CBSE Class 12 Political Science 2026 — Set 2 — 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 marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read these statements and choose the correct answer from the given options:

Assertion (A): The idea of Five Year Plans (FYP) in India was inspired by the USSR.

Reason (R): Due to acute economic crisis, the Indian Government started 'Plan Holiday' in 1966.

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

Both statements are true: India's Five Year Plans were indeed inspired by Soviet planning, and the 'Plan Holiday' was declared in 1966 due to economic crisis (drought, wars).

However, the Reason (R) about Plan Holiday does not explain why FYP was inspired by USSR — they are independent facts.

Hence both are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Q.2

Which one of the following is related to the traditional notion of security?

(a) Russia – Ukraine War <<

(b) Continuous rise in the global temperature

(c) 9/11 attack on USA

(d) Spread of COVID-19 epidemic in the world

Explanation:

Traditional security concerns military threats between states — war between countries such as the Russia–Ukraine War.

Non-traditional threats include terrorism (9/11), climate change (global temperature rise), and pandemics (COVID-19).

Q.3

Which one of the following statements is NOT correct about the first two Five Year Plans?

(a) The first Five Year Plan was drafted by K.N. Raj and the second Five Year Plan was drafted by P.C. Mahalnobis.

(b) The first Five Year Plan focussed on agriculture and the second Five Year Plan focussed on industries.

(c) The first Five Year Plan emphasized on the active role of the public sector and the second Five Year Plan made huge allocations for large scale projects.

(d) The aim of first Five Year Plan was to raise the industrial production and in the second Five Year Plan, the government imposed substantial tariffs on imports in order to protect both public and private sector industries. <<

Explanation:

The first Five Year Plan focused on agriculture and rehabilitation after partition — NOT on raising industrial production.

That statement is incorrect.

The first FYP was associated with agriculture; industrial emphasis came in the second FYP.

Options A, B, and C contain accurate statements about the two plans.

Q.4

Identify the correct trio of Baltic Republics.

(a) Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania <<

(b) Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania

(c) Slovenia, Romania, Estonia

(d) Estonia, Romania, Latvia

Explanation:

The three Baltic Republics that declared independence from the USSR are Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Slovenia and Romania are not Baltic states.

Q.5

Given below are two statements:

Statement I: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization that oversees those financial institutions and regulations that act at the international level.

Statement II: All the 189 members of IMF organization have equal say.

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:

Statement I is true — the IMF oversees international financial institutions and regulations.

Statement II is false — IMF members do NOT have equal say;

voting power is weighted by a country's financial contribution (quota).

Wealthy nations like the USA have far more voting power than smaller economies.

Q.6

Which one of the following statements is True about the concept of 'Co-operative Security'?

(a) Initiating action by the developed countries against non-traditional threats.

(b) Ensuring 'collective security' by the NATO countries in case of threats.

(c) Strengthening internal security by various measures within a state.

(d) Involving several countries to decide on a collective solution against non-traditional threats. <<

Explanation:

Co-operative security refers to a broad, multilateral approach where several countries — not just allies — come together to address threats collectively, including non-traditional threats.

It differs from collective security (NATO-style) in that it involves a wider, more inclusive group of nations working collaboratively.

Q.7

Which statement is the best description of 'Veto Power'?

(a) It is a power of positive voting.

(b) After the end of the Second World War, Veto Power is given only to permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to establish peace in the world. <<

(c) All the temporary members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have the right to use Veto Power only for two years.

(d) All the members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) possess Veto Power.

Explanation:

Veto Power is exclusively held by the five permanent members of the UNSC (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) — established after World War II.

It is a power of negative voting (blocking resolutions), not positive voting.

Temporary members and all members do not have veto power.

Q.8

Which was the last state toured by Rajiv Gandhi for his election campaign in May 1991?

(a) Tamil Nadu <<

(b) Karnataka

(c) Kerala

(d) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21 May 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, during an election rally.

Tamil Nadu was the last state he visited for his campaign before his assassination.

