals and maintain strong defence forces, such as in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, which made the kingdom's economy and military more efficient.

Question 8.**Answer:**

The Ahoms used Assam's dense forests, hills, and rivers (Brahmaputra) for guerrilla tactics and ambushes, especially in the battle of Saraighat in 1671. The geography provided natural barriers and hiding spots for troops, while river routes helped in defences. This made it difficult for enemies to navigate, launch attacks, and maintain their supply lines.

Questions and Activities**Question 1.****Answer:**

Both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire used military power to expand their rule. They fought battles, raided cities, and collected taxes like jizya and land revenue to support their armies. However, their methods of governing were quite different. The Delhi Sultans mostly relied on force and used the iqta system, where land was given to nobles in return for military service. This often caused instability, with frequent power struggles and short reigns on average, only around nine years per sultan.

The Mughals, especially under Emperor Akbar, followed a more stable and thoughtful approach. They used diplomacy, made marriage alliances, and promoted religious tolerance through the idea of sulh-i-kul (peace with all). Akbar also introduced the mansabdari system to manage his officials and army better. This led to longer and more peaceful reigns — Mughal emperors ruled for about 27 years on average until Aurangzeb. So, while both relied on war and taxes, the Mughals had a more organised and lasting way of ruling the empire.

Question 2.**Answer:**

Kingdoms like the Vijayanagara Empire and the Ahom Kingdom were able to resist conquest for a longer time due to a mix of geographical advantages, strong military tactics, and social unity. The Vijayanagara Empire benefited from the natural protection of Hampi's rocky and hilly terrain, which made it hard for enemies to attack. Under rulers like Krishnadevaraya, they built a strong army and maintained unity through support for religion and culture, especially by building temples and encouraging literature.

On the other hand, the Ahom Kingdom in Assam used its dense forests, rivers, and hills to its advantage. They relied on guerrilla tactics and deep knowledge of the land to defeat larger invading forces, as seen in the famous Battle of Saraighat in 1671. Their paik system also helped build a flexible army by requiring every man to serve when needed. Both kingdoms had strong local support, which gave them social strength and stability. So, their geography, clever military planning, and strong community bonds helped them stay independent for longer than many others.

Question 3.

Answer:

Dear Friend,

I hope you are well. I want to share with you about life here in Vijayanagara under our great king, Krishnadevaraya. The empire is very strong and powerful, ruling much of the Deccan. The king is not only a brave leader but also a supporter of arts and learning. He encourages poets and scholars, and he even wrote a famous poem himself. Our city is full of beautiful temples, palaces, gardens, and busy markets. It is said to be as large and lovely as Rome. Many traders come from different places to buy and sell goods here.

Life in the city is full of energy and wealth. But after Krishnadevaraya passed away in 1529, things have become difficult. In 1565, a group of enemies fought against us and defeated our army in the Battle of Talikota. They destroyed many parts of our city, including temples and homes, and this has made life hard for many people. Now the empire is breaking into smaller parts, ruled by local leaders called Nayakas. Still, the memory of Krishnadevaraya's rule and the glory of Vijayanagara remain strong in our hearts.

Yours sincerely,
(Scholar's name)

Question 4.

Answer:

When Akbar became emperor at the young age of 13, he was a fierce and

ruthless leader focused on conquest and military power. Early in his reign, he showed great brutality, such as during the long siege of Chittor where many lives were lost and the survivors faced harsh treatment. However, over time, Akbar's attitude began to change. Through his interactions with people of different faiths, his marriage alliances with Rajput princesses, and the influence of scholars in his court, he gradually adopted a more tolerant and inclusive approach.

He abolished the jizya tax on non-Muslims and promoted the policy of sulh-i-kul, meaning 'peace with all,' which encouraged religious tolerance and harmony. Akbar realised that ruling through respect and cooperation brought greater stability and unity to his vast empire than ruling through fear alone. This change was also influenced by his personal reflections, as recorded by his court historian Abul Fazl, where Akbar admitted that forcing others to convert to Islam religion was wrong and unlikely to last. Thus, Akbar evolved from a harsh conqueror into a wise and benevolent ruler who valued peace and diversity.

Question 5.

Answer:

If the Vijayanagara Empire had won the Battle of Talikota in 1565, the history of South India could have been very different. The empire would have stayed strong and united, likely continuing to grow its power over the Deccan and beyond. This victory might have stopped the empire from breaking into smaller Nayaka states, helping Vijayanagara remain a powerful kingdom for much longer. Politically, a strong Vijayanagara could have stood firm against invasions from the Deccan Sultanates and even challenged northern powers like the Mughals, possibly changing the balance of power in India.

Culturally, the golden age under Krishnadevaraya might have lasted longer, bringing even greater growth in art, literature, and temple building. Poets, scholars, and religious centres would have continued to receive support, helping to keep cultural unity strong across the region. Temples and cities like Vijayanagara could have grown larger and more beautiful, attracting traders, artists, and pilgrims from far and wide. Overall, a Vijayanagara victory at Talikota might have turned South India into a leading political and cultural force for many centuries.

Question 6.

Answer:

Equality, as promoted by early Sikhism, is a value that remains strongly relevant in today's world. Guru Nanak's teachings about the oneness of God (Ik Onkar)

and the equal worth of all people challenged the deep social divisions of his time, such as caste and religious discrimination. Later Sikh Gurus continued this belief, not only through their words but also their actions — for example, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life defending the rights of Kashmiri Pandits to practise their faith freely. This shows that Sikhism stood firmly for the dignity and equality of all, regardless of religion or background.

In today's diverse and often divided societies, the values of equality, seva and justice help promote mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. It encourages us to treat everyone fairly, support those who face injustice, and build communities based on shared humanity. Whether in schools, workplaces, or daily life, the Sikh belief in equality reminds us to stand up for others and live with compassion and integrity.

Question 7.

Answer:

As a trader in the thriving port city of Surat, I witness scenes of great energy and wealth each day. Ships arrive from far-off places like Persia, Arabia, and Central Asia, bringing goods such as silk, horses, and metals. In return, we export Indian cotton textiles, spices, jewellery, and crafted items made by local artisans. The port is filled with busy labourers unloading cargo, while markets nearby bustle with merchants and buyers.

Trade is made smoother by the hundi system, allowing money to be transferred safely without carrying coins across borders. Many foreign merchants have even settled here, adding to the diversity and liveliness of the city. The temples around not only serve religious purposes but also support trade by offering credit and building public facilities. Despite political changes in the region, the economy of Surat remains vibrant and full of opportunity.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Option

1. (b) Prithviraj Chauhan
2. (c) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
3. (b) Vijayanagara Empire
4. (b) Akbar
5. (c) Ahoms

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. Prithviraj Chauhan
2. Ala-ud-din Khilji
3. Muhammad bin Tughlaq
4. musical
5. Khalsa

C. True or False

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True

D. Match the Columns

1. Konark Sun Temple → Eastern Ganga dynasty
2. Kumbhalgarh Fort → Rana Kumbha
3. Panch Mahal → Akbar
4. Baburnama → Babur
5. Amuktamalyada → Krishnadevaraya

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

The Vijayanagara Empire was founded by Harihara and Bukka in 1336.

2.

The two key systems were:

- Mansabdari system
- Jagirdari system

3.

The paik system was a labour and military service system in which adult males provided service to the Ahom state.

4.

Guru Arjan Dev compiled the Guru Granth Sahib.

5.

The Taj Mahal is a famous monument built under Shah Jahan.

F. Short Answer Questions

1.

Ala-ud-din Khilji conducted several successful military campaigns.

1. He defeated the Rajputs and captured important forts such as Chittor and Ranthambore.
2. He sent Malik Kafur to lead campaigns in the Deccan, where territories like Devagiri and Warangal were conquered.

These campaigns expanded the Delhi Sultanate and increased its wealth.

2.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced several ambitious policies, but many failed. Two major experiments were:

1. **Transfer of Capital** – He shifted the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad to better control the empire, but people suffered greatly and the decision failed.
2. **Token Currency** – He introduced copper coins equal in value to silver coins, but counterfeit coins spread rapidly, causing economic problems.

3.

Krishnadevaraya greatly promoted literature, art, and architecture. He encouraged Telugu literature and wrote the famous work *Amuktamalyada*. During his rule, magnificent temples and buildings were constructed at Hampi, making Vijayanagara a centre of culture and learning.

4.

Rani Durgavati is remembered for her bravery and resistance against the Mughal forces. She fought courageously to protect her kingdom and became a symbol of courage and sacrifice.

5.

A hundi was a financial document used by traders in medieval India. It worked like a bill of exchange and made trade safer by reducing the need to carry cash over long distances. Hundis helped in the growth of trade and commerce.

G. Long Answer Questions

1.

Akbar introduced several administrative reforms to strengthen the Mughal Empire. One important policy was **sulh-i-kul**, which means “universal peace.” Through this policy, Akbar promoted religious tolerance and treated people of all religions equally. He abolished the jizya tax and invited scholars from different faiths to his court.

Akbar also introduced the **mansabdari system**. Under this system, officials called mansabdars were given ranks according to their position and military responsibility. Mansabdars maintained soldiers for the emperor and were paid through jagirs.

These reforms improved administration, maintained peace, and strengthened the Mughal Empire.

2.

The Battle of Talikota was fought in 1565 between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Deccan Sultanates.

Causes:

- Rivalry between Vijayanagara and the Deccan Sultanates.
- Political conflicts over control of territories and trade routes.
- The Deccan Sultanates united against Vijayanagara.

Results:

- Vijayanagara was defeated badly.
- The capital city Hampi was destroyed and looted.
- The power of the Vijayanagara Empire declined after the battle.

The battle marked a turning point in the history of South India.

3.

Temples in medieval India were not only religious places but also centres of economic activity.

- Temples owned large areas of land.
- Farmers, artisans, dancers, and priests worked around temples.
- Temples received donations from rulers and merchants.
- They encouraged trade, crafts, and cultural activities.

Thus, temples played an important role in the social, cultural, and economic life of medieval India.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion and Reasoning

I.

Correct Answer:

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

II.

Correct Answer:

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

2. Source-Based Questions

(a)

Sulh-i-kul means “universal peace” or peace among all religions.

(b)

Mahabharata

Ramayana

(c)

These policies promoted religious harmony, gained the support of different communities, and helped Akbar maintain peace and stability in the empire.

Ch – 3 The Rise of the Marathas

NCERT CORNER

Question 1.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer] Yes, I have heard of the term ‘bhakti’. For me it means, having a deep belief and respect for God. Mirabai is a famous bhakti saint. She was from Rajasthan. She had a deep faith in Lord Krishna. She left her luxurious life and chose to sing and worship Lord Krishna for the rest of her life. Her bhajans are really inspirational. They teach how to build a firm faith in God and to love Him with our whole hearts. One of Mirabai’s famous bhajans is uPayoji maine Ram ratan dhan payo” which means “I have received the precious jewel of God’s name; these treasure troves are beyond all the wealth, and I hold it with great joy and love.”

Question 2.

Answer:

Guerrilla warfare is a very famous ancient fighting tactic to conquer powerful enemies. In this warfare, the soldiers divide themselves into small groups where they use surprise attacks, make pitfall traps, and quick movements in battle fields. Many countries such as Afghanistan, Vietnam and Cuba etc. used this warfare. The soldiers utilise thick forests, mountains and rugged hills and caves to crush their enemies.

Question 3.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer)

1. Title: The Killing of Afzal Khan
2. Scene: Afzal Khan planned to kill Shivaji with a hidden weapon during a meeting at the foot of Pratapgarh Fort in Maharashtra.
3. Afzal Khan: (hugging Shivaji) Come, Shivaji, let’s be friends.
4. Shivaji: (pulls out his wagh nakh and shouts) You betrayed me! (They fight. Shivaji wins.)
5. Narrator (walks around the stage): Shivaji’s courage and planning saved him and defeated a great threat.

Question 4.

Answer:

Yes, I have heard of the dance form ‘Bharatanatyam’. It is a very famous classical dance of Tamil Nadu. When the Maratha rulers ruled Thanjavur in South India, they supported and promoted Bharatanatyam and formed a deep connection with it. The Maratha emperors built temples to help the dancers grow, and supported preserving the art form.

Questions and Activities

Question 1.

Answer:

The Marathas lived in the Western Ghats mountains and near the west coast of India. The mountains helped them build strong forts for protection and secret paths for surprise attacks. The coastline helped them create a navy to protect maritime trade. These natural features made their military strong and advance.

Question 2.

