CBSE Class 12 Political Science 2026 — Set 1 — Answer Key

English Medium

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

General Instructions:

1. This is an answer key — each question is shown with its correct answer and a step-by-step explanation.
2. Questions appear in the original paper order.

Q.1

Given below are two statements:

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

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

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

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true. <<
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are false.
(c) Statement-I is true, but Statement-II is false.
(d) Statement-I is false, but Statement-II is true.

Explanation:

Both statements are true.

China's economic reforms (open-door policy, SEZs) broke stagnation and led to rapid growth.

However, rapid industrialisation also caused significant environmental degradation and a rise in corruption.

Q.2

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

(a) Realising the need to reorganise the internal boundaries of Indian states at the end of colonial rule.
(b) Reorganisation of the Indian National Congress on the basis of linguistic principle after Nagpur session in 1920.
(c) Death of the Congress leader, Potti Sriramulu which caused great unrest and led to resignation of several legislators of Madras in protest.

<<

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

Explanation:

Potti Sriramulu went on a fast-unto-death demanding a separate Telugu-speaking state.

His death in December 1952 sparked widespread protests and unrest, which compelled the government to create Andhra as a separate state in 1953.

Q.3

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

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

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

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

(d) China focused more on export as compared to import.

Explanation:

China adopted a gradual, step-by-step approach to economic reform — introducing limited privatisation and market mechanisms incrementally rather than the rapid 'Shock Therapy' approach used by the USSR.

This included SEZs, township and village enterprises, and controlled opening to foreign investment.

Q.4

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

(a) Uttar Pradesh

(b) Madhya Pradesh

(c) Haryana <<

(d) Rajasthan

Explanation:

The phrase 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' originated in Haryana in 1967 when MLA Gaya Lal changed parties three times in a single day, highlighting the phenomenon of political defection.

Q.5

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

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

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

(a) Both the Assertion (A) and the Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
(b) Both the Assertion (A) and the Reason (R) are true, but the Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true. <<
(d) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

Explanation:

The Reason (R) is true — globalisation has indeed caused states to retreat from many welfare functions.
However, the Assertion (A) is false — as the welfare state retreats, it is actually losing importance (not gaining more importance).
Therefore A is false, R is true.

Q.6

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

(a) Princely states were ruled by the princes.

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

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

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

Explanation:

It is NOT correct that all princely states voluntarily accepted to be an integral part of India.

Many had to be integrated through negotiation, persuasion, or in some cases (like Hyderabad and Junagadh) through military action.

Some initially resisted or declared independence.

Q.7

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

List-I

(a) Violation of Human Rights

(b) 'Mad-Cow' disease

(c) Disarmament Treaty

(d) 9/11 terrorist attack

List-II

(i) Britain

(ii) Chemical weapons convention

(iii) World Trade Centre in America

(iv) Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

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

Option (A) matches correctly.

Q.8

Arrange the following events in chronological order:

(i) Assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

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

(iii) Sixteenth Lok Sabha elections.

(iv) The Mandal Commission gave its recommendations.

Choose the correct option:

(a) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)

(b) (i), (iv), (iii), (ii)

(c) (iv), (ii), (i), (iii) <<

(d) (iii), (i), (ii), (iv)

Explanation:

Chronological order: (iv) Mandal Commission recommendations — 1980; (ii) First Non-Congress coalition government at the centre — 1977 (Janata Party); (i) Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi — 1991; (iii) Sixteenth Lok Sabha elections — 2014.

Correct sequence: (iv), (ii), (i), (iii) — option (C).

Q.9

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

(a) Morarji Desai
(b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
(c) Rajiv Gandhi
(d) Indira Gandhi <<

Explanation:
Indira Gandhi abolished the Privy Purse (the annual payments made to former rulers of princely states) in 1971.
This was done through the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Q.10

Choose the statement that best describes the concept of globalisation.

(a) The process of rapid integration or inter-connection among countries of the world through the flow of goods, capital, people and ideas. <<
(b) Globalisation has increased states capabilities in the political field.
(c) Globalisation has given freedom to consumers to choose from limited alternatives.
(d) Globalisation has reduced the various opportunities of employment to the people.

Explanation:
Globalisation is best described as the process of rapid integration and inter-connection among countries through the flow of goods, services, capital, people and ideas.
The other options are incorrect or only partially true descriptions.