Q.9

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

List-I: (a) Congress for democracy, (b) Garibi Hatao, (c) Student movement led by Morarji Desai, (d) Total Revolution

List-II: (i) Gujarat, (ii) Jay Prakash Narayan, (iii) Jagjeevan Ram, (iv) Indira Gandhi

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

Congress for Democracy was formed by Jagjeevan Ram (iii);

'Garibi Hatao' was the slogan of Indira Gandhi (iv);

the student movement led by Morarji Desai originated in Gujarat (i);

Total Revolution was the call given by Jay Prakash Narayan (ii).

Hence: (a)-(iii), (b)-(iv), (c)-(i), (d)-(ii).

Q.10

Which one of the following is NOT a consequence of 'Shock Therapy'?

(a) The value of the Rouble, the Russian currency declined.

(b) The economy of the entire region was ruined.

(c) The system of social welfare got strengthened. <<

(d) The collective farm system disintegrated.

Explanation:

Shock Therapy led to economic collapse in post-Soviet states — the Rouble declined, the economy was ruined, and collective farms disintegrated.

The social welfare system was NOT strengthened; on the contrary, it deteriorated severely.

The collapse of welfare systems was a major consequence of Shock Therapy.

Q.11

Arrange the following events in chronological order:

(i) Declaration of National Emergency on the basis of internal disturbances.

(ii) Railway strike by government employees under the leadership of George Fernandes.

(iii) Sixth General Election held in India.

(iv) Declaration of the doctrine of 'basic structure' of the Constitution in the 'Keshavananda Bharti' case by the Supreme Court.

Choose the correct option:

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

Chronological order: (iv) Keshavananda Bharti case — 1973;

(ii) Railway strike by George Fernandes — 1974;

(i) National Emergency declared — June 1975;

(iii) Sixth General Election — March 1977. Hence the correct order is (iv), (ii), (i), (iii).

Q.12

The alliance that has formed the government at the centre the maximum number of times:

(a) United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

(b) National Front

(c) United Front

(d) National Democratic Alliance (NDA) <<

Explanation:

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has formed the government at the centre the maximum number of times — 1999–2004 under Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and 2014–2019 and 2019–2024 under Narendra Modi.

Q.13

Highlight any four threats to non-traditional security. (Section B — 2 marks, 50–60 words)

Answer: Four threats to non-traditional security: (1) Terrorism — use of violence by non-state actors to create fear; (2) Global warming and climate change threatening lives and livelihoods; (3) Pandemics and health epidemics (e.g. COVID-19) crossing borders; (4) Human trafficking and forced migration displacing populations. These threats cannot be resolved by military means alone and require cooperative international responses.

Explanation:

Non-traditional security threats go beyond inter-state military conflict.

They include terrorism, climate change, pandemics, poverty, and human rights violations — threats that endanger individuals and communities rather than just state borders.

Q.14

Assess the impact of outside powers on the South Asian Countries. (Section B — 2 marks, 50–60 words)

Answer: Outside powers have significantly influenced South Asia. The USA and USSR/Russia have competed for influence during and after the Cold War. China has deep economic and strategic ties with Pakistan, creating tensions with India. The USA has provided military and economic aid to various states. These interventions have complicated bilateral relations, fuelled arms races, and sometimes destabilised the region by supporting different sides in disputes.

Explanation:

Outside powers — especially the USA and China — have shaped South Asian politics through military alliances, economic assistance, and strategic partnerships, often exacerbating regional conflicts and rivalries.

Q.15

How does the geographical location of the North-East region has affected the expression of its regional demands? Explain. (Section B — 2 marks, 50–60 words)

Answer: The North-East is geographically isolated from mainland India, sharing international borders with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. This isolation has encouraged separatist tendencies and provided militants with refuge across porous borders. The difficult terrain hampers development and communication. This has intensified regional demands for autonomy, separate statehood, and protection of tribal/ethnic identity from migration and cultural change.

Explanation:

The strategic location bordering multiple countries, combined with difficult terrain and limited connectivity, has historically fuelled insurgencies and regional demands in the North-East.