Answer:

Kanhoji Angre – The Maratha Sea Lion Kanhoji Angre was a brave Maratha navy chief who protected India's west coast in the early 18th century. He fought against the powerful British and Portuguese ships that tried to control Indian trade. Even though his navy was smaller, he used smart ideas and sea knowledge to defeat them many times.

He built strong sea forts like Vijaydurg and kept watch over the Arabian Sea. The European powers feared him because he never let them win easily. Kanhoji made sure that Indian traders could do business without being looted by foreign powers. One big challenge he faced was fighting better-equipped European navies, but his courage and clever tactics helped him win. That's why he is still remembered as India's first great naval hero.

Question 3.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) If I could visit one Maratha fort, I would choose Raigad Fort. Raigad Fort was the capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji's empire. It is located on a high hill in Maharashtra and is surrounded by deep valleys, which made it very safe from enemies. Shivaji was crowned king here in 1674, and that is why this fort is very special.

The fort has strong stone walls, big entry gates, secret paths, and beautiful buildings like Queen's palace, Shivaji's throne, and market area. There are 1,737 steps to reach the top, or you can take a ropeway. From the top, you can see beautiful views of the mountains all around. This fort is important in history because it was the heart of the Maratha empire, and Shivaji ruled from here with justice and bravery. Visiting Raigad Fort would help me learn more about our history and Shivaji's great leadership.

Question 4.

Answer:

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.

Question 5.

Answer:

Shivaji and the later Marathas had religious tolerance and treated every other religion and beliefs with huge respect and equality. Shivaji was a devout Hindu, but he never attacked mosques or hurt people of other faiths. When he sacked Surat, he spared religious places and even protected the house of a kind man. He also had Muslim soldiers and officers in his army. Later, under the Thanjavur Marathas, a Muslim poet named Ambar Husain was allowed to write about the Bhagavad Gita, which shows religious harmony. This proves that the Marathas believed in respecting all religions and living together peacefully.

Question 6.

Answer:

Forts were very important for the Marathas because they gave them safety and control. The forts were built on high hills and had strong walls, which made it hard for enemies to capture them. When big armies like the Mughals attacked, the Marathas hid in forts, planned their next move, and used guerrilla warfare. From the forts, they could watch the roads, store food and weapons, and protect their people. That's why the forts were called the "core of the state" -As they helped the Marathas stay strong and fight back, even against larger and more powerful enemies.

Question 7.

Answer:

If I design a Maratha coin, it will show the greatness and values of the Marathas. On one side, I will draw Shivaji's face with a sword and a fort behind him. This shows his bravery and how he protected the kingdom using forts. I will also add the saffron flag, which stands for Hindu culture and unity.

On the other side, I will write in Sanskrit like Shivaji's royal seal. Around the edge, I will draw small picture of a ship (for the Maratha navy), a book (for

learning and justice), and hands shaking (for respect to all religions). This coin will show that the Marathas were brave, fair, wise, and respected every religion.

Question 8.

Answer:

I think the most important contribution of the Marathas was that they protected Indian culture and freedom when foreign powers like the Mughals and British were trying to rule India. Shivaji built a strong and fair kingdom, respected all religions, and started the idea of Swarajya (self-rule). The Maratha army fought bravely, even after Shivaji's death, and stopped the Mughals from taking full control. Leaders like Tarabai and Ahilyabai Holkar also did great work in war and peace. The Marathas ruled large parts of India and kept Indian traditions alive. That's why their contribution is so important.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Option

1. (b) Shivneri
2. (b) Afzal Khan
3. (c) Self-rule
4. (c) Sambhaji
5. (c) Abolition of Peshwaship

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. Ashtapradhan
2. Chauth and Sardeshmukhi
3. Sindhudurg
4. Panipat
5. Indore

C. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. False

4. True
5. False

D. Match the Columns

1. Jijabai → Mother of Shivaji
2. Bajirao I → Peshwa statesman, 1720–1740
3. Tarabai → Female Maratha leader, Mughal wars
4. Ahilyabai Holkar → Cultural patron, Indore
5. Serfoji II → Thanjavur ruler, promoted printing

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

Swarajya means self-rule or independent rule by one's own people.

2.

- Sant Tukaram
- Samarth Ramdas

3.

Shivaji was crowned as Chhatrapati at Raigad Fort in 1674.

4.

Lachit Borphukan led the Ahom victory at the Battle of Saraighat.

5.

- Raigad Fort
- Pratapgad Fort

F. Short Answer Questions

1. Jijabai played an important role in shaping Shivaji's personality. She taught him courage, justice, patriotism, and respect for all religions. Through stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, she inspired him to establish Swarajya and protect his people.

2.

The confrontation with Afzal Khan in 1659 was a major turning point in Shivaji's career. Shivaji defeated Afzal Khan using the wagh nakh and clever

planning. This victory increased Shivaji's reputation and strengthened Maratha confidence.

3.

Shivaji built a strong navy to protect the western coast from foreign powers such as the Portuguese and Siddis. He developed naval bases like Sindhudurg and built warships. His navy protected trade routes and strengthened Maratha maritime power.

4.

1. The Mughal Empire became weak due to long wars in the Deccan.
2. The Marathas emerged as a powerful political force after Aurangzeb's death.

5.

After Rajaram's death, Tarabai took charge of the Maratha resistance against the Mughals. She organised armies, inspired soldiers, and continued the struggle bravely. Her leadership helped keep the Maratha power alive.

G. Long Answer Questions

1.

Shivaji used guerrilla warfare, known as *ganimi kava*, to fight stronger enemies like the Mughals and the Bijapur Sultanate. He avoided open battles and used surprise attacks, quick movements, and knowledge of mountains and forests.

Shivaji built strong forts in difficult hill regions, which served as military bases and protection centres. His soldiers attacked suddenly and disappeared quickly, confusing enemy forces. He also used spies to collect information about enemy movements.

These strategies were highly effective because the Marathas had smaller armies compared to the Mughals. Guerrilla warfare helped Shivaji win many battles and establish Swarajya successfully.

2.

The Peshwas were the chief ministers of the Maratha Empire and later became its main rulers. Under leaders like Bajirao I, the Marathas expanded their control beyond Maharashtra into North and Central India.

Bajirao I was an excellent military leader who defeated several enemies and increased Maratha influence. The Marathas collected chauth and sardeshmukhi from different regions and became a major political power in India.

Thus, the Peshwas transformed the Maratha state into a pan-Indian empire.

3.

Shivaji organised an efficient administration to maintain balance between military and civil affairs. He appointed the Ashtapradhan, a council of eight ministers, to manage different departments such as finance, justice, foreign affairs, and defence.

He maintained a disciplined army and ensured proper revenue collection. Local officials looked after villages and protected farmers. Shivaji also respected women and religious places during military campaigns.

This balance helped maintain order and strengthened the Maratha state.

4. Ahilyabai Holkar was a wise ruler and patron of culture. She rebuilt temples, ghats, and dharamshalas across India. She developed Indore into a prosperous centre of trade and culture.

Serfoji II of Thanjavur encouraged education, literature, and printing technology. He supported libraries and learning centres and promoted the spread of knowledge.

Both rulers contributed greatly to Indian culture and public welfare.

5.

The Marathas promoted the idea of Swarajya, which inspired people to fight for self-rule. Shivaji encouraged the use of Marathi and Sanskrit in administration, strengthening regional identity and culture.

The Marathas protected Indian traditions, temples, and local culture during foreign invasions. Their resistance against Mughal and later British dominance inspired feelings of nationalism.

Thus, the Maratha legacy became an important source of courage, cultural pride, and patriotic spirit in Indian history.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion and Reasoning

I.

Correct Answer:

(a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) explains (A).

II.

Correct Answer:

(c) (A) is true, (R) is false.

2. Source-Based Questions

(a)

Shivaji's coronation took place at Raigad Fort.

(b)

The coronation symbolised Swarajya and the revival of Hindu kingship.

(c)

The coronation united the Marathas and gave them a strong political and cultural identity under Shivaji's leadership.

Ch- 4- The Colonial Era in India

NCERT CORNER

Question 1.



Answer:

Speed of Communication: Before the telegraph, messages traveled between countries in weeks or months. The cartoon will likely show characters shocked or amazed that they can now send messages “faster than the wind.” Visuals

could include a character in London pressing a key on a telegraph, while someone in India or America receives it instantly.

Transformative Power: This cartoon might illustrate the telegraph as powerful technology that continues to link previously remote sectors of the globe. It might depict a world being “shrunk” – the Earth seems smaller when people are able to communicate from continent to continent.

Colonialator: From a colonialism perspective, the telegraph allowed the British and other empires to assert their control over colonies much more easily. A cartoon can depict a British officer relating orders from London to officer in India instantly, with the commanding officer smiling – meaning he/she had total control.

Question 2.

Answer:

This painting shows the following aspects:

1. **Britain as Powerful and Supreme:** At the top, a white woman, Britannia, is seated, dressed like a goddess, representing Britain. She looks calm and confident, showing that Britain is powerful and in control.
2. **India Offering Wealth:** India is shown as a land full of riches. Dark-skinned figures (likely Indians) are bowing and offering pearls, jewels, and cotton to the British. This shows India as a supplier of valuable goods.
3. **China’s Role:** A figure from China is also offering a precious jar, suggesting that China too is contributing wealth to Britain.
4. **Animals and Trade:** Exotic animals from India are shown, and a man with a winged helmet (symbol of commerce and travel) holds a staff, symbolizing Britain’s global trade power.
5. **The East India Company’s Naval Power:** In the foreground, a powerful man with a trident represents the sea and naval strength, showing how the British controlled the seas and trade routes.
6. **‘Old Father Thames’:** The man in the bottom left symbolizes the River Thames and London, indicating that all the wealth from India and China is being brought to Britain.

Conclusion: According to all the groups in my class, the painting conveys one common message that Britain, especially through the East India Company, was a powerful, god-like force that ruled over the wealth of India and other

countries, using naval power, commerce, and controlled the colonies. It also showed that the colonies were places that exist to serve Britain by giving them their riches.

Question 3.

Answer:

Dadabhai Naoroji used the phrase “Un- British Rule in India” to highlight how British colonial governance violated the very principles of justice, fairness, and liberalism that Britain claimed to uphold. He argued that while British rule appeared civil and progressive on the surface, it was fundamentally exploitative and unjust in practice. As a British MP, he believed the British were not treating Indians with the same respect or rights given to people in Britain.

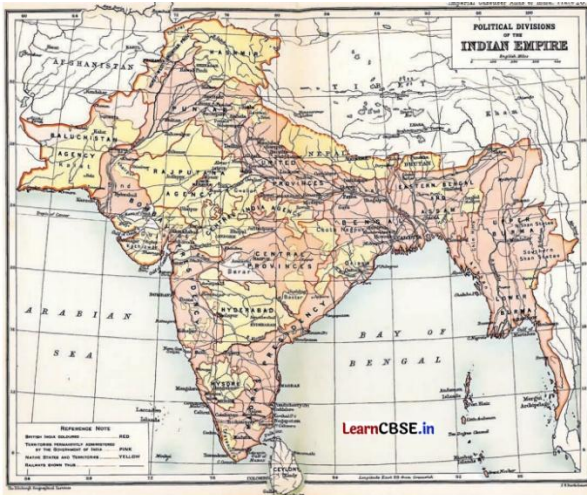
Question 4.

Answer:

Here are some terms used to describe Indian textiles listed below with their simplest explanation

1. Cotton: Cotton is a soft, fluffy fiber that grows around the seeds of cotton plant. It is used to make light and breathable clothes.
2. Silk : Silk is a fine and luxurious fabric that is commonly used to make saree, suite-salwar, and kurtas etc.
3. Wool : Wool is a soft, warm fiber taken from the fleece (hair) of animals like sheep, it is highly used during winters to make sweaters, shawls, mufflers etc.
4. Jute : Jute is a rough yet very strong fiber; used to make sacks, ropes, carpets, and mats.
5. Hemp : Hemp is a very strong natural fiber. It is used to make bags and ropes.
6. Coir : Coir is a dried fiber taken from the outer husk of coconuts.
7. Muslin : Muslin is a fine cotton; famous in Dhaka (Bangladesh) was used for royal garments and now is used to make regular wear cotton clothes.

Question 5.



Answer:

This historical map of the Indian Empire shows many differences from the map of today's India. Here are the main changes:

1. Borders:

- a. During British reign in 1909, India included Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar (Burma) as well.
- b. These countries have become separate nations now.
- c. The northwestern border included Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan).