Q.11

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

(a) Indian National Congress (INC)
(b) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) <<
(c) Shiv Sena (SS)
(d) Communist Party of India (CPI)

Explanation:

The BJP had continuous growth: 116 seats in 2009 → 282 seats in 2014 → 303 seats in 2019.

The INC declined sharply (206 → 44 → 52).

The CPI and Shiv Sena did not show continuous growth across this period.

Q.12

Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty refers to:

(a) Peaceful use of nuclear energy

(b) Spread of nuclear weapons <<

(c) Development of nuclear fusion

(d) Reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles

Explanation:

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) refers to the prevention of the spread (proliferation) of nuclear weapons and technology.

It aims to prevent more countries from acquiring nuclear weapons while allowing peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Q.13

Highlight any two objectives of establishing Planning Commission. (2 marks)

Answer: Any two objectives of the Planning Commission: (1) To assess and mobilise the material, capital and human resources of the country for balanced development. (2) To formulate a plan for effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources for economic development and raising the standard of living.

Explanation:

The Planning Commission was established in 1950 to guide India's development through Five-Year Plans, allocate resources, and coordinate national development priorities.

Q.14

How does the natural insularity of South Asian region determine its cultural

distinctiveness? Explain. (2 marks)

Answer: South Asia is naturally insulated by the Himalayas in the north, the Indian Ocean in the south, the Arabian Sea in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east. This geographic isolation allowed a distinct civilisation and culture to develop — with shared historical experiences, religious traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam), languages rooted in Sanskrit, and similar social practices — while limiting outside intrusion historically.

Explanation:

Natural barriers (mountains and oceans) limited migration and conquest, allowing a shared cultural heritage to evolve across the subcontinent over millennia.

Q.15

Explain any two human activities responsible for degradation of environment. (2 marks)

Answer: Any two: (1) Deforestation — large-scale cutting of forests for agriculture, urbanisation and industry destroys biodiversity and causes soil erosion. (2) Industrial pollution — factories release toxic chemicals, greenhouse gases and waste into air, water and soil, causing serious environmental damage.

Explanation:

Human activities such as deforestation, industrialisation, burning of fossil fuels, and chemical agriculture degrade air, water and soil quality.

Q.16

On what grounds can globalisation be considered a multi-dimensional concept? Explain with example. (2 marks)

Answer: Globalisation is multi-dimensional because it operates across economic, political, cultural, and social dimensions. (1) Economic dimension: free flow of goods, capital and services across borders (e.g., MNCs operating globally). (2) Political dimension: growing role of international organisations like the UN and WTO that limit state sovereignty. (3) Cultural dimension: spread of ideas, values

and lifestyles across borders (e.g., Western consumer culture spreading worldwide).

Explanation:

Globalisation is not limited to trade;
it transforms politics, culture, identity, and society simultaneously, making it multi-dimensional.

Q.17

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

Answer: Any two challenges during Shastri's tenure (1964–66): (1) Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 — Pakistan launched military operations (Operation Gibraltar) to capture Kashmir, leading to a full-scale war. India successfully repulsed the attack. (2) Food crisis and drought — severe droughts led to widespread food shortages and India had to depend on food aid (PL-480 wheat from the USA), exposing the fragility of Indian agriculture.

Explanation:

Shastri faced the twin crises of the 1965 war with Pakistan and a severe food crisis caused by drought, testing India's resilience on both security and economic fronts.

Q.18

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

Answer: Any two arguments: (1) Regional aspirations led to genuine dialogue between the centre and states, resulting in accords (Punjab Accord, Assam Accord) that addressed grievances and attempted to integrate regions more meaningfully into the national mainstream. (2) Recognising regional identities and aspirations strengthened democratic federalism — giving voice to diverse groups within a united India — thereby consolidating the nation rather than weakening it.

Explanation:

Regional movements of the 1980s, though sometimes violent, ultimately pushed India toward a more accommodative and mature federalism, strengthening the bonds of the nation.