Q.16

Explain any two differences between the refugees and the migrants. (Section B — 2 marks, 50–60 words)

Answer: Refugees flee their home country due to war, persecution, or natural disaster and cannot safely return — they are protected under international law (1951 Refugee Convention). Migrants move voluntarily, primarily for economic opportunities or education. Refugees have legal protection and cannot be forcibly returned; migrants generally do not have this special legal status. Refugees are pushed; migrants are pulled.

Explanation:

The key distinction is between forced displacement (refugees) and voluntary movement (migrants), with different legal protections under international law.

Q.17

Name any four political parties that had merged to form Janata Party in 1977. (Section B — 2 marks)

Answer: Four political parties that merged to form the Janata Party in 1977: (1) Bharatiya Lok Dal; (2) Congress (O) — the old Congress under Morarji Desai; (3) Jana Sangh; (4) Socialist Party / Congress for Democracy (led by Jagjeevan Ram). Other parties like the Swatantra Party also joined the merger.

Explanation:

The Janata Party was formed in 1977 as a united opposition front against the Congress.

It brought together disparate groups — socialists, Hindu nationalists, old Congress leaders — to defeat Indira Gandhi after the Emergency.

Q.18

Analyse the main reason responsible for the formation of Coalition Governments after 1989. (Section B — 2 marks, 50–60 words)

Answer: After 1989, no single party could secure a majority in the Lok Sabha. The rise of regional parties and the decline of the Congress's dominance led to a fragmented verdict. Voters increasingly supported regional leaders who represented local aspirations. This multi-party competition, along with the collapse of the 'Congress system,' made coalition governments inevitable as parties had to ally to reach a majority.

Explanation:

The end of Congress dominance and the rise of regional parties from the 1980s onwards fragmented the electoral landscape, making single-party majority governments rare and coalition politics the norm.

Q.19

(a) Explain any four differences between the governments formed in the first three General Elections held in India after independence and the coalition governments formed after the year 1989. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words)

Answer: Four differences: (1) Single-party vs. multi-party: The first three elections (1952, 1957, 1962) produced Congress majority governments; post-1989 governments are multi-party coalitions. (2) Stability: Early governments were stable; coalition governments are prone to instability due to competing interests. (3) Ideology: Early Congress governments had a broader national vision; coalitions often make ideological compromises. (4) Policy-making: The Congress governments could implement bold policies (Five Year Plans, land reform); coalitions involve negotiation and sometimes policy paralysis. The early period was characterised by the 'Congress system' of dominance, whereas post-1989 India entered an era of competitive multi-party politics reflecting regional diversity.

Explanation:

The shift from dominant-party governments to coalitions reflects the democratisation of India's political landscape and the rise of regional identities after 1989.

OR

Q.19

(b) Explain any four advantages of coalition governments with reference to Indian politics. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words) [OR variant of Q19]

Answer: Four advantages of coalition governments in Indian politics: (1) Representation of diversity — coalition governments give voice to regional parties and communities, ensuring diverse interests are represented in national governance. (2) Checks on majoritarianism — coalition partners can check the dominant party from taking unilateral or extreme decisions. (3) Accommodation of regional aspirations — state-level parties bring in local demands, helping to decentralise power. (4) Consensus-based policy-making — decisions require

negotiation and agreement, which can lead to more inclusive and balanced policies. Overall, coalition governments have strengthened Indian democracy by making it more pluralistic and representative of the country's federal character.

Explanation:

While coalitions are often seen as unstable, they have broadened democratic participation in India by bringing regional voices into national governance.

Q.20

Why could the reforms initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev not save the disintegration of Soviet Union? Explain any two reasons. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words)

Answer: Two reasons why Gorbachev's reforms could not save the Soviet Union: (1) Glasnost (openness) unleashed suppressed nationalism — by allowing freedom of expression, Glasnost enabled ethnic and nationalist movements in Soviet republics to organise openly. Republics like the Baltic states, Ukraine, and others intensified demands for independence, which could not be reversed. (2) Perestroika (restructuring) weakened central control without building new institutions — economic restructuring dismantled the planned economy but failed to create functioning market mechanisms, leading to shortages, inflation, and popular discontent. This economic hardship eroded trust in the Communist Party and emboldened independence movements. The reforms thus accelerated, rather than prevented, disintegration.