2. Some places are called with different names now. For example:

- a. Calcutta is now Kolkata
- b. Bombay is now Mumbai
- c. Madras is now Chennai
- d. Burma is now Myanmar

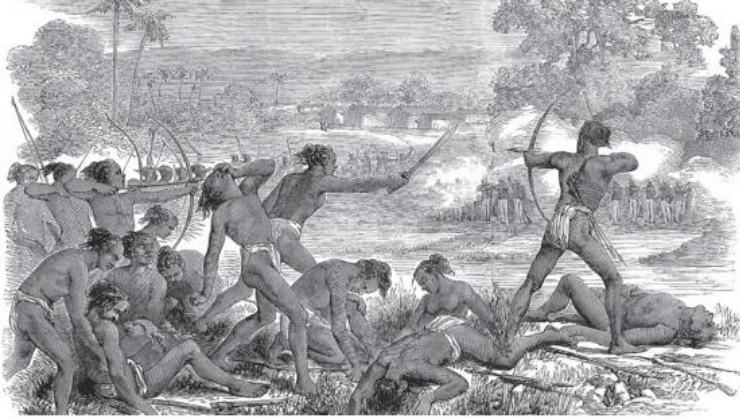
During British rule the regions were called Provinces, Agencies, or Native States, which no longer exist under those names.

3. Territories:

- a. The map shows areas in pink as “British India” (directly ruled by the British).
- b. Areas in yellow were “Native States” ruled by Indian kings under British control.
- c. Today, all areas are part of the Republic of India, with states and union territories except neighbouring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, which were formed later.

4. Railways: The map also shows railway lines, which were important during British rule for transport and control.

Question 6.



Answer:

In this 1856 sketch, the Santhals are shown with dark skinned, minimal clothing, with traditional bows and arrows. They appear wild, primitive, and violent, fighting British soldiers with their handmade traditional weapons. This image, drawn from imagination, likely created a negative and fearful picture in the British public's mind depicting the Santhals as uncivilized savages rather than people resisting injustice. It helped justify British rule as a "civilizing mission", hiding the real reasons for tribal uprisings like exploitation and land loss.

Question 7.

Answer:

India use several natural substances that have been traditionally used in India to dye cloth such as Turmeric, Henna (Mehndi), Madder root, Pomegranate rind, Indigo, Neem leaves, Bark of trees, Lac insect resin etc. and these substances give various colours like yellow, reddish-brown, red, pink, greenish, grey, purple etc. These dyes were eco-friendly and used in traditional textile arts like Block Printing, Kalamkari, and Bandhani.

Question 8.

Answer:

The term 'Sepoy Mutiny' was rejected by historians after Indian Independence because it gives the false idea that only a few Indian soldiers rebelled for personal or military reasons. In reality, the Revolt of 1857 was a large and widespread uprising involving not just Indian soldiers, but also farmers, landlords, regional kings, and citizens from different parts of India. It was a united fight against British rule and oppression. Calling it just a "mutiny" hides its true national character and the freedom struggle it represented.

Question 9.

Answer:

The word re-opened was used as India was already connected with the world through trade, its cultural heritage and philosophy long before colonialism. Here's a snapshot to its global exposure – India was a key player in trade through silk route and had a well-established sea ports and trade systems, exporting goods like spices, gems, cotton, indigo, and so much more. Buddhism and Hinduism were widely spread across the world even before the British. So British didn't connect India with the world because it was already connected

Question 10.

Answer:

Some say stolen Indian art is safe in foreign museums, many feel these stolen items belong to India and should be returned. They are a part of our history, identity, and pride. Keeping them in foreign museums ignores the injustice of how they were taken. India is now capable of preserving them properly and sharing them with its people.

They should be brought back home where they truly belong. If the Indian art and heritage were not looted by the Britishers, they would have been kept safely in temples, mathas, or under royal palaces and guarded by the regional kings. They would have continued to inspire local artists, scholars, and devotees. Today, they could have been on display in Indian museums, serving as symbols of our rich history and cultural identity, rather than being scattered across foreign countries.

Questions and Activities**Question 1.**

Answer:

Colonialism is the practice by which a powerful country controls and exploits another country or region, politically, economically, socially, and culturally, often using military force and economic pressure.

Three Different Definitions of Colonialism:

1. Definition from a historical perspective: "Colonialism is a system in which a foreign power establishes control over another country or territory and uses its resources to serve its own interests."
2. Political Definition: "Colonialism is the formal or informal political rule of one country over another, often involving conquest, annexation, and the suppression of local governance."

3. Economic and Social Definition: “Colonialism is a process where a dominant country exploits the economy, labor, and natural resources of the colonised land, while also trying to impose its language, education, and culture.”

Question 2.

Answer:

No, this claim was not true in the case of India. The British claimed that they came ‘ to “civilise” Indians by introducing modern education, law and order railways and so on but the real motive was economic exploitation and political control. The so-called civilising mission was a cover to justify colonisation.

Evidence from the Chapter:

1. Economic Exploitation:

- India’s raw materials like cotton, indigo, and spices were taken to feed British industries.
- Indian industries, especially textiles, were destroyed to promote British imports and policies.

2. Heavy Taxation and Famines:

- The British imposed high taxes on peasants and landowners.
- During the Famine of 1770-72, millions died, but the British continued collecting revenue instead of providing food at minimum cost.

3. Destruction of Traditional Governance:

- The British dismantled India’s indigenous ruling systems.
- Local rulers were defeated or forced into unfair treaties.

4. Biased Education Policies:

- Macaulay’s English education aimed to create Indians who thought like the British.
- From the above evidences, we can conclude that colonialism deeply affected India’s economy and culture, creating a social and religious division. The legacy of European colonialism in India is one of exploitation, brutal repression, violence and uprooting.

Question 3.

Answer:

Aspect	Portuguese French	British
Main Aim	Trade (spices, textiles) and sea dominance	Long-term political control and economic exploitation
Territory Control	Limited to ports like Goa (Portuguese) and Pondicherry (French)	Took over vast territories across India through wars, treaties, and annexations
Approach	Violent but shortterm; mostly stayed coastal	Systematic, using diplomacy, military, and administration to expand rule
Military-Strategy	Relied on alliances and small armies	Built a large army (with Indian sepoy), defeated major Indian powers (like Bengal, Mysore, Marathas)
Admini-stration	No strong administration; focus was commerce	Established strong British administrative structures like ICS, new laws, land systems
Cultural Impact	Minor influence, mainly in religion (Portuguese Christianity)	Deep cultural influence: English education, legal systems, railways, western customs

The British approach to colonising India was more systematic, organised, and long-lasting compared to the earlier European powers like the Portuguese and the French, who were mainly focused on trade and coastal control. Key Differences:

The British went beyond trading they built an empire, interfered in Indian politics, introduced new systems, and completely reshaped India's economy and society. In contrast, the Portuguese and French were mainly commercial powers with limited political ambitions and smaller territorial countries

Question 4.

Answer:

During colonial rule, the British introduced major infrastructure projects such as the railway, telegraph, and postal networks. While these appeared modern and

progressive, their main purpose was to serve British interests, not the welfare of Indians.

How Indians ‘Funded their own subjugation’:

Aspect	Explanation
Indian Taxes	Indian peasants, farmers, and workers were heavily taxed. This money was used to finance infrastructure projects.
Railways	Built to transport raw materials (like cotton, coal, indigo) from the interiors to ports for British industries not to help Indian travel or trade.
Telegraph & Communication	Set up mainly to maintain fast communication between British officials and troops helping suppress Indian revolts quickly.
No Indian Benefit	Indians bore the cost through taxes, land revenue, and labor while getting very little in return. Education, health, and rural development were ignored.

Conclusion: The infrastructure may have modernized India physically, but it was funded by Indians to strengthen British economic and military control. So, Indians unknowingly paid in the form of heavy taxes and natural resources in India, for the very tools used to dominate and exploit them.

Question 5.

Answer:

“Divide and Rule” refers to a strategy used by the British to maintain their control over India by creating or deepening divisions among Indians especially on the basis of religion, caste, region, and class so that Indians would not unite against British rule.

Strategy	Description

Hindu-Muslim Divide	The British often portrayed Hindus and Muslims as different and opposing communities. This led to growing mistrust and later the partition of Bengal in 1905.
Princely States vs. British India	The British kept Indian princes loyal by giving them gifts, titles, or autonomy. This helped prevent a united Indian front.

Examples of “Divide and Rule” Policy in India:

Conclusion: The British mastered the art of “Divide and Rule”, using religious, social, and political differences among Indians to keep them weak and disunited making it easier for a small foreign power to rule a vast country.

Question 6.

Answer:

Colonialism and Indian Agriculture: A Lasting Impact Under British colonial rule, Indian agriculture underwent a massive transformation but not for the benefit of the farmers or the people. The British introduced cash crop farming like indigo, cotton, and opium, forcing farmers to grow crops that suited British industries instead of food for local consumption.

The Permanent Settlement of 1793 made zamindars (landlords) responsible for collecting taxes, which led to the exploitation of peasants. These farmers had to pay heavy taxes regardless of their harvest, pushing many into debt and poverty. Famines became more frequent like the devastating famine of 1770, where millions died, even while grains were exported to Britain.

The British also introduced the railways, not to help farmers sell their produce, but to transport raw materials quickly to ports. Indian agriculture became heavily dependent on global markets controlled by the British.

Many farmers are trapped in debt. There’s a continued focus on cash crops over food crops in some regions. The zamindari mindset still lingers in parts of India where landowners exploit labourers. Rural distress, poor irrigation, and lack of fair pricing can still be traced back to colonial-era policies.

Question 7.

Answer:

The Jhansi Flame: Rani Lakshmibai’s Heroic Resistance!

Date: June 1858

Reporter: Vansh Mishra The Hindustan Herald

Jhansi, Bundelkhand Region : The brave Rani Lakshmi Bai, the queen of Jhansi, stood tall against the might of the British East

India Company in one of the fiercest episodes of the 1857 Rebellion. When the British tried to annex Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse, denying her adopted son Damodar Rao's right to the throne, the Lakshmi Bai famously declared, "I shall not surrender my Jhansi!"

Refusing to bow to colonial injustice, she led her army comprising women warriors and loyal sepoys into battle. Her courage, leadership, and swordsmanship have turned her into a legend across India. In June 1858, after intense fighting, British forces captured Jhansi. But Rani Lakshmi Bai escaped, regrouped, and joined forces with Tatya Tope and the Nawab of Banda. She died heroically in battle at Gwalior, sword in hand, dressed as a soldier. Her resistance continues to inspire a nation rising in unity.

Timeline / Storyboard: Rani Lakshmi Bai and the 1857 Revolt

1. 1853 – British annex Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse.
 - Rani protests the decision; appeals to the British, which are ignored.
2. May 1857 – Revolt begins in Meerut and spreads rapidly across north India.
 - Sepoys and local rulers rise against British rule.
3. June 1857 – Jhansi rebels; British officers are killed.
 - Rani Lakshmi Bai reluctantly assumes command to protect the city.
4. March 1858 – British under Sir Hugh Rose lay siege to Jhansi.
 - Rani leads a fierce defense. Women also take up arms.
5. April 1858 – Jhansi falls, but Rani escapes with her loyal forces.
6. June 1858 – Rani joins Tatya Tope in Gwalior.
 - Fights the British in her final battle.
 - June 17, 1858: Rani Lakshmi Bai is martyred.
 - Statues and poems celebrate her bravery ("Khoob ladi mardani, woh toh Jhansi wali Rani thi!").
 - Remembered as a symbol of resistance and patriotism.

- Honoured annually in schools, parades, and women's leadership programs.

Question 8.

Answer:

Title: The Lotus Never Wilted

In an alternate timeline, the sails of the Portuguese ships were blown off course in 1498, never reaching Calicut. The British, preoccupied with wars in Europe, turned their eyes elsewhere. India, untouched by colonial domination, flourished under a confederation of regional kingdoms bound by trade, diplomacy, and cultural unity.

By the mid-1700s, the Maratha Confederacy and the Mysore Sultanate formed a Grand Assembly with the Rajput kingdoms and the Sikh Empire. This political innovation, known as the Bharatiya Sabha, allowed for shared governance, trade regulation, and collective security. Sanskrit and Persian were retained as scholarly languages, while regional tongues thrived through education and literature.

Instead of railways built for resource extraction, India built its own transport systems to unify its vast geography. Indigenous industries in silk, cotton, metalwork, and shipbuilding modernised through global exchange with Japan, the Ottoman Empire, and China. Universities in Takshashila and Nalanda were revived, blending ancient philosophy with modern science.

By 1900, India was a global leader in astronomy, Ayurveda, and mathematics. The city of Varanasi was known as the "Light of the East," rivaling Paris and Tokyo in art and academia. The caste system had weakened under pressure from reformist leaders like Savitri Bai Holkar and Maulana Azad Khan, who championed universal education and equal rights.