Q.19

Highlight any two differences between the ideologies of Socialist party and Communist party of India. (4 marks — 2 differences)

Answer: Two key differences: (1) Means of achieving socialism — The Socialist Party believed in democratic and peaceful means (parliamentary democracy) to achieve a socialist society, whereas the Communist Party of India initially advocated revolutionary means and followed the Soviet/Marxist-Leninist model. (2) Relationship with Congress — The Socialists initially remained within the Congress and later broke away to form an independent party but broadly cooperated with democratic forces; the Communists maintained a more ideologically distinct position, sometimes opposing Congress policies more sharply and aligning with the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Explanation:

Both parties sought social and economic equality but differed on methods (democratic reform vs.
revolution) and on their relationship with the Congress and international communist movements.

Q.20

Highlight any two traditional measures which may be used by different countries to maintain their national security. (4 marks — 2 measures)

Answer: Two traditional security measures: (1) Military power — Countries maintain standing armies, develop advanced weapons systems, and invest in defence technology to deter aggression and protect territorial integrity. (2) Alliance formation — Countries form military alliances (e.g., NATO) or bilateral defence treaties to pool resources and deter common threats through collective security.

Explanation:

Traditional security focuses on protecting the state from armed threats using military strength and strategic alliances — the classic realist approach to national security.

Q.21

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

Answer: Four initiatives: (1) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) — adopted Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, setting a global framework for sustainable development. (2) Kyoto Protocol (1997) — committed industrialised nations to binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (3) Paris Agreement (2015) — 196 parties agreed to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. (4) World Environment Day (5 June) — organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) annually to raise global awareness about environmental protection.

Explanation:

International environmental initiatives range from binding treaties (Kyoto, Paris) to global conferences (Earth Summit) and awareness campaigns (World Environment Day), reflecting the global nature of the environmental challenge.

Q.22

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

Answer: Two examples: (1) Assam Accord (1985) — The Indian government signed the Assam Accord with leaders of the Assam agitation, addressing the grievance of illegal immigration and promising steps to detect and deport illegal immigrants. This accommodated Assamese identity within the national framework. (2) Punjab Accord (Rajiv–Longowal Accord, 1985) — Signed to address Punjab's regional grievances including transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, resolution of river water disputes, and greater autonomy. It was an attempt to bring the Akali Dal into

the mainstream by recognising legitimate regional demands.

Explanation:

India's approach to regionalism has often been to negotiate and accommodate regional aspirations rather than suppress them, strengthening federal bonds.

OR

Q.22

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

Answer: Partially successful — with two arguments for limited success: (1) The accord brought the Assam agitation to an end temporarily and brought AASU leaders into electoral politics (AASU-backed Asom Gana Parishad won 1985 elections), demonstrating that regional aspirations could be channelled democratically. (2) However, the accord was not fully implemented — the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act was later struck down by the Supreme Court, and the issue of illegal immigration remains unresolved, leading to continued ethnic tensions, showing that the accord achieved only partial and temporary stability.

Explanation:

The Assam Accord had mixed results: it ended the immediate agitation but many core provisions were never implemented, leaving underlying causes of tension unaddressed.

Q.23

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

Answer: The 'ASEAN way' refers to ASEAN's distinctive approach to regional cooperation characterised by: (1) Non-interference in internal affairs — member states respect each other's sovereignty and do not interfere in domestic matters,

which builds trust. (2) Consensus-based decision making — decisions are reached through consultation and unanimous agreement rather than majority voting, ensuring all members are comfortable with outcomes. (3) Informality and gradualism — ASEAN prefers quiet diplomacy over confrontation, resolving disputes through dialogue and incremental steps. (4) Preference for economic cooperation over security alliances — ASEAN focuses on economic integration (AFTA, AEC) as the basis for regional peace rather than a military alliance, making it non-threatening to members and neighbours.

Explanation:

The ASEAN way is unique because it achieves regional stability through mutual respect, consensus and economic interdependence rather than the enforcement mechanisms typical of Western alliances.

OR

Q.23

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

Answer: The ASEAN Security Community (now part of the ASEAN Political-Security Community) contributes to economic progress by: (1) Ensuring regional stability — by preventing inter-state conflicts among members, it creates a secure environment that attracts foreign investment and enables sustained economic growth. (2) Resolving disputes peacefully — mechanisms like the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation prevent conflicts from disrupting trade and economic activity among members. (3) Combating non-traditional threats — addressing issues like terrorism, piracy and transnational crime protects sea lanes and supply chains vital for trade. (4) Supporting the ASEAN Economic Community — political security is a precondition for economic integration; the security framework underpins the free trade area, common market and investment agreements that drive ASEAN's economic development.