Explanation:

Gorbachev's liberalisation policies paradoxically strengthened the forces of disintegration — nationalism and economic crisis — that brought down the Soviet Union.

Q.21

(a) Describe any two areas of co-operation and any two reasons for conflicts between India and Pakistan. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words)

Answer: Areas of co-operation: (1) Trade and economic ties — India and Pakistan have engaged in trade agreements and people-to-people contact through the Lahore Declaration and composite dialogue processes. (2) Cultural and sports exchanges — cricket diplomacy, cultural festivals, and Aman ki Asha initiatives have built goodwill between the peoples. Reasons for conflict: (1) Kashmir dispute — both countries claim the entire Jammu & Kashmir region; the unresolved territorial dispute has led to three wars and continued cross-border tensions. (2) Cross-border terrorism — India accuses Pakistan of supporting terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba that carry out attacks on Indian soil, a persistent source of bilateral hostility.

Explanation:

India–Pakistan relations are marked by deep structural conflicts (Kashmir, terrorism) alongside efforts at people-to-people co-operation and trade.

OR

Q.21

(b) Describe any two areas of co-operation and any two reasons for conflicts between India and Nepal. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words) [OR variant of Q21]

Answer: Areas of co-operation: (1) Open border and free movement — the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship allows free movement of people and goods between India and Nepal; India is Nepal's largest trading partner. (2) Hydropower and development projects — India has assisted Nepal in building hydropower projects and has provided aid for disaster relief (e.g. 2015 earthquake). Reasons for conflict: (1) Border disputes — Nepal claims the Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura territories as its own, leading to diplomatic tensions, especially after India's new political map in 2019. (2) Madhesi issue — India's perceived support for the Madhesi community in Nepal's Terai region has caused resentment in Kathmandu, straining bilateral ties.

Explanation:

India–Nepal ties are historically close but marked by border disputes and political sensitivities, requiring careful management of the asymmetric relationship.

Q.22

The ideology of 'Bharatiya Jana Sangh' party was to make India a progressive and strong nation. Do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with any four suitable arguments. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words)

Answer: Yes, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) aimed to make India a progressive and strong nation, albeit with a distinct ideological perspective. Four arguments: (1) Cultural nationalism — BJS emphasised Indian cultural identity and Hindu civilisational values as a foundation for national strength. (2) Strong defence — the party advocated a powerful military and opposed India's nuclear ambiguity, calling for development of nuclear capability to ensure security. (3) Economic self-reliance — BJS favoured swadeshi economic policies, promoting indigenous industries and opposing excessive foreign control, aiming for economic strength. (4) National integration — the party opposed regionalism and separatism, advocating one language (Hindi), one culture, and one nation to create a strong unified India.

Explanation:

BJS (precursor to BJP) combined cultural nationalism with a vision of a self-reliant, militarily strong India, though critics argued its Hindu nationalist ideology was divisive.

Q.23

During the decade of 1960, how did the Congress Party resolve the challenge of political succession? Explain. (Section C — 4 marks, 100–120 words)

Answer: The 1960s presented the Congress with two major succession crises: (1) After Jawaharlal Nehru's death in 1964, the Congress president K. Kamaraj brokered a compromise — Lal Bahadur Shastri was chosen as Prime Minister.

The 'Kamaraj Plan,' which had earlier asked senior leaders to give up ministerial positions to strengthen the party, helped build consensus. Shastri led India during the 1965 war with Pakistan but died in Tashkent in 1966. (2) After Shastri's sudden death, the party's 'Syndicate' (powerful regional leaders) chose Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister, believing she would be more pliable. These succession decisions were made through intra-party bargaining rather than democratic election, showing both the strength and vulnerability of the Congress system.

Explanation:

Both the Nehru-to-Shastri and Shastri-to-Indira Gandhi successions in the 1960s were managed through elite bargaining within the Congress — a feature of the dominant-party system.