In 1947, while much of the world reeled from war, India hosted the World Congress of Civilizations in Madurai, emphasizing cooperation over conquest.

In this India, the tricolor still flew not as a symbol of freedom from colonization, but of unity in diversity, of a civilization that charted its own path without ever being shackled. The lotus, undisturbed by foreign hands, bloomed freely in the sunlight of selfdetermination.

Question 9.

Answer:

A Historical Role-Play Dialogue:

Setting: London, late 1890s. A private chamber in the British Parliament after a debate.

British Official (Sir Edward Harrington): Mr. Naoroji, while I respect your intellect, I must say your so-called “Drain Theory” is rather exaggerated. The British Empire has brought railways, law, and education to India. Surely, the benefits outweigh the costs?

Dadabhai Naoroji: Sir Harrington, with due respect, I acknowledge the infrastructure and institutions established but at whose expense? India’s wealth is being drained to Britain under the guise of administration, trade, and defense without fair return. My knowledge says millions of pounds were taken from India without equivalent service.

Sir Harrington: But India is a part of the Empire. It is only natural that subjects contribute to the crown’s responsibilities. Would India have had such modern systems without British guidance?

Naoroji: Guidance should not be exploited. We are not against progress, but it must be equitable. You build railway to transport raw materials not to empower Indians. Our industries are dying, our artisans are impoverished, and famine haunts us while British coffers grow. Is this progress?

Sir Harrington: It is the nature of the empire resources flow to the center. That is how civilisation advances.

Naoroji: Then allow Indians to govern themselves. If the Empire truly seeks civilisation, let it begin with justice. We seek representation, rights, and dignity. Not charity, but self-rule.

Sir Harrington (pauses): You are a rare Indian voice in Parliament, Mr. Naoroji. But do you truly believe India is ready for self governance?

Naoroji: We are more than ready. For centuries, India governed itself with wisdom. We ask not for domination, but for the return of what is rightfully ours our voice, our wealth, and our freedom.

Question 10.

Explore a local resistance movement (tribal, peasant or princely) from your state or region during the colonial period. Prepare a report or poster describing:

- What was the specific trigger, if any?
- Who led the movement?
- What were the demands?

- How did the British respond?
- How is this event remembered today (e.g. local festivals, songs, monuments)

Answer:

Report: The Santhal Rebellion (1855-56)

Region: Present-day Jharkhand (then part of Bengal Presidency)

Tribal Group: Santhals

Trigger: The Santhals were forced to live under the oppressive rule of zamindars, moneylenders, and British revenue officials. Land alienation, high taxes, and exploitation led to poverty, loss of dignity, and starvation. The Santhals, once peaceful cultivators, were pushed to desperation.

The Spark: In June 1855, in a village called Bhognadih, leaders Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu raised the banner of revolt. Thousands of Santhals gathered, declaring they would no longer obey British laws or pay taxes.

Leaders of the Movement

1. Sidhu Murmu
2. Kanhu Murmu
3. Supported by brothers Chand and Bhairav

These brave leaders mobilised around 60,000 Santhals to fight for justice.

Demands and Actions

1. End to zamindari exploitation.
2. Return of tribal land.
3. A government by Santhals for Santhals.
4. Punishment of corrupt moneylenders and British agents.

The Santhals attacked British outposts, government buildings, and moneylenders' houses using traditional weapons and guerrilla warfare.

British Response

1. The British responded with brutal force.
2. Martial law was declared.
3. Thousands of Santhals were killed.
4. Sidhu and Kanhu were eventually captured and executed.

Legacy and Memory

1. Remembered as the first major tribal uprising against the British.
2. Bhognadih is now a memorial site.
3. June 30 is celebrated as Hul Diwas (Day of Revolt).
4. Songs, dances, and plays in tribal villages still narrate their bravery.
5. Statues of Sidhu-Kanhu are found in Dumka and Ranchi.
6. Santhal Hul Museum preserves their memory.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Option

1. (c) Calicut
2. (b) The beginning of British political dominance in India
3. (b) Dadabhai Naoroji
4. (a) Bengal
5. (d) Raja Rammohan Roy

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. Cartaz
2. Bengal
3. Colachel
4. 1835
5. Kohinoor

C. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False

D. Match the Columns

1. Battle of Plassey → 1757
2. Indigo Revolt → 1859–60
3. Santhal Rebellion → 1855–56
4. Dadabhai Naoroji → Drain of Wealth
5. Vasco da Gama → 1498

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

Colonialism is a system in which one country controls and exploits another country politically, economically, and socially.

2. Europeans came to India mainly for trade, especially to obtain spices, textiles, and other valuable goods.

3.

Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa in 1510.

4.

Bahadur Shah Zafar was the symbolic emperor during the Revolt of 1857.

5. Muslin was a famous traditional Indian textile before colonial rule.

F. Short Answer Questions

1.

European countries expanded colonies mainly for trade, wealth, and political power. They wanted spices, raw materials, and new markets for their goods. Colonies also increased their military and economic strength.

2.

The famines caused severe suffering and deaths among people. Heavy taxes, export of food grains, and British economic policies worsened the situation. Agriculture declined, poverty increased, and millions of people suffered starvation.

3. Farmers refused to grow indigo and protested against the exploitation of British planters. They united peacefully, filed complaints, and demanded justice. This showed organised resistance without large-scale violence.

4.

- Rani Lakshmibai bravely fought against the British to defend Jhansi.
- Begum Hazrat Mahal led resistance in Awadh and opposed British rule strongly.

Both became symbols of courage and patriotism.

5.

Macaulay's Minute introduced English education in India. It promoted Western knowledge, science, and literature while reducing the importance of traditional Indian education systems.

G. Long Answer Questions

1. The British first came to India for trade through the East India Company. Gradually, they interfered in Indian politics and took advantage of conflicts among Indian rulers.

The Battle of Plassey (1757) gave them control over Bengal. Later, victories in battles such as Buxar strengthened their power. The British used policies like Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse to expand their territories.

Slowly, they transformed from traders into rulers and established British colonial rule over India.

2.

Dadabhai Naoroji explained that Britain was draining India's wealth through unfair economic policies. Raw materials were exported cheaply while finished goods were imported at high prices.

His Drain Theory exposed British exploitation and made Indians aware of the economic damage caused by colonial rule. It inspired nationalist feelings and encouraged people to demand self-government.

3.

Colonialism deeply affected India in many ways.

Economic Impact:

- Indian industries and handicrafts declined.
- Farmers suffered due to heavy taxes and cash crop cultivation.
- Wealth was drained to Britain.

Social Impact:

- New education systems and social reforms emerged.
- Railways, telegraphs, and postal systems were introduced.

Cultural Impact:

- English language and Western ideas spread.
- Traditional Indian culture and education systems weakened in some areas.

Thus, colonialism changed India's economy, society, and culture significantly.

4.

The Revolt of 1857 was caused by political, economic, military, and religious reasons. Indian rulers lost territories due to British policies like the Doctrine of Lapse. Soldiers were unhappy because of low salaries and the use of greased cartridges.

The revolt began at Meerut in May 1857 and spread to Delhi, Kanpur, Jhansi, Lucknow, and other places. Leaders like Rani Lakshmibai, Tantia Tope, Nana Sahib, and Begum Hazrat Mahal played important roles.

Although the revolt failed, it had major consequences:

- The East India Company rule ended.
- India came under direct control of the British Crown.
- Nationalist feelings among Indians increased.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion and Reasoning

Correct Answer:

(a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) explains (A).

2. Source-Based Questions

(a)

Dadabhai Naoroji described this process as the "Drain of Wealth."

(b)

Indian industries declined because raw materials were exported cheaply while British manufactured goods flooded Indian markets, harming local artisans and craftsmen.

Ch- 5 Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System

NCERT CORNER

Question 1.

Answer:

The decision to lower the voting age in India from 21 to 18 in 1988 was a significant step towards a more inclusive democracy. It gave young adults the right to participate in elections, recognising them as capable of making decisions that affect their future. This move aligned India with global standards and allowed millions of young people to have a voice in shaping policies on issues like education and employment! Although concerns about political maturity were raised, the long-term benefits of engaging youth in the democratic process far outweighed these concerns, making it a positive change for India's democracy.

Question 2.

Answer:

The Constitution makers may have decided on Universal Adult Franchise from the time of independence to:

1. Ensure equality and fairness by giving every adult citizen, regardless of caste, gender, creed, religion, income, or education, the right to vote.
2. Strengthen democracy by involving all citizens in the decision-making process.
3. Break social hierarchies and promote social justice in a diverse country like India.
4. Show the world that India believes in inclusive and participatory governance right from the start.

Question 3.

(a) What role do such measures play in a democracy?

Answer:

These measures ensure that every eligible citizen, including the elderly,

disabled, and those in remote areas, can participate in the electoral process. This helps uphold the principle of Universal Adult Franchise and strengthen democracy by making it inclusive.

(b) Do you know of anyone who benefitted from these improved accessibility measures?

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) Yes, I know of an elderly neighbour who was able to vote from home during the 2024 general elections using the postal voting option.

(c) How might they increase voter participation in your neighbourhood?

Answer:

These measures can encourage more people, especially those with physical limitations or mobility issues, to vote by making the process easier and more accessible.

(d) How can technology assist?

Answer:

Technology can assist by providing braille-enabled voter cards, mobile apps to request assistance, and ensuring polling stations are equipped with tools like ramps and support for disabled. This helps remove barriers and enables more inclusive participation.

Question 4.

Answer:

The Election Commission of India is dedicated to making voting accessible for persons with disabilities (PwDs). PwD voters are registered under four categories: visual impairment, speech and hearing disability, locomotor disability, and others. They can register online, at service centres, or via the Saksham app. Key initiatives to assist PwDs include:

1. Mapping PwDs polling station wise for better support
2. Ensuring polling stations are on the ground floor.
3. Providing PwD-friendly facilities and separate queues.
4. Offering optional home voting.
5. Issuing voter ID cards and slips in Braille.
6. Adding Braille features on voting machines.
7. Providing wheelchairs, ramps, and free pick-and-drop transport.

Question 5.

Answer:

The 34 per cent of eligible voters who did not vote may have faced voter apathy due to a lack of awareness, disinterest in politics, or the belief that their vote would not make a difference. Additionally, practical difficulties such as long distances to polling stations, health issues, or lack of proper ID may have also prevented them from voting.

(b) What are some challenges people face in exercising their rights?

Answer:

Some challenges that people face in exercising their rights are:

1. Physical disabilities or old age.
2. Inaccessible polling stations.
3. Lack of Voter ID or registration issues.
4. Low awareness about voting procedures.
5. Poor transportation in remote areas.
6. Work or family commitments on voting day.

(c) Design and conduct a short survey among adults in your family and neighbourhood to answer these questions. Analyse the data and write a report with suggestions on how it may be possible to ensure everyone votes.

Answer:

The survey revealed that many participants faced transportation issues and long wait times at polling booths. Additionally, some lacked sufficient information about candidates and the voting process. Based on this, suggestions include arranging mobile polling booths for remote areas to ensure accessibility, launching awareness campaigns to educate voters, and encouraging civic responsibility through community programs. Extended voting hours and providing better transportation options would also help increase voter participation. Making polling stations more accessible to people with disabilities would further ensure that everyone has the opportunity to vote.

Question 6.

Answer:

The most important aspects of the election process in this caselet are:

1. Free and fair election without any influence or pressure.

2. Every student had right to vote which shows equality.
3. Secret ballot to protect voter privacy.
4. Independent election officer to conduct and oversee election.
5. Another teacher was called to witness the counting process which shows transparency and accountability.
6. Voter awareness and participation.

Question 7.

Answer:

A secret ballot ensures that voters can make their choices freely without fear, pressure, or influence from others. It protects the privacy of the voter and helps maintain the fairness and integrity of the election.

Question 8.

Answer:

While exercising their choice, the students might have considered the following:

1. The candidate's background and honesty.
2. Issues that the candidates promised to resolve.
3. Personal beliefs or values.

Question 9.

Answer:

Yes, the students have a responsibility now that Gurmat has been elected as the class representative. They should cooperate with her in fulfilling the promises she made during her campaign, even if they did not vote for her. By supporting her efforts, all the students stand to benefit, not just those who voted for her.

Question 10.

Answer:

Ms. Usha was appointed as the Election Officer for the annual class representative election. It was essential to ensure that the election process was fair, transparent, and conducted in strict accordance with the rules, without any bias.

Question 11.