Explanation:

Security and economic development are mutually reinforcing in ASEAN — political stability created by the security community directly enables economic integration and growth.

Q.24

(Section D — Passage) Read the following passage:

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

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

(a) Nepal
(b) Bhutan
(c) Afghanistan <<
(d) Bangladesh

Explanation:

SAARC was founded in 1985 by seven countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

Afghanistan joined later in 2007 as the eighth member and was NOT a founder member.

Q.25

(Section D — Passage, Q24 sub-part ii) The external power that affects the South Asian Countries the most is:

(a) United States of America <<
(b) Russia

(c) France

(d) Britain

Explanation:

The United States of America is the external power that most significantly affects South Asian countries through its military presence, economic influence, and strategic relationships with key regional players like India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Q.26

(Section D — Passage, Q24 sub-part iii) The major objective of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation is:

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

The primary objective of SAARC, as stated in its Charter, is to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life through cooperation for economic growth, social progress, and cultural development.

Q.27

(Section D — Passage, Q24 sub-part iv) Which one of the following is NOT a core objective of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)?

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

SAFTA's core objectives are to promote mutual trade, reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and create a free trade area.

Establishing a common currency is NOT a SAFTA objective — that is a far more advanced form of economic integration not part of SAFTA.

Q.28

(Section D — Cartoon Q.25) Study the given cartoon carefully and answer the questions that follow:

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

Answer: (i) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (the leader who negotiated the integration of princely states into India).
(ii) The Prince sitting on the back of a poor man indicates the exploitation of ordinary people by the princely rulers — the princes enjoyed privileges and privy purses at the expense of the common people who bore the economic burden.
(iii) The cartoon conveys the message that the integration of princely states into India was necessary not only for national unity but also for the welfare of the common people who were being exploited under the autocratic rule of princes. It highlights the need to end feudal privileges and bring democratic governance to all parts of India.

Explanation:
This cartoon relates to the integration of princely states post-Independence.
Sardar Patel played a key role in persuading/pressuring princes to accede to India, ending their exploitative rule over ordinary subjects.

Q.0

(Section D — Q.25 for Visually Impaired Candidates only)
(i) Name the speech given by Jawaharlal Nehru at the hour of midnight on 14-15 August 1947. (1 mark)
(ii) Name the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. (1 mark)
(iii) Explain the two nation theory. (2 marks)

Answer: (i) 'Tryst with Destiny' speech.

(ii) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.

(iii) The Two Nation Theory was propounded by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League. It held that Hindus and Muslims are two separate nations with distinct identities, cultures, and ways of life, and therefore cannot coexist in a single state. This theory became the ideological basis for the demand for a separate Muslim homeland — Pakistan — leading to the Partition of India in 1947.

Explanation:

For Visually Impaired Candidates — tests knowledge of Partition history and Nehru's famous independence speech.

Q.29

(Section D — Map Q.26) In the given political outline map of India, four states have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names:

(i) The state related to student movement against inflation and corruption in 1974.

(ii) The state related to the farmer's leader Chaudhary Charan Singh.

(iii) The state related to Congress leader Jag Jeevan Ram.

(iv) The state where Congress could not win even a single Lok Sabha seat in 1977 elections. (4 marks)

Answer: (i) Gujarat — The Nav Nirman movement (1974) against inflation and corruption began in Gujarat, led largely by students.

(ii) Uttar Pradesh — Chaudhary Charan Singh was a major farmers' leader and political figure from Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Bihar — Jagjivan Ram was a prominent Congress leader from Bihar.

(iv) Tamil Nadu — Congress won zero Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu in the 1977 elections (DMK/AIADMK dominated).

Explanation:

Map-based question requiring knowledge of the JP Movement era and the 1977 elections.

The Nav Nirman student agitation originated in Gujarat 1974;

Charan Singh = UP;

Jagjivan Ram = Bihar;

Tamil Nadu returned no Congress MPs in 1977.

Q.0

(Section D — Q.26 for Visually Impaired Candidates only)

(i) Write the name of first Prime Minister of Janata Party Government.

(ii) In which year, was the National Emergency imposed in India by Indira Gandhi government?

(iii) Name the leader who announced a nationwide Satyagraha at Ram Lila Maidan before the declaration of National Emergency.