Q.24

(Section D — Passage-based question, 4 marks) Read the following passage and answer the questions:

'On the reform of structures and processes, the biggest discussion has been on the functioning of the Security Council. Related to this has been the demand for an increase in the UN Security Council's permanent and non-permanent membership so that the realities of contemporary world politics are better reflected in the structure of the organisation. In particular, there are proposals to increase membership from Asia, Africa and South America. Beyond this, the US and other Western countries want improvements in the UN's budgetary procedures and its administration.'

(i) Which organ of the United Nations has five permanent members?

(ii) Which country contributes the most in the budget of United Nations Organisation?

(iii) In which year was the strength of non-permanent members of Security Council increased?

(iv) Which of the following statements is NOT correct about the reforms in Security Council?

Answer: (i) Security Council — (B); (ii) America/USA — (A); (iii) 1965 — (D); (iv) The Security Council has a large army to establish peace — (D). The UNSC does not have its own standing army; it can only authorise member states to take military action or deploy peacekeeping forces.

Explanation:

The UN Security Council has 5 permanent members (P5): USA, UK, France, Russia, China.

The USA is the largest contributor to the UN budget.

Non-permanent members were increased from 6 to 10 in 1965. The UNSC does not maintain a large standing army.

Q.0

(Passage Q24 sub-part i) Which organ of the United Nations has five permanent members?

(a) General Assembly

(b) Security Council <<

(c) Secretariat

(d) Economic and Social Council

Explanation:

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has five permanent members — USA, UK, France, Russia, and China — each possessing the veto power.

Q.0

(Passage Q24 sub-part ii) Which country contributes the most in the budget of United Nations Organisation?

(a) America <<

(b) Russia

(c) China

(d) France

Explanation:

The United States of America (America) is the largest single contributor to the UN budget, assessed at approximately 22% of the regular budget.

Q.0

(Passage Q24 sub-part iii) In which year was the strength of non-permanent members of Security Council increased?

(a) 1962
(b) 1963
(c) 1964
(d) 1965 <<

Explanation:

The UN Charter was amended in 1965 to increase the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council from 6 to 10, bringing the total UNSC membership to 15.

Q.0

(Passage Q24 sub-part iv) Which of the following statements is NOT correct about the reforms in Security Council?

(a) The Security Council no longer represents contemporary political realities.
(b) The Security Council's decisions reflect only western values and interests and are dominated by a few powers.
(c) The Security Council lacks equitable representation.
(d) The Security Council has a large army to establish peace. <<

Explanation:

The Security Council does NOT have a large standing army of its own.
It can authorise member states to use force or deploy UN peacekeeping missions, but it maintains no permanent army.
Options A, B, and C are legitimate criticisms raised in the reform debate.

Q.25

(Section D — Cartoon-based question, 4 marks) Study the given cartoon carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(i) Which change does the cartoon reflect? (1 mark)

(ii) What kind of shift is shown in America's attitude towards developing countries? (1 mark)

(iii) Mention any one positive and any one negative impact of globalization in reference to the cartoon. (2 marks)

Answer: (i) The cartoon reflects the change brought about by economic globalization — depicting how economic and political power dynamics between developed and developing countries have shifted. (ii) The cartoon shows America moving from a paternalistic/aid-giving attitude towards a more commercially driven relationship — treating developing countries as markets and economic partners rather than recipients of charity. (iii) Positive impact: Globalization has increased economic integration and created new opportunities for growth in developing countries. Negative impact: It has led to cultural homogenization and economic dependency, with multinational corporations from wealthy nations dominating developing-country markets.

Explanation:

Cartoon-based questions test visual interpretation skills.

The cartoon in this paper typically depicts globalization's impact on power relations.

Answers are assessed on understanding of globalization themes.