Answer:

It was important for Ms. Usha to arrange Braille ballot papers for Neha, as she was visually impaired. Without them, Neha would not have been able to cast her

vote. In a democracy, every eligible individual has the right to vote. Since Neha was a student in that class and met the criteria, she was eligible. If Ms. Usha had not made the necessary arrangements, Neha would have been unfairly excluded from the voting process.

Question 12.

Answer:

If many students choose not to mark a preference during the election, it could lead to several consequences. The number of valid votes would decline, potentially undermining the credibility of the election results. The elected representative might secure victory by a narrow margin, which raises concerns about whether they truly represent the majority's choice.

A high level of non-participation may reflect disinterest or apathy towards the election, which could discourage future candidates and weaken overall student engagement in class affairs. Additionally, students who abstain from voting miss the opportunity to influence the outcome, which may result in dissatisfaction with the chosen representative.

Question 13.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) We invited two teachers from our school, Mrs. Sunita Sharma and Mr. Rajesh Kumar, who were part of election duty during the 2024 general elections, to speak to our class. Mrs. Sharma was posted at a rural polling booth and shared how she was trained to use EVMs and WPATs. She spoke about the challenges of reaching remote areas and ensuring that every voter could take part.

Mr. Kumar worked at a booth in the city and explained how the team made sure everything ran smoothly. He also mentioned about the special help given to elderly and disabled voters, like ramps and braille slips. Both teachers said the work was tiring but gave them a sense of pride. Their experiences helped us understand how important and well-organised the voting process is in our democracy.

14.

India's EVM and VVPAT systems are known for making elections faster, transparent, and reliable. The Election Commission of India has helped countries like Namibia and Bhutan by providing technical support and training. These systems reduce errors in counting, save paper, and strengthen trust in elections. India's election technology has become an example for many countries around the world.

15.

VVPAT increases transparency and trust in elections. It allows voters to check whether their vote has been recorded correctly. The paper slip acts as proof and can be used during recounting or technical disputes. Thus, VVPAT helps ensure free, fair, and accurate elections.

16.

The Election Commission of India handles complaints such as:

- Distribution of money or gifts to influence voters
- Hate speeches and violation of the Model Code of Conduct
- Fake voting or booth capturing
- Use of unfair campaign methods
- Problems related to voter lists or polling booths

The ECI investigates these complaints and takes action to maintain free and fair elections.

Question 17.

Answer:

These actions are violations of the Model Code of Conduct because:

1. Sarees distributed: Giving gifts or freebies to voters is considered bribery, which is unfair and influences voters' choices.
2. Abusive language against another candidate: Using foul or disrespectful language goes against the principle of respectful campaigning and can incite hatred or violence.
3. Government officials working for ruling party candidate: Government officers must remain neutral during elections. Their involvement supports unfair advantage and undermines free and fair elections.
4. 500 bundles found in car: Carrying large sums of unaccounted cash during elections suggests an attempt to buy votes, which is illegal and unethical.

These practices go against the spirit of fairness, transparency, and equality that elections must follow in a democracy.

Question 18.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) In my region i.e., Delhi the next election will be held to Municipal Corporation of Delhi in 2027. This will be an urban local body election.

Question 19.

Answer:

(Students to rewrite answer after finding their local MLAs and MP). In my constituency, which is the Gurugram Lok Sabha constituency in Haryana, we are represented by Rao Inderjit Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), elected in the 2025 General Elections. This parliamentary constituency includes nine assembly segments. Some key MLAs (2025) are Mukesh Sharma from Gurgaon, Rao Narbir Singh from Badshahpur, Bimla Chaudhary from Pataudi (SC), and Tejpal Tanwar from Sohna.

Question 20.

Answer:

All the representatives of the Gurugram Lok Sabha constituency, including the Member of Parliament (MP) and the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), belong to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This includes Rao Inderjit Singh, the MP, along with the MLAs from the Gurgaon, Badshahpur, Pataudi (SC), and Sohna assembly segments. The entire representation at both the national and state levels is from the BJP.

Question 21.

Answer:

The concerns of an MP and MLAs differ in scope. An MP focuses on national issues, such as passing laws, representing the region in Parliament, and addressing broader topics like infrastructure, economic growth, and national policies. MLAs, however, concentrate on local matters like improving roads, water supply, healthcare, education, and ensuring that state policies benefit their communities. While the MP deals with national governance, MLAs focus on the development and needs of their constituencies.

Questions and Activities

Question 1.

Answer:

Universal adult franchise (UAF) means that every adult citizen has the right to vote, regardless of caste, gender, religion or wealth. It is important for a healthy

democracy because it ensures equal participation, represents all sections of society and holds leaders accountable to the people.

Question 2.

Answer:

A secret ballot means voting in private so that no one knows who a person has voted for.

It is important in a democracy as it protects voters from pressure or threats and ensures free and fair elections by allowing people to vote without fear or influence.

Question 3.

Answer:

In a direct election, citizens vote directly for the candidates they wish to elect. For example, elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, Gram Panchayats, and Municipal Corporations are all direct elections. Here, the voters choose their representatives themselves through universal adult franchise.

In contrast, an indirect election is when elected representatives vote to choose a leader or representative. Examples of indirect elections in India include the election of the President, Vice President, and members of the Rajya Sabha. In these cases, Members of Parliament (MPs) or Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) cast votes on behalf of the people.

Question 4.

Answer:

Members of the Lok Sabha are elected through direct elections. All citizens aged 18 and above vote directly for their representatives in their constituencies. The candidate with the most votes becomes a Member of Parliament (MP). On the other hand, Rajya Sabha members are chosen through indirect elections. They are elected by the MLAs (Members of State Legislative Assemblies), not by the public. Some members are also nominated by the President for their special contributions to society.

Question 5.

Answer:

Advantages of EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) over ballot papers are:

1. **Faster Counting:** Results can be declared quickly as counting is done electronically.
2. **Cost-effective:** Saves paper, printing and transportation costs.

3. Reusable: EVMs can be used multiple times, they have to be only calibrated as per the requirement
4. Reduces Errors: Minimises human errors in counting.
5. Eco-friendly: No need of paper, so it helps save trees
6. Prevents Fraud: Reduces chances of invalid or tampered votes.

Question 6.

Answer:

Voter turnout has been declining in some urban areas of India due to several reasons. These include voter apathy, lack of awareness, busy lifestyles, and a sense of disillusionment with political candidates or the electoral process. Some people also feel that their single vote will not make a difference.

To encourage more people to vote, steps like increasing voter awareness through campaigns, making the voting process easier with facilities like online registration and better access to polling booths, and encouraging youth participation through educational programs can be helpful. Additionally, ensuring transparency and accountability in politics can help build trust and motivate citizens to take part in elections..

Question 7.

Answer:

A proportion of seats in the Lok Sabha is reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to ensure their adequate representation in Parliament.

These communities have faced historical discrimination and social disadvantage, which have limited their participation in politics. Reservations help give them a voice in the law-making process, promote equality, and supports their inclusion in the democratic system.

Question 9.

Answer:

Benefits of Social Media in Elections and Democracy are:

1. Wider reach and engagement: Social media allows political messages to reach a vast and diverse audience quickly and at a low cost.
2. Increased Political Participation: More people, especially youth, are engaging in political discussions and campaigns through platforms like Instagram and Twitter.
3. Real-Time Communication: Politicians can communicate directly with the public, bypassing traditional media filters.

4. **Transparency and Accountability:** Social media can expose corruption or misinformation and hold politicians accountable through viral content.

Challenges of Social Media in Elections and Democracy are:

1. **Misinformation and Fake News:** False information can spread quickly, influencing voters based on lies or half-truths.
2. **Trolling and Harassment:** Online discussions can become toxic, deterring meaningful engagement.
3. **Manipulation:** Interference of groups with vested interests or automated accounts can sway public opinion and spread propaganda.

Future of Elections in Digital Age

1. **Online Voting:** Elections might become more digital, offering secure online voting to increase turnout.
2. **AI and Data Analytics:** Campaigns may rely more on data to target voters with personalised messages.
3. **Greater Regulation:** There may be stronger rules to manage political ads, misinformation, and digital campaigning.
4. **Hybrid Campaigning:** A mix of digital and traditional methods will likely shape future elections, blending technology with grassroots methods.

Question 10.

Answer:

I visited www.indiavotes.com and explored election results from both a parliamentary and a state assembly constituency. For the parliamentary election, I reviewed the Bolangir Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha during the 2024 general elections. In this election,

Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo of the BJP won by a margin of over one lakh votes, defeating Surendra Singh Bhoi of the BJD. For the state assembly election, I looked at the Bhabanipur constituency in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections. In this election, Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) secured a strong victory against Priyanka Tibrewal of the BJP, reaffirming her position as the Chief Minister. These examples highlight how Indian citizens take part in both national and state-level elections through direct voting, helping shape the country's democratic leadership.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Option

1. (b) 18 years
2. (c) Election Commission of India
3. (b) Members of State Legislative Assemblies
4. (c) First-Past-the-Post
5. (b) Election Commission of India

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. 1950
2. 18
3. Electoral
4. NOTA
5. T. N. Seshan

C. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False

D. Match the Columns

1. NOTA → None of the Above option
2. 61st Amendment → Lowered voting age to 18 years
3. EVMs → Used for voting in India
4. Election Commission → Independent constitutional body
5. Kudavolai system → Ancient village election method

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

Universal adult franchise means every citizen aged 18 years and above has the right to vote without discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, wealth, or education.

2.

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is the head of the Election Commission of India.

3.

VVPAT stands for Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail.

4.

Braille-enabled EVMs are provided for voters with visual disabilities.

5.

The Vice-President of India is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament.

F. Short Answer Questions

1.

India adopted universal adult suffrage to ensure equality and democracy. The Constitution makers believed that every adult citizen should have the right to participate in governance regardless of education, caste, religion, or wealth.

2.

The Election Commission conducts elections, prepares voter lists, supervises polling, and enforces the Model Code of Conduct. It also uses EVMs and VVPATs to maintain transparency and fairness in elections.

3.

1. Influence of money and muscle power.
2. Low voter turnout in some urban areas.

4.

Voter registration ensures that eligible citizens can vote in elections. It helps maintain accurate electoral rolls and prevents fake voting.

5.

The Election Officer organises the election process fairly. The officer prepares voter lists, conducts voting, ensures secrecy of ballots, counts votes, and announces results impartially.

G. Long Answer Questions

1.

Universal adult franchise gives every adult citizen equal voting rights. It promotes equality, participation, and representation in democracy. People can choose their leaders and hold them accountable.

This system empowers weaker sections of society, including women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and poor citizens. It strengthens democracy by ensuring that the government represents the will of the people.

Thus, universal adult franchise forms the foundation of Indian democracy.

2.

The Election Commission of India is an independent constitutional body responsible for conducting elections fairly.

Its functions include:

- Preparing electoral rolls.
- Conducting Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Assembly, Presidential, and Vice-Presidential elections.
- Enforcing the Model Code of Conduct.
- Monitoring election campaigns and expenses.
- Using EVMs and VVPATs for transparent voting.

For example, during elections, the ECI monitors political parties and ensures that no unfair practices are used.

3.

Low voter turnout weakens democracy because fewer people participate in choosing leaders. Reasons include lack of awareness, migration, long queues, busy schedules, and political dissatisfaction.

Ways to increase participation:

- Conduct voter awareness campaigns.
- Improve accessibility at polling stations.

- Encourage youth participation.
- Use technology for easy voter registration.
- Ensure safe and fair elections.

Higher voter participation makes democracy stronger and more representative.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion and Reasoning

Correct Answer:

(a) Both A and R are true, and R explains A.

2. Source-Based Questions

(a)

- Lok Sabha elections
- State Assembly elections

(b)

The Model Code of Conduct ensures fair elections and prevents misuse of power during election campaigns.

(c)

Technology like EVMs and VVPATs makes voting faster, more accurate, transparent, and reliable.

3. Picture-Based Questions

(a)

The pictures show:

- EVM (Electronic Voting Machine)
- VVPAT machine

(b)

An EVM records votes electronically and accurately, while the VVPAT provides a paper slip for verification, ensuring transparency.

(c)

T. N. Seshan is remembered for the strict enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and reforms that made elections more disciplined and fair.