(iv) Name the political party that won the Lok Sabha Election in 1977. (4 marks)

Answer: (i) Morarji Desai was the first Prime Minister of the Janata Party Government (1977–1979).

(ii) The National Emergency was imposed in June 1975.

(iii) Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) announced a nationwide Satyagraha at Ram Lila Maidan, Delhi on 25 June 1975.

(iv) Janata Party won the Lok Sabha elections in 1977.

Explanation:

For Visually Impaired Candidates in lieu of the map question.

Tests knowledge of the Emergency period (1975–77) and the Janata Party victory.

Q.30

(a) Explain the composition and one function of any three organs of the United Nations. (6 marks — 3+3=6)

Answer: Three UN organs (any three):

(1) General Assembly — Composition: All 193 member states are represented (each has one vote). Function: Discusses and makes recommendations on any matter within the scope of the UN Charter; approves the UN budget.

(2) Security Council — Composition: 15 members — 5 permanent (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) with veto power and 10 elected non-permanent members serving 2-year terms. Function: Primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security; can impose sanctions or authorise military action.

(3) International Court of Justice — Composition: 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and Security Council for 9-year terms; no two judges from the same country. Function: Settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by UN organs.

Explanation:

The UN has six principal organs: General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat, International Court of Justice, Economic and Social Council, and the Trusteeship Council (now inactive).

OR

Q.30

(b) Name any three agencies of the United Nations and explain one function of each. (6 marks — 3+3=6)

Answer: Three UN agencies and their functions:

(1) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) — Function: Promotes international collaboration in education, science, and culture; works to protect world heritage sites and promote literacy and education worldwide.

(2) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) — Function: Provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries; works to protect children from violence, exploitation, and disease.

(3) World Health Organisation (WHO) — Function: Directs and coordinates international health within the United Nations system; sets international health standards, monitors disease outbreaks, and coordinates responses to global

health emergencies.

Explanation:

UN specialised agencies each have a specific mandate.

Other valid agencies include FAO, ILO, UNHCR, IMF, World Bank, WTO (though WTO is not technically a UN agency).

Q.31

(a) Analyse any three reasons for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. (6 marks — 3×2=6)

Answer: Three reasons for the disintegration of the USSR:

(1) Economic stagnation — The Soviet economy, based on central planning, failed to modernise and deliver consumer goods. Technological backwardness relative to the West, declining oil revenues, and the costs of the arms race and Afghan war created deep economic crisis, eroding public confidence in the system.

(2) Political and institutional weaknesses — The Communist Party's monopoly on power prevented democratic reform. Gorbachev's glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) policies, intended to reform the system, instead unleashed forces the party could not control — free press exposed failures, political competition emerged, and republican governments began asserting sovereignty.

(3) Rise of nationalism and ethnic separatism — The USSR was a multi-ethnic federation. Glasnost allowed suppressed nationalist movements in the Baltic republics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), Ukraine, Georgia, and others to assert independence. Once the Baltic states declared independence and Moscow could not suppress them, the domino effect led to the full disintegration by December 1991.

Explanation:

The USSR's collapse resulted from structural economic failures, political liberalisation that the system could not absorb, and centrifugal nationalist forces that broke the federation apart.

OR

Q.31

(b) Examine any three consequences of the Shock therapy. (6 marks — 3×2=6)

Answer: Three consequences of Shock Therapy in post-Soviet states:

(1) Economic collapse — The overnight removal of state subsidies and rapid privatisation caused GDP to collapse by 50% in Russia and other states. Industrial production fell sharply, unemployment soared, and hyperinflation wiped out savings, plunging millions into poverty.

(2) Rise of oligarchs and crony capitalism — The rushed privatisation of state enterprises (often via voucher schemes) allowed well-connected individuals to acquire valuable assets at very low prices. This created a class of super-wealthy oligarchs who came to control major industries and wielded enormous political influence, deepening inequality.

(3) Social and political instability — The economic shock caused widespread social hardship, leading to a sharp rise in crime, mortality rates and social problems. Political instability followed in several states; in Russia, President Yeltsin dissolved parliament by force in 1993, and Chechnya's bid for independence sparked a devastating civil war.

Explanation:

Shock Therapy — the rapid transition from planned to market economy — had devastating social consequences in most post-Soviet states, creating economic depression, inequality and political instability.