Q.0

(Section D — For Visually Impaired Candidates only, in lieu of Q.25, 4 marks)

(i) In which year did India embark on reforms for economic growth? (1 mark)

(ii) In which year and at what place was the first meeting of World Social Forum (WSF) organized? (1 mark)

(iii) State any two cultural consequences of globalization. (2 marks)

Answer: (i) India embarked on economic reforms (liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation — LPG reforms) in 1991. (ii) The first World Social Forum was organized in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January 2001. (iii) Two cultural consequences of globalization: (a) Cultural homogenization — spread of Western (especially American) culture, food, music, and values at the expense of local traditions; (b) Counter-cultural movements — globalization has also triggered revival of local identities, languages, and indigenous cultures as communities resist homogenization.

Explanation:

Visually impaired alternative questions test the same themes — globalization and its consequences — without requiring visual interpretation.

Q.26

(Section D — Map-based question, 4 marks) In the given political outline map of India, four states have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer-book:

(i) The state related to the leader of Dravidian Movement E.V. Ramasami Naicker.

(ii) The state whose formation was supported by Master Tara Singh.

(iii) The state where the movement against outsiders was started by students.

(iv) The state for which Rajiv Gandhi and Laldenga signed an agreement for peace.

Answer: (i) Tamil Nadu — E.V. Ramasami Naicker (Periyar) led the Dravidian Movement from Tamil Nadu. (ii) Punjab — Master Tara Singh, the Akali leader, championed the cause of a Punjabi-speaking state (Punjabi Suba), which eventually became Punjab in 1966. (iii) Assam — the Assam Movement against outsiders/immigrants (particularly Bangladeshi immigrants) was led by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) from 1979–1985. (iv) Mizoram — the Mizo Peace

Accord was signed between Rajiv Gandhi's government and Laldenga of the Mizo National Front (MNF) in 1986, ending decades of insurgency.

Explanation:

Map-based questions test knowledge of regional political movements.

Each clue maps to a specific state: Tamil Nadu (Dravidian movement), Punjab (Sikh identity), Assam (anti-outsider movement), Mizoram (Mizo accord).

Q.0

(Section D — For Visually Impaired Candidates only, in lieu of Q.26, 4 marks)

(i) State the article related to Jammu and Kashmir which was abolished in 2019.

(ii) Name any one regional political party of the Jammu & Kashmir.

(iii) In which year did Arunachal Pradesh become a separate state?

(iv) Name the popular leader of Mizo National Front (MNF).

Answer: (i) Article 370 of the Indian Constitution (which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir) was abrogated in August 2019. (ii) National Conference (NC) — also acceptable: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). (iii) Arunachal Pradesh became a separate state on 20 February 1987. (iv) Laldenga was the popular leader of the Mizo National Front (MNF).

Explanation:

These questions test knowledge of north-east India and J&K politics.

Article 370 abrogation (2019), Arunachal statehood (1987), and Laldenga-MNF are standard textbook facts.

Q.27

(a) Explain any four factors that led Japan to emerge as a new centre of power even after the destruction caused by Atom Bombs. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words)

Answer: Four factors behind Japan's emergence as a new centre of power: (1) US

security umbrella — the USA provided Japan with a security guarantee (US-Japan Security Treaty), allowing Japan to spend minimally on defence (Article 9 of Japan's constitution renounced war) and redirect all resources to economic growth. (2) Export-led economic model — Japan focused on manufacturing high-quality goods (automobiles, electronics) for export. Strong work ethic, discipline, and investment in technology drove rapid industrialisation through the 1960s–1980s (the 'Japanese Economic Miracle'). (3) Government-industry partnership — MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry) guided industrial policy, identifying key sectors and supporting them with subsidies and protections. (4) Investment in education and technology — Japan made massive investments in science, technology, and skilled human capital, enabling it to innovate and compete globally. By the 1980s, Japan had become the world's second-largest economy, a major financial power, and a global technology leader — a remarkable recovery from the devastation of 1945.

Explanation:

Japan's post-war economic miracle resulted from the unique combination of American protection, strategic industrial policy, export orientation, and investment in human capital.