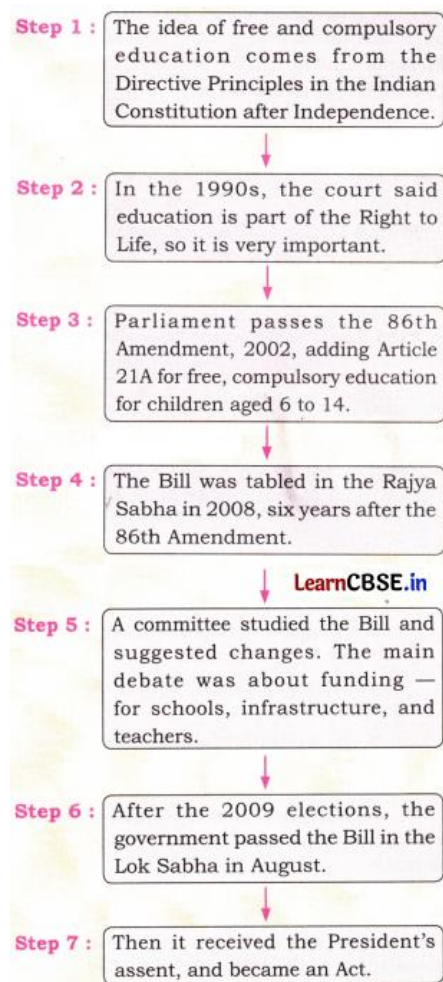
Ch – 6 The Parliamentary System: Legislature and Executive

NCERT CORNER

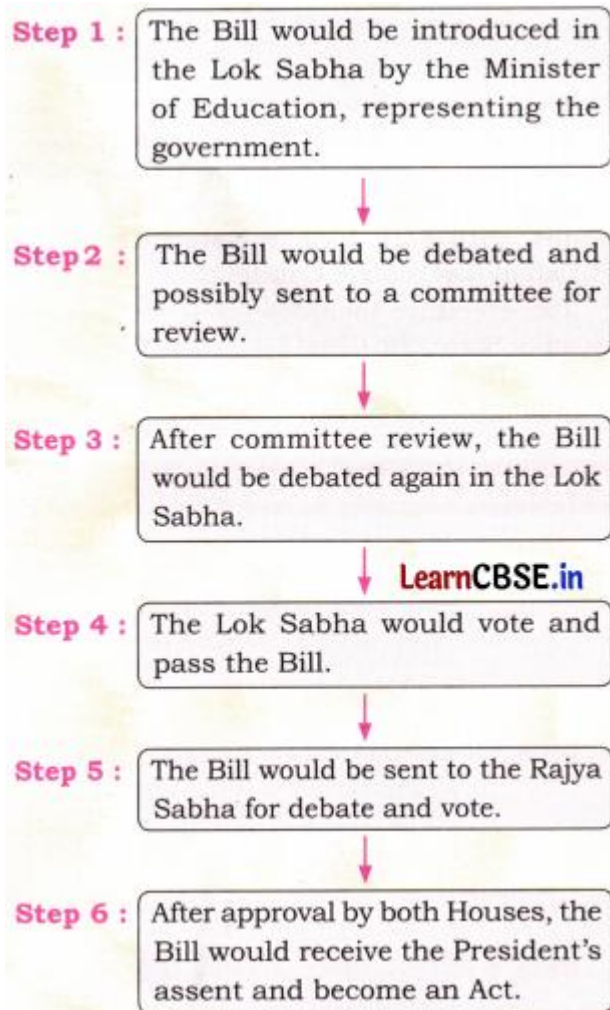
Question 1.

Answer:

The Right to Education (RTE) Act became law through a step-by-step process in Parliament. Below is a chart showing how it became an Act.



If it had been introduced in the Lok Sabha first:



Question 2.

(a) **Who is reporting to whom?**

Answer:

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (a committee of the Rajya Sabha) is reporting to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, particularly the Ministry of AYUSH.

(b) **What is the subject that has been reviewed?**

Answer:

The subject under review is the co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), and District Hospitals (DHs). Specifically, the report addresses the need for separate Departments of AYUSH in some States and Union Territories (UTs) for better implementation and coordination of AYUSH healthcare services.

(c) Identify the Committee's recommendation.

Answer:

The committee recommends that the Ministry of AYUSH should encourage and persuade states and Union Territories (UTs) do not yet have a separate Department of AYUSH to establish one. This will help ensure:

1. Better coordination in AYUSH healthcare.
2. Faster development and implementation of AYUSH schemes.

(d) What is the government's reply?

Answer:

The government says that creating AYUSH departments is up to the State/ UT Governments because health is a state matter. However, the Ministry of AYUSH has asked States/UTs to set up separate AYUSH directorates and hire staff for better implementation of the National AYUSH Mission. Currently, 24 States/UTs have their own AYUSH directorates.

Question 3.

Answer:

The Constitution has given Parliament the duty to keep an eye on government expenditure to ensure that public money is used properly, efficiently, and without corruption, and that it reaches the people instead of being wasted or misused.

1. The government collects money through taxes, so Parliament makes sure this money is spent on public services like schools, hospitals, roads, and other public services.
2. Through frequent debates and discussions, Parliament monitors how the government spends money.
3. The Executive must explain to Parliament how, where, and why the money is spent. This makes the government accountable to the people.
4. This system of checks and balances prevents misuse of power and corruption.

Question 4.

Answer:

In India's parliamentary system, the Executive, made up of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, comes from the Legislature, or Lok Sabha. Although this may seem to weaken the separation of powers, the system keeps a balance. The Legislature makes laws, while the Executive enforces them, and the

Judiciary makes sure neither branch goes beyond its limits. For example, during Question Hour, ministers must answer MPs' questions, keeping the Executive accountable.

Debates in Parliament let MPs examine and discuss government policies, making sure the Executive's actions are checked. The budget is another example, as the Executive has to present it to Parliament for approval, and the Legislature oversees government spending to ensure funds are used properly. So, even though the Executive is part of the Legislature, their roles remain separate, with checks and balances in place to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful.

Question 5.

(a) What might happen if one of the organs Legislature, Executive, Judiciary had all the power?

Answer:

If one of the organs had all the power, it would go against the spirit of the Constitution and affect people's rights and freedoms.

(b) How could it affect the rights of people?

Answer:

If the Legislature becomes supreme and has all the power laws could become unfair or biased and might not protect the rights of all people.

1. If the Executive had all the power, decisions could benefit only the ruling political party, instead of serving the public.
2. If the Judiciary had all the power, judges might interfere with the legislature and the executive, taking away decision making authority from elected representatives, which would go against democratic principles.
3. In all these situations, India would no longer remain a true democracy, and people would lose their democratic rights.

(c) Discuss with your classmates how each organ checks the others. For example, how does the Legislature question the actions of the Executive?

Answer:

In a democracy, it's essential that no single organ becomes too powerful. The Legislature, Executive and Judiciary all play key roles in checking and balancing each other.

There are several mechanisms to keep the Executive accountable:

1. MPs ask questions to ministers about government work and policies during Question Hour.

2. If MPs believe the government is not functioning properly or has lost majority support, they can remove it by passing a no-confidence motion.
3. The government cannot spend any money without Parliament's approval, ensuring oversight of financial decisions.

(d) How does the Judiciary make sure that laws and government actions respect the Constitution?

Answer:

The Judiciary makes sure that laws and government actions follow the Constitution in these ways:

1. The Judiciary ensures laws and actions follow the Constitution and can cancel those that violate it.
2. It checks the Legislature and Executive to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful.
3. The Judiciary upholds the balance of power, protecting people's rights and democracy.

(e) Do you think there might be ways in which the actions of the Judiciary itself are reviewed?

Answer:

Yes, I think there are ways in which the actions of the Judiciary can be reviewed. The Judiciary, while independent, is responsible for ensuring that the laws passed by the Legislature and the actions of the Executive do not violate the Constitution. If the Judiciary oversteps its role or makes decisions beyond its authority, it can be checked by the other branches, particularly through the process of judicial review. In cases of serious misconduct or corruption, judges can also be impeached by the Legislature. This helps ensure that the Judiciary remains fair and accountable.

Question 6.

(a) Can you find examples where the Judiciary has asked lawmakers to review a law?

Answer:

The Judiciary often points out issues with laws and suggests changes. Some examples include:

1. Motor Vehicles Act, 1988: In 2024, the Supreme Court gave a clear interpretation regarding the type of driving license needed for transport vehicles under the Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) category and asked the Government to amend the law to remove any confusion.

2. Uniform Civil Code (UCC): The Supreme Court stressed the need for a Uniform Civil Code, arguing that one common set of laws for all religions would promote equality and prevent discrimination.
3. National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) (2015): The Supreme Court struck down the NJAC Act, questioning its implementation and suggesting a review of the judicial appointment process.
4. Right to Privacy (2017): The Supreme Court ruled that privacy is a fundamental right and asked lawmakers to review laws like the Aadhaar Act for privacy concerns.

(b) Can you find any instances when the implementation of a law has been questioned by the Judiciary?

Answer:

The Judiciary has intervened in several cases where the implementation of laws was questioned:

1. In 2013, the Supreme Court directed the government to ensure effective implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI) due to delays by various departments.
2. In 2016, the Supreme Court emphasised the need for timely wage payments to workers under MNREGA and directed the government to improve its implementation.
3. In 2005, the Supreme Court ordered the government to take strict measures to address pollution in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, ensuring the proper implementation of environmental laws.
4. The Supreme Court in 1997 halted deforestation activities and ordered the government to properly implement the Forest Conservation Act to prevent further environmental damage.

Question 7.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer I live in West Bengal, and it has a unicameral legislature. That means it has only one house, called the Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly.

Question 8.

Study the data given in the following table. What conclusions can you draw about the functioning of Parliament over time? Compile data for more recent years. (Page 158)

Period of Lok Sabha	Number of sessions	Number of sittings
1st Lok Sabha (1952-1957)	14	677
2nd Lok Sabha (1957-1962)	16	567
10th Lok Sabha (1991-1996)	16	423
13th Lok Sabha (1999-2004)	14	356

Answer:

The data shows a steady decline in the number of Lok Sabha sittings over time. While the number of sessions has remained fairly consistent, the 1st Lok Sabha had 677 sittings, which dropped to 567 in the 2nd, 423 in the 10th, and just 356 in the 13th. This suggests that Parliament now spends less time on debates and discussions than in earlier years, which may affect the quality of legislative work.

Lok Sabha Term	Sessions Held	Total Sitting Days	Remarks
16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019)	18 sessions	315 sitting days	This term saw more working days and regular discussions. It reflected relatively higher parliamentary productivity.
17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024)	15 sessions	274 sittings	There was a decline in the number of sittings compared to the previous term. Reasons may include disruptions, COVID-19 pandemic, and early adjournments.

Question 9.

(a) What conclusions can you draw from this statement?

Answer:

M. Venkaiah Naidu's statement highlights a steady decline in the productivity of the Rajya Sabha. From 2004 to 2014, it averaged 78%, but since then, it has

dropped to around 65%. Some sessions had productivity as low as 6.80%, with 2018 reaching a record low of just 35.75%, mainly due to disruptions.

This gradual decline shows that the Rajya Sabha is struggling to fulfill its role of debating and reviewing laws properly. Frequent disruptions prevent meaningful discussions, making it harder to hold the government accountable and damaging public trust. To improve, reforms are needed to reduce these disruptions and boost productivity.

(b) What implications does this have for the role that the Rajya Sabha is expected to play?

Answer:

The Rajya Sabha reflects interests and upholds the spirit of federalism. It plays a crucial role in India's democracy by effectively raising the quality of debates. The decline in productivity affects this role in several key ways:

Less functioning time reduces the scope for regional voices to be heard in national policymaking.

Poor productivity means laws may pass without adequate debate, weakening protection of the people's interests.

Frequent disruptions can lead to a loss of public confidence in the institution's effectiveness. A weak and ineffective Rajya Sabha is not good for healthy democracy.

Question 10.

Answer:

For this project, I researched the functioning of the West Bengal Legislature.

1. The West Bengal Legislative Assembly is unicameral, consisting of 294 elected members.
2. The key office bearers include the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, Governor, and Leader of the Opposition, representing different political parties.
3. The composition of the legislature includes a seat breakdown by political party, which can be represented using colour coding for clarity.
4. The law-making process involves: Bill introduction, discussion/debate, voting, and finally the Governor's assent for the Bill to become a law.
5. Key sessions included the 2023 Budget Session, discussions on state welfare schemes, and debates on education and health policies.

6. Recent sessions focused on economic development, infrastructure projects, and labour reforms.
7. The sources used for this project are: the official website of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, news articles, NCERT textbooks, and PRS India reports.

Question 11.