Q.32

(a) "India's Foreign Policy has been successful in saving its 'National Interests'." Support the statement with three arguments. (6 marks — 3×2=6)

Answer: Three arguments supporting India's successful protection of national interests through foreign policy:

(1) Non-Alignment — India's policy of Non-Alignment during the Cold War allowed

it to maintain sovereignty, receive aid and trade from both superpowers, and avoid being drawn into conflicts not of its making. India successfully extracted economic and military benefits from both blocs while charting an independent course.

(2) Nuclear deterrence — India's decision to develop nuclear weapons (demonstrated in 1974 with Pokhran I and 1998 with Pokhran II) was a direct assertion of national interest against external pressure. India maintained its security vis-à-vis Pakistan and China, and later successfully negotiated the India-US Nuclear Deal (2008) that gave access to civilian nuclear technology without signing the NPT.

(3) Strengthening regional influence through SAARC and bilateral relations — India has used diplomacy to build partnerships across South Asia and beyond (Look East/Act East policy, strategic partnerships with USA, Russia, Israel), securing trade access, technology, and strategic depth for its economic development.

Explanation:

India's foreign policy has consistently prioritised sovereignty, security, and development — using Non-Alignment, strategic autonomy, and bilateral diplomacy to protect core national interests.

OR

Q.32

(b) "India's Foreign Policy is as per the principles of International Peace and Security as laid down in Article 51 of the Indian Constitution." Justify the statement with three examples. (6 marks — 3×2=6)

Answer: Article 51 of the Indian Constitution directs India to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honourable relations with nations, and encourage settlement of disputes by arbitration. Three examples:

(1) Non-Alignment Movement — India co-founded the NAM to keep newly independent nations free from superpower rivalry, promoting a world order based on peaceful coexistence rather than bloc confrontation — directly embodying Article 51's spirit.

(2) Active participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations — India is one of the largest contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping missions worldwide (Congo, Lebanon, South Sudan etc.), demonstrating its commitment to international peace and security.

(3) Panchsheel Agreement (1954) — India and China adopted the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel), including mutual non-aggression, non-interference, and peaceful settlement of disputes — a practical embodiment of Article 51's principles in bilateral diplomacy.

Explanation:

Article 51 makes international peace a constitutional directive.

India's foreign policy milestones — NAM, UN peacekeeping, Panchsheel — directly reflect these principles.

Q.33

(a) Describe any four factors responsible for the rise of coalition governments at the centre after the year 1989. (6 marks — 4×1.5=6)

Answer: Four factors:

(1) Decline of the Congress dominance — The Congress party's electoral dominance ('Congress system') eroded after 1977. Post-1989, no single party commanded a majority, making coalitions inevitable.

(2) Rise of regional parties — The 1990s saw a dramatic growth in the strength of regional parties (SP, BSP, RJD, DMK, TDP, AIADMK, Shiv Sena). They won enough seats to deny any national party a majority, while becoming indispensable coalition partners.

(3) Social mobilisation and OBC assertion — The implementation of the Mandal Commission report (1990) accelerated the political mobilisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), who found greater representation through regional and caste-based parties rather than the national parties, fragmenting the vote.

(4) Federalisation of politics — Growing regionalism and the demand for state autonomy meant voters increasingly elected parties based on state issues. This

produced diverse mandates in different states, resulting in a fragmented Lok Sabha where coalition-building became the norm.

Explanation:

Coalition politics emerged from the structural transformation of Indian democracy — the end of one-party dominance, the rise of regional and OBC-based parties, and the federalisation of electoral choices.

OR

Q.33

(b) Describe any four issues on which a broad agreement has emerged among most political parties. (6 marks — 4×1.5=6)

Answer: (1) Agreement on the new economic policies (liberalisation/globalisation) — most parties now support them.

(2) Acceptance of the political and social claims of the backward castes, including reservations for OBCs in education and jobs.

(3) Acceptance of the role of state-level parties in governing the country; the distinction between national and regional parties has weakened.

(4) Emphasis on pragmatic considerations rather than ideology — alliances (e.g. NDA, UPA) formed without ideological agreement.

Explanation:

After 1989 the era of coalition politics produced a broad consensus among most parties on these four issues, even as they continue to compete with one another.