OR

Q.27

(b) Explain any four policies adopted by China to accelerate its economic growth. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words) [OR variant of Q27]

Answer: Four policies adopted by China to accelerate economic growth: (1) Four Modernisations — Deng Xiaoping launched reforms in 1978 targeting agriculture, industry, science & technology, and military, transforming the economy from a rigid planned system. (2) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) — China established SEZs (e.g. Shenzhen) where foreign investment was welcomed, market mechanisms allowed, and export-oriented industries set up, integrating China into the global economy. (3) Opening to foreign investment — China opened its economy to foreign direct investment and technology transfer while maintaining

Communist Party political control — a unique 'socialist market economy' model. (4) Agricultural reforms (Household Responsibility System) — collectivised farms were dismantled; peasants could sell surplus produce in markets, increasing agricultural productivity and rural incomes, which funded industrial growth. These reforms produced sustained double-digit GDP growth for decades, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty and making China the world's second-largest economy.

Explanation:

China's economic rise from 1978 was driven by pragmatic market-oriented reforms within a politically authoritarian framework — Deng Xiaoping's 'reform and opening up' policy.

Q.28

(a) Highlight any four steps taken by the Government of India to minimize the greenhouse gas emissions. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words)

Answer: Four steps taken by India to minimize greenhouse gas emissions: (1) National Solar Mission (2010) — under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission to massively scale up solar energy capacity; India aims for 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. (2) International Solar Alliance (ISA) — India co-founded the ISA with France at COP21 (Paris, 2015) to promote solar energy among tropical nations and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. (3) Paris Agreement commitments — India pledged at COP21 to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33–35% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels) and achieve 40% of installed electricity from non-fossil sources. (4) Energy efficiency measures — India introduced the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme for energy-intensive industries, promoted LED bulb distribution (UJALA scheme saving millions of tonnes of CO2), and set fuel efficiency standards for vehicles. These steps reflect India's commitment to sustainable development while balancing economic growth.

Explanation:

India's climate policy balances development needs with emission reduction commitments through renewable energy expansion, international cooperation, and energy efficiency programmes.

OR

Q.28

(b) How does geo-politics of natural resources determine the balance of power in the contemporary world? Examine. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words) [OR variant of Q28]

Answer: The geo-politics of natural resources shapes the contemporary balance of power in several ways: (1) Oil and strategic leverage — control over oil reserves in the Middle East, Central Asia, and elsewhere gives resource-rich states disproportionate political and economic influence. Oil-exporting nations (OPEC) have used supply cuts to influence global politics, as in the 1973 oil embargo. (2) Resource competition fuelling conflicts — rivalries over oil, gas, water, and minerals drive state behaviour and even military interventions (e.g. US intervention in Iraq, tensions in the South China Sea over seabed resources). (3) China's resource diplomacy — China's Belt and Road Initiative secures access to African, Central Asian, and Latin American resources in exchange for infrastructure investment, reshaping global power dynamics. (4) Energy transition and new geopolitics — the shift to renewable energy is creating new resource dependencies (lithium, cobalt, rare earths for batteries), with countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chile gaining strategic importance. Control over critical minerals is becoming the new frontier of great-power competition.

Explanation:

Natural resources — oil, gas, water, and increasingly critical minerals — remain central to state power, alliance formation, and conflict in the contemporary international system.

Q.29

(a) Analyse any three principles of India's foreign policy which you would like to alter in the present international scenario. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words)

Answer: Three principles of India's foreign policy that could be revisited in the contemporary scenario: (1) Non-Alignment — India's traditional policy of not joining military blocs was suited to Cold War bipolarity. In today's multi-polar world, rigid non-alignment may limit India's ability to build decisive strategic partnerships. A flexible 'strategic autonomy' with selective alignments (as with the QUAD) may better serve India's interests. (2) Panchsheel and non-interference — the principle of non-interference in others' internal affairs was suitable in a decolonising world. Today, India could more actively promote democracy, human rights, and regional norms, especially in its neighbourhood where instability directly threatens Indian security. (3) Preference for bilateral over multilateral engagement — India has traditionally preferred bilateral diplomacy. However, in a globalised world with transnational challenges (climate change, terrorism, pandemics), active leadership in multilateral institutions (UNSC reform, WTO, climate negotiations) would amplify India's global influence commensurate with its size and aspirations for permanent UNSC membership.