Answer:

I spoke with an MLA and learnt about several challenges faced by the state legislature. One key issue is the regular absence of members during important discussions, which lowers the quality of debates. There are often disruptions in the House that prevent smooth proceedings. Some bills take years to be passed due to delays or lack of proper discussion. Debates sometimes become political and fail to focus on real public concerns. The MLA also highlighted the need for more informed and active citizens. Greater public participation, especially from young people, can strengthen the legislature and make it more effective in serving the people.

Questions And Activities

Question 1.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) Every state in India has representatives in both Houses of Parliament. In my state, Uttar Pradesh, there are 80 members in the Lok Sabha. These members are directly elected by the people. There are also 31 members from Uttar Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha. These members are elected by the state legislators. So, Uttar Pradesh has 80 representatives in the Lok Sabha and 31 in the Rajya Sabha. This shows how important my state is in making laws and decisions for the country.

For reference, the number of representatives from other states are also given below.

Region	State	Lok Sabha Members	Rajya Sabha Members
North	Uttar Pradesh	80	31

	Punjab	13	7
South	Tamil Nadu	39	18
	Karnataka	28	12
East	Bihar	40	16
	Odisha	21	10
West	Maharashtra	48	19
	Gujarat	26	11
North-East	Assam	14	7
	Manipur	2	1

Question 2.

Answer:

The Indian Parliament is called the “voice of the people” because it is made up of representatives who speak on behalf of the citizens. Members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people, while members of the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by the state legislatures, this system ensures that people from every region, including marginalised communities, are represented.

To ensure different opinions are heard, Parliament uses:

1. Question Hour: Members of Parliament (MPs) ask the government questions to hold it accountable and raise important issues.
2. Debates and Discussions: MPs from different parties and backgrounds discuss laws, national issues, and ideas. This allows different opinions to be heard before making any decisions.
3. Parliamentary Committees: Standing Committees examine bills, budgets, and policies regularly.

Question 3.

Answer:

The Constitution made the Executive (such as the Prime Minister, ministers, and civil servants) responsible to the Legislature (Parliament) to ensure that the government remains accountable to the people. This system keeps the government in check and ensures it serves the people's interests.

1. It prevents the misuse of power and ensures that leaders act within their limits.
2. Ministers must take responsibility for their decisions and actions in Parliament, making them answerable to people.
3. This structure strengthens democracy by making the government transparent and responsible to citizens.

Question 4.

Answer:

The Constitution makers decided on a bicameral legislature after careful discussion.

1. They believed that a single House would not adequately represent the diversity and aspirations of our large and diverse country, India.
2. Therefore, the Rajya Sabha was established to reflect the federal spirit, diversity, and interests of the states.
3. The Rajya Sabha has a different structure and election process from the Lok Sabha.
4. India follows a federal system, where power is shared between the centre, states and local governments.
5. This system helps balance national unity and regional interests.
6. Thus, the bicameral legislature ensures fair representation for everyone.

Question 5.

.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) The Women's Reservation Bill, aimed at reserving 33% of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, had a long journey. It

was first introduced in 1996 but faced numerous delays. After several attempts, the bill was reintroduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th September 2023. It sparked debates on women's political representation. Despite some disagreements, it passed the Lok Sabha on 21st September 2023, with 454 votes in favour and 2 against. The bill was then sent to the Rajya Sabha, where it was also passed on 21st September 2023, with all 215 members present voting in favour. After being passed by both Houses of Parliament, the Bill received the President's assent on 28th September 2023, officially becoming The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023. It took 27 years for the bill to be passed. This highlights the challenges in increasing women's participation in politics.

Question 6.

Choose a recent law passed by the Parliament. Divide into teams to role-play different parts of the process MPs debating in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ministers answering questions, and the President giving assent. Present a short skit showing how a bill becomes a law; enact a 'model Parliament'.

Answer:

Model Parliament Skit: How the Women's Reservation Bill Becomes a Law.

Characters:

1. Speaker of the Lok Sabha
2. Law Minister
3. Supportive MP
4. Opposition MP
5. President

Scene: Lok Sabha (Lower House)

Speaker: Honourable Members, we will now discuss the Women's Reservation Bill, which proposes reserving 33% of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Law Minister: This bill will increase women's participation in politics. I request your support.

Supportive MP: I strongly support this bill! Women must have equal representation.

Opposition MP: I agree, but we ensure proper implementation in all regions.

Speaker: All in favour, say Aye!

All MPs (except a few): Aye

Speaker: The Bill passes in the Lok Sabha. Now, it goes to the Rajya Sabha.

Scene: Rajya Sabha (Upper House)

Rajya Sabha Speaker: The Women's Reservation Bill is now being discussed.

Supportive MP: This bill is essential for a stronger democracy!

Opposition MP: Honourable Speaker, we support the bill, but we believe it should include more details on how women from all backgrounds will benefit, especially in rural areas.

Speaker: All in favour, say Aye!

Most MPs: Aye!

Rajya Sabha Speaker: The Bill passes. We now send it for Presidential assent.

Scene: The President's Assent

President: I have received the Women's Reservation Bill and after review, I give my assent.

President: The Women's Reservation Bill is now a law.

Question 7.

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, was passed with wide support. Why might it have taken over 25 years for this bill to be passed, despite being discussed for so long?

Answer:

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 took 25 years to pass due to several reasons:

1. Parties had different views on the reservation structure. Some demanded sub-reservation for women from OBCs (Other Backward Classes) within the 33% quota, while others opposed this.
2. Reserving seats for women meant many male members would lose their positions, causing resistance within political parties.
3. Although no major party openly opposed the bill, there was an absence of strong political support to prioritise and pass it. It was often treated more as a symbolic promise than a serious legislative agenda.

Question 8.

Answer:

When Parliament is disrupted and does not function for its scheduled number of days, it affects both the quality of laws and the public's trust in representatives.

1. Important bills may be rushed through without proper debate, leading to incomplete or ineffective laws.
2. Continuous disruptions make people lose faith in their elected representatives, reducing voter turnout and civic participation.
3. Frequent disruptions lead to a huge waste of both human and financial resources, which could be used for development.
4. Such behaviour in Parliament discourages young, talented people from entering politics. As a result, Parliament is being represented by mediocre leaders rather than the brightest minds of the country.
5. In the long run, these disruptions weaken democratic institutions and derail the aspirations and dreams of the nation. It affects the future of the people and the progress of the country as a whole.

Question 9.

Answer:

As students, we care about policies that affect our education, future careers, and the environment. To explore these issues, I divided the class into two groups: Group A and Group B.

Group A focused on national issues and prepared questions to ask our MP (Member of Parliament):

1. Education: What is the central government doing to make higher education more accessible and affordable for students across the country?
2. Jobs: What steps are being taken to create better job opportunities for young people in various sectors?
3. Environment: What national-level actions are being taken to reduce pollution and protect the environment?

Group B focused on local and state issues and prepared questions to ask our MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly):

1. Education: What is being done to improve the quality of education in government schools and colleges in our area?
2. Jobs: How is the state government helping to create more jobs for young people in our locality?

3. Environment: What local steps are being taken to reduce pollution and make our surroundings more eco-friendly?

The questions we ask our MP and MLA are different because they handle different responsibilities. MPs work on national issues that affect the whole country, while MLAs focus on local and state-level problems in our area. By asking the right questions, we can make sure our leaders listen to the concerns of students like us.

Question 10.

Answer:

Indian democracy thrives with equal and important roles played by the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. The Judiciary has a special role in protecting democracy.

1. The Judiciary ensures all laws and government actions follow the Constitution. Through judicial review, it can strike down any law or action that violates constitutional principles.
2. Citizens can approach the High Courts or the Supreme Court if any law or government action infringes their fundamental rights. The Judiciary protects individual freedoms and ensure justice.
3. The Judiciary acts as an impartial umpire in resolving disputes between citizens and the government, or between different levels of government.

If we didn't have an independent judiciary, the government could pass unfair laws without being stopped. People's rights might not be protected, and justice could become biased, leading to a loss of trust in the democratic system of India.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Options

1. (b) Upper House
2. (b) President
3. (b) Directive Principle turned into law
4. (c) Collective Responsibility
5. (b) Rajya Sabha

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. President
2. Council
3. Prime Minister
4. Lok Sabha
5. backbone

C. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False

D. Match the Columns

1. President → Nominal Head of State
2. Prime Minister → Real Executive authority
3. Rajya Sabha → Council of States
4. Collective Responsibility → Entire Cabinet resigns on no-confidence
5. Civil Servants → Backbone of administration

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

A bicameral legislature is a system of legislature having two Houses, such as the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

2.

The President of India appoints the Prime Minister.

3.

The President can return a non-money bill to Parliament for reconsideration.

4.

“Assent to a bill” means the President approves the bill, after which it becomes a law or Act.

5.

Civil servants help in implementing government policies and administration.

F. Short Answer Questions

1.

The Rajya Sabha represents the states of India in Parliament. It protects the interests of states and maintains the federal balance between the Centre and the states.

2.

The Prime Minister leads the Council of Ministers, allocates portfolios, coordinates the work of ministries, and ensures smooth functioning of the government.

3.

Collective responsibility means the Council of Ministers is jointly responsible to the Lok Sabha. If the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion, the entire Council of Ministers must resign.

4.

The President represents the whole nation and works above party politics. The office safeguards the Constitution and symbolises unity and integrity.

5. Civil servants implement government policies, maintain administration, provide continuity, and assist ministers in governance.

G. Long Answer Questions

1.

India follows a parliamentary system of government. The President is the nominal head of the state, while the Prime Minister is the real executive authority.

The Prime Minister leads the Council of Ministers and coordinates government work. The Cabinet takes important policy decisions and is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

Civil servants assist ministers in administration and implementation of policies. They ensure continuity in governance even when governments change.

Together, the President, Prime Minister, Cabinet, and Civil Servants help Parliament function effectively and maintain democratic governance.

2.

A bill is first introduced in either House of Parliament. It is discussed, debated, and voted upon. If passed by one House, it goes to the other House for approval.

After both Houses pass the bill, it is sent to the President for assent. Once the President approves it, the bill becomes an Act.

For example, the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 was introduced, debated, and passed by Parliament before receiving Presidential assent and becoming law.

3.

The Rajya Sabha represents the states and gives them a voice in national law-making. It prevents domination by only one House and ensures balanced decision-making.

It reviews bills passed by the Lok Sabha and discusses important national issues. This strengthens federalism and democratic values in India.

4.

Civil servants are permanent officials who continue working even when governments change. They help implement laws, maintain records, and provide administrative support.

Their experience and neutrality ensure stability, efficiency, and continuity in governance. Hence, they are called the backbone of administration.

5.

Parliament performs several important functions:

- It makes laws for the country.
- It amends the Constitution when required.

- It controls the executive by questioning ministers and debating policies.
- It approves the budget and government expenditure.

Through these functions, Parliament maintains democratic accountability and proper governance.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion and Reasoning

Correct Answer:

(c) A is true, R is false

2. Source-Based Questions

(a)

Parliament represents the people, makes laws, ensures accountability of the government, and protects the Constitution.

(b)

1. Amending the Constitution
2. Electing the President and Vice-President

Skill Booster Zone

Communication Corner

The principle of collective responsibility ensures unity and accountability in the government. All ministers work together and are answerable to the Lok Sabha. If the government loses public confidence, the entire Cabinet must resign. This strengthens democracy and prevents misuse of power.

Social and Life Skills

Civil servants teach us the values of responsibility, dedication, discipline, and continuous service towards the nation even during political changes.

Ch- 7 Factors of Production

NCERT CORNER

Types of shops	Number in the locality	Goods produced or services produced	Types of inputs required
Sweet shop	9	Indian sweets and snacks	Ghee, milk, sugar, flour, khoya, dry fruits
Bakery	10	Cake,pastry,cookies	Sugar, starch, dry fruits, egg, butter, milk
Stationary shop	15	Notebook, book, pen, school supplies	Paper, ink, cardboard, plastic

Jewelry shop	05	Gold /silver/diamond ornaments	Precious metals, polishing tools, gemstones
Types of shops	Number in the locality	Goods produced or services provided	Types of inputs required
Grocery shops	13	Food grains, milk, bread	Packaged goods, perishables, storage space
Restaurants / food stalls:	8	Cooked meals, snacks, beverages	Raw ingredients like vegetables and fruits, gas, utensils, cook/helper
Vegetable vendors	15	Fresh vegetables and fruits	Fresh produce, baskets, weighing scale, cart or stall
Mobile repair shops	4	Mobile repair, mobile accessories	Tools, spare parts, knowledge and skills of mobile components and functions
Salons/parlours	3	Haircut, grooming, beauty services	Scissors, creams, beauty products, water, electricity

Question 2.

- Here's a small report that Latha, Asha, Mohan and Kiran made. You can make your own report for shops of your choice.

Looking at your group's report, think about the following: (Page 165)

Answer:

In my locality, several different types of goods and services are produced or provided. Below, I have written a report on my favourite shops and businesses:

(a) Where do people get the money that they need for their business?

Answer:

People get the money that they need for their businesses from family funds, personal savings, bank loans or investors. Sometimes, individuals sell some of their properties to start a business. They often look up grants or subsidies offered by the government especially for startups.

(b) Where did the hairdresser get trained?

Answer:

The hairdressers get trained in beauty institutes. They often peruse internships under an experienced hairdresser. Individuals with family business generally get hands- on experience by working alongside family members and also help the business grow.

(c) Who taught the food vendors to cook?

Answer:

Food vendors usually learn to cook from family members, self-practice or by working under other experienced vendors. Many vendors these days rely on culinary classes available on the internet (platforms like YouTube B and facebook)

(d) What motivated the business owners to start their business?

Answer:

The business owners often get motivated to start their businesses by the urge of being financially independent or to fulfill the livelihood and needs of their family. Personal dreams or passion to develop their ideas also motivate many to start their businesses.

Question 3.

Answer:

Items that are grown, mined, or naturally produced (like milk, vegetables, metals, flowers, etc.) fall under land. As per the table in my report, wheat (for flour), eggs (from poultry), milk (for butter), pulp (used to make paper, from trees), gold, silver, gemstones (all mined natural resources), leather (from animals), rubber (natural rubber from trees) can be labeled as 'land' and are essential for several economic activities and fulfilling humans basic and primary needs.

Question 4.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) I made a list of 10 working adults in my family and neighbourhood and asked them about the culture at their workplace. Some adults from my neighbourhood and family told me that their workplace has a supportive and cooperative environment. The management as well as the coworkers are professional, friendly and helpful. The companies they work for, offer a safe working environment for women. While others said their workplace

have strict rules, are goal driven and focus more on teamwork-based work process. After sharing notes with my classmates, I found out many people work in almost similar atmosphere. Some adjectives that occur more frequently are – strict, supportive, friendly and goal-driven to describe their work place.

5.

Answer:

Yes, in the Tapestry chapters we have seen many example of the art and architecture in India across several centuries. In my perception, the artisans (creators) were highly skilled, and received proper training. They had easy access to raw materials like stones, wood, metals which helped them in their work. Their deep religious faith and rich cultural heritage inspired them to create mesmerizing art and architecture. The kings also supported these talented individuals by providing resources and lands which further encouraged their creativity and excellence.

Question 7.

Answer:

The use of indigenous techniques has declined because of the advancement in technology, modern tools and machines are more cost-efficient and are capital intensive. On the other hand, traditional methods of production demand major human capital and time to create something new.

8. Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) In my region Khurja pottery which is known for its floral patterns, use of bright colours and glossy finish represents human efforts and skill. Along with this, handmade crafts like Madhubani paintings and Chikankari embroidery also show great human skills. These products are often made by using traditional techniques and tools passing through generations.

Question 9.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) There is a cloth factory located in my region, very close to my house in Jaipur. It produces cotton and mixed fabric clothes. According to the information available on the internet, around 5-6 crore have been invested in building the factory, setting up electricity and machinery. The factory uses various machines such as spinning, weaving, dyeing, stitching, and finishing machines etc. to create the final products.

Question 10.

Answer:

1. The technological advancement that have impacted the lives of people includes:
2. Online learning platforms: Facilitates skill based courses in various fields.
3. Online job searching portals: Supports individuals connect with companies both nationally and internationally.
4. Unified Payments Interface(UPI): Offers cashless transactions and real-time settlements.

11.

Answer:

(Suggestive Answer) If I get a chance to invent something that is problem solving, I would want to invent an AI cooking assistant and name it Flora. It will guide new cooks (including me), several small vendors and someone who want to setup a cloud kitchen with a voice guided assistance. It will also suggest recipes with available ingredients. It will talk to us through cooking and take pause between steps.

Questions And Activities

Question 1.

Answer:

The factors of production- Land, capital, human resources, technology and entrepreneurship are quite differ from each other and play different roles in production. Since these factors are interconnected, it is hard to understand the evolving production system without decoding their contribution. Their roles are complex and can function only when they are kept together in a required proportion.

Question 2.

Answer:

Human capital is contradictory to physical capital. Human capital falls into the category of intangible resources and depicts education, training, skills, knowledge and expertise in a particular field. On the other hand, physical capital is tangible and facilitates tools, machinery, and several other equipment.

Question 3.

Answer:

The advancement in technology have increased accessibility and availability of various learning platforms. These platforms offer thousands of skills based courses both paid and free, providing updated information and study materials in various fields. These online courses and certifications enable people gain knowledge and shape or update their skills as per the changing job market demands. People can opt for workshops in various fields through these portals to get first-hand practical work and real-world-problem solving experiences.

Question 4.

Answer:

Skill is something that enhances the qualities of an individual. If I could learn one skill today it would be coding because it is in high demand around the world and holds immense value in modern time. It requires a deeper understanding of technology and a problem solving approach. It facilitates cognitive development and will allow me explore lucrative career paths and secure a high salaried job.

Question 5.

Answer:

Yes, entrepreneurship is the 'driving force' of production as it requires risk taking, innovation and solution based approach. Entrepreneurs combine all the factors of production and initiate a production process of quality products and services.

They generally bring up new and pinpointing ideas to the market and bear the risks to develop and expand them. Entrepreneurship is key to drive nation's economy and generate employment.

Question 6.

Answer:

Yes, technology can replace other factors of production like labour. The modern technologies are capital-intensive and they demand less human labour. These technologies facilitate efficient and faster production process, boosting the productivity and product quality. New technologies are usually eco-friendly and cost-efficient which affect the proportion of the finished products. India has 66% of young population and it has become very difficult for everyone to secure a job in a desired field as the new technologies fosters less labour intensive systems.

Question 7.

Answer:

Education and skill training are two key factors of human capital. For the production of quality products and to uplift productivity, it is required for the workers to be skilled, trained and have practical experience in the field.

Education and skill training complement each other and together ensure the contribution of the workers to society's economy.

Question 8.

Answer:

If I start a business that produces steel water bottles, it will require inputs such as a factory, raw materials (steel), tools, machines and human force. I will obtain the raw materials from manufacturers and suppliers. I will hire good productive workers through family, friends and employment agencies. If any of these factors go missing the productivity will slow down and might collapse.

Question 9.

Answer:

I interviewed Mr. Ratnesh Desai, Founder of a Famous Textile Company in Gujarat, our conversation is as follows:

Me: Good morning, Mr. Desai. Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me today. May I ask, what motivated you to start your company?

Mr. Desai: Good morning! I saw an opportunity in this field, and my enthusiasm to make and trade the best quality traditional clothes across all the states in India motivated me to start this company.

Me: That sounds inspiring! Could you tell me about some of the challenges you faced while building your company?

Mr. Desai: During my journey to establish a successful company, I faced crisis and several fund problems. In the beginning, I could hardly find an investor to put money in my idea.

Me: That must have been very difficult. What did you learn from all these experiences?

Mr. Desai: I learnt that starting a business demands resilience, patience, and a lot of hard work.

Me: Thank you so much for sharing your journey with me. I've noted everything you shared and will prepare a report based on this interview. I noted everything he mentioned or shared and prepared a report once the interview was done.

Question 10.

I. Suppose the rent for your space suddenly doubles.

- Will you raise the price of the food served to cover the costs?
- Will you look for a cheaper location?
- How does this affect your business?

Answer:

1. Yes, I might consider raising the food price to balance the expenses.
2. Even after a significant price hike, if I fail to manage the rent, I will definitely look for a cheaper location.
3. Doubling the rent will surely affect the operating cost of the business and it might affect the amount of profit as well.

II. Imagine one of your helpers quits suddenly.

- Can the remaining workers manage the same amount of work?
- Will you need to offer a higher salary to attract a new worker?

Answer:

1. It really depends on the number of team members, their work capacity and on the amount of workload. If previous worker had more responsibilities, then the team might struggle to cope up.
2. If there is a shortage of skilled worker in my team, I might have to approach someone with higher salary.

III. You receive a small loan to invest in better technology for your restaurant.

- Will this increase the production or improve quality?
- Will it help you reach more customers?

Answer:

1. Getting a better and advance technology equipment can speed up the cooking and will increase the production and quality.
2. Yes, it will help serving more customers through online orders and self-short-distance deliveries within less time.

IV. Suppose another restaurant opens in the neighbourhood.

- How will you attract and keep your customers?
- Will you improve your service, reduce prices, or offer something new?

Answer:

1. By offering quality services, improving food menu, planning pocket friendly meal combos and by opting impactful marketing strategies.
2. Yes, I will add more items to my menu and give interesting offers on combo meals.

V. What government laws or rules should be changed to improve the ease of doing business?

Answer:

To improve the ease of doing business, the government should reduce paperwork, simplify tax rules, and allow faster business registrations. Getting license and paying taxes should be quick and flexible. To reduce paperwork, delays, and corruption in official procedure, the government should introduce an advanced app or website to pay taxes and apply for various businesses' license online. This will save time and help more people start and grow their businesses easily.

Test Trekker

A. Tick (✓) the Correct Options

1. (d) Weather
2. (b) Skills, education and abilities of people
3. (c) Sewing machine
4. (b) J.R.D. Tata
5. (a) SWAYAM

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. land
2. human capital
3. Entrepreneur
4. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
5. technology

C. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True

D. Match the Columns

1. Land → Soil, forests and minerals
2. Labour → Carpenter, doctor and teacher
3. Capital → Machinery, buildings and tools
4. Entrepreneurship → J.R.D Tata
5. Technology → Drones, UPI and robotics

E. Very Short Answer Questions

1.

Factors of production are the resources used to produce goods and services.

2.

Water and forests.

3.

Human capital means the skills, education, training, and health of people that help them work efficiently.

4.

Bank loans.

5.

J.R.D. Tata.

F. Short Answer Questions

1.

In economics, land includes all natural resources such as forests, rivers, minerals, sunlight, and water along with soil. These resources are used in production and economic activities.

2.

Healthy workers can work efficiently, remain active, and avoid frequent illness. Good healthcare improves productivity and work performance.

3.

1. Bank loans
2. Personal savings

3. Investment from the stock market

4.

A good entrepreneur should be innovative, hardworking, confident, and willing to take risks. Leadership and decision-making skills are also important.

5.

The Equator divides the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres, while the Prime Meridian divides it into Eastern and Western Hemispheres. They help in locating places and measuring time zones.

G. Long Answer Questions

1.

Education provides knowledge and skills needed for jobs and productivity. Health keeps people physically and mentally fit to work efficiently. Culture shapes discipline, values, teamwork, and social behaviour.

Together, education, health, and culture improve the quality of human capital and help in national development.

2.

The four factors of production are land, labour, capital, and entrepreneurship. All are needed together for production.

For example, in a factory:

- Land provides space and raw materials.
- Labour operates machines.
- Capital includes machines and money.
- Entrepreneurship organises all activities and takes risks.

Without any one factor, production cannot take place effectively.

3.

Mobile phone manufacturing requires:

- **Land:** Factory building and natural resources.
- **Labour:** Engineers, technicians, and workers.
- **Capital:** Machines, tools, and investment money.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Planning, management, and risk-taking.

- **Technology:** Robotics, software, and modern machinery.

All these factors work together to produce mobile phones efficiently.

4. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) encourages companies to contribute towards society and environmental welfare. Businesses spend part of their profits on education, healthcare, cleanliness, and social development.

CSR helps improve living conditions and promotes responsible business practices in India.

5.

Labour-intensive industries mainly depend on human labour. Examples are handicrafts and handloom industries.

Capital-intensive industries depend more on machines, technology, and heavy investment. Examples are automobile and steel industries.

Labour-intensive industries generate more employment, while capital-intensive industries increase large-scale production and efficiency.

Competency-Based Questions

1. Assertion–Reason

Correct Answer:

(a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A).

2. Source-Based Questions

1.

J.R.D. Tata was a famous Indian industrialist. He is remembered as a nation builder because he helped develop industries such as aviation and steel and worked for social welfare.

2.

He believed that businesses should not only earn profits but also serve society responsibly.

Skill Booster Zone

Communication Corner

Human capital is more valuable because machines and tools cannot work without skilled people. Educated and healthy people increase productivity,

create innovations, and help businesses grow. Human skills and ideas are the real strength of development.

Social and Life Skills

The business should have shown responsibility, environmental care, and concern for people's health instead of polluting the river for profit.