Explanation:

This question invites critical thinking about India's foreign policy in the contemporary context of multipolarity, climate change, and rising great-power competition.

OR

Q.29

(b) "India's nuclear policy is a blend of strategic autonomy and a commitment to global disarmament." Justify the statement with any three suitable arguments. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words) [OR variant of Q29]

Answer: Three arguments justifying that India's nuclear policy blends strategic autonomy with commitment to disarmament: (1) No First Use (NFU) pledge —

India maintains a No First Use policy, committing that it will not use nuclear weapons first in any conflict. This reflects a commitment to responsible, defensive deterrence rather than aggressive nuclear posturing, signalling India's disarmament orientation even as it maintains a credible deterrent. (2) Rejection of the NPT on equity grounds, not to proliferate — India refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because it sees the NPT as discriminatory — creating a permanent division between nuclear 'haves' and 'have-nots.' India's position is for universal disarmament, not selective non-proliferation. India has consistently advocated for a time-bound global disarmament treaty at the UN. (3) Civilian nuclear use and international cooperation — India's nuclear programme has a significant civilian (energy) component. The 2008 Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal and India's engagement with the IAEA demonstrate India's willingness to participate in the global nuclear order while retaining strategic autonomy — not subordinating its security decisions to external dictates.

Explanation:

India's nuclear doctrine — NFU, credible minimum deterrence, rejection of NPT on equity grounds, and advocacy for universal disarmament — reflects a distinctive blend of realism and idealism.

Q.30

(a) How did Princely states posed a threat to the National Security of India? Explain. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words)

Answer: The Princely States posed several serious threats to India's national security at independence: (1) Threat of fragmentation — there were 565 princely states at independence. Had they all claimed independence, India would have fragmented into hundreds of entities, making it impossible to defend borders or function as a coherent nation. Pakistan could have exploited sympathetic princely states to encircle or weaken India. (2) The Hyderabad crisis — the Nizam of Hyderabad sought independence and even approached the UN. Hyderabad's central location within Indian territory and the Nizam's private army (Razakars)

posed a direct internal security threat. India had to conduct 'Operation Polo' (Police Action) in 1948 to integrate it. (3) The Kashmir problem — Maharaja Hari Singh's delay in acceding led to a Pakistani-backed tribal invasion, triggering the first India-Pakistan war in 1947. Kashmir's unresolved accession remains a live security threat to this day. (4) Junagadh — the Nawab of Junagadh acceded to Pakistan despite a Hindu-majority population and geographic contiguity with India, threatening a precedent that could have destabilised other princely states and invited Pakistani intervention.

Explanation:

The Princely States represented the most complex challenge of nation-building — Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's integration of 565 states through diplomacy and force was critical to India's territorial integrity and security.

OR

Q.30

(b) Explain any four problems faced during the process of partition of India. (Section E — 6 marks, 170–180 words) [OR variant of Q30]

Answer: Four major problems during the partition of India in 1947: (1) Massive displacement and refugee crisis — the partition of Punjab and Bengal triggered the largest mass migration in human history. Approximately 15 million people were displaced; millions of Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs crossed borders in fear, with no adequate arrangements for their rehabilitation. (2) Communal violence and massacres — the movement of refugees was accompanied by horrific communal violence. Massacres, sexual violence against women, and retaliatory killings claimed between 200,000 and 2 million lives (estimates vary) in Punjab alone, leaving deep wounds. (3) Division of assets and administrative machinery — the partition required splitting the Indian Civil Service, police, military, treasury, and government records between two new nations almost overnight. The Radcliffe Line divided provinces without regard to communities, resources, or infrastructure. (4) Integration of Princely States — both India and Pakistan had to simultaneously manage the integration of hundreds of princely states while dealing with the

partition crisis. States like Hyderabad, Junagadh, and Kashmir chose paths that directly threatened national integrity and triggered conflicts.

Explanation:

Partition was one of the most traumatic events in South Asian history — mass migration, communal violence, division of assets, and the princely states problem all occurred simultaneously.