CBSE Class 12 Political Science 2026 — Set 3 — 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 World Bank was created after the Second World War in the year 1945.

Statement II : The activities of the World Bank are focused on the developing countries.

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.

The World Bank was indeed established in 1945 after World War II (along with the IMF at the Bretton Woods Conference).

Its mandate focuses on providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries to reduce poverty and support development.

Q.2

The major objective of 'Kyoto Protocol' was :

(a) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. <<

(b) to reduce pollution by increasing forest cover.

(c) to provide grant-in-aid to the developing nations to control environmental pollution.

(d) to promote sustainable development.

Explanation:

The Kyoto Protocol (1997, entered into force 2005) was an international agreement that committed its parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that global warming is occurring and man-made CO2 emissions are driving it.

Q.3

The concept of 'sustainable development' emphasises on :

(a) utilizing maximum resources for human development.

(b) increasing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country.

(c) combining economic growth with ecological responsibility. <<

(d) maximising the efforts for environmental conservation.

Explanation:

Sustainable development (as defined in the Brundtland Report, 1987) means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

It emphasises combining economic growth with ecological responsibility — not maximising resource use, GDP alone, or pure conservation.

Q.4

Match the States given in List-I with the States from which these were carved out given in List-II correctly. Choose the correct answer from the codes given below :

List-I: 1. Gujarat, 2. Haryana, 3. Meghalaya, 4. Chhattisgarh

List-II: (i) Assam, (ii) Bombay, (iii) Madhya Pradesh, (iv) Punjab

Codes :

(a) 1-(i), 2-(iii), 3-(iv), 4-(ii)

(b) 1-(ii), 2-(iv), 3-(i), 4-(iii) <<

(c) 1-(iii), 2-(iv), 3-(i), 4-(ii)

(d) 1-(ii), 2-(i), 3-(iv), 4-(iii)

Explanation:

Gujarat (1960) was carved out of the former Bombay State.

Haryana (1966) was carved out of Punjab.

Meghalaya (1972) was carved out of Assam.

Chhattisgarh (2000) was carved out of Madhya Pradesh.

Therefore: 1-(ii), 2-(iv), 3-(i), 4-(iii) — Option (B).

Q.5

Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and other as Reason (R). Read these statements and choose the correct answer from the given below options :

Assertion (A) : The European Union has its own flag, anthem, founding date and currency.

Reason (R) : The European Union has a major influence on the economic, political and military fields in the contemporary world.

Options :

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

(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but 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:

Both statements are true: the EU does have its own flag, anthem, founding date (1 November 1993, Maastricht Treaty) and currency (Euro).

The EU is also a major economic, political and military force globally.

However, the EU's influence (R) does not explain why it has a flag/anthem/currency (A) — these symbols reflect its supranational identity, not a consequence of its global influence.

So (B) is correct.

Q.6

The States Reorganisation Commission was appointed in 1953 :

(a) to ensure administrative efficiency.

(b) to end complexities regarding demarcation of the provinces' boundaries during colonial rule.

(c) to ensure process of nation building.

(d) for demarcation of states' boundaries on the basis of language. <<

Explanation:

The States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) was appointed in 1953 under Justice Fazl Ali primarily to recommend the reorganisation of state boundaries on the basis of language.

This followed the demand for a separate Telugu-speaking state (Andhra) and the broader linguistic reorganisation movement.

The SRC submitted its report in 1955, leading to the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.

Q.7

Choose the best argument to support India's claim for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council :

(a) India's growing economic power and stable political system <<
(b) India's effective leadership
(c) India's membership in the United Nations Organization since its inception
(d) India as the contributing member country in the United Nations Organisation's budget

Explanation:

The strongest argument for India's claim for a permanent UNSC seat is its growing economic power (world's fifth largest economy, among the fastest growing) combined with its stable democratic political system, large population, and significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions.

While India has been a UN member since its founding, that alone is not sufficient justification — numerous countries share that status.

Q.8

Arrange the following events in a chronological order :

(i) Atomic test conducted by China
(ii) First nuclear explosion conducted by India
(iii) Implementation of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
(iv) Initiation of the atomic programme in India under the guidance of Homi

Jehangir Bhabha

Choose the correct option :

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

Chronological order: (iv) India's atomic programme under Homi Jehangir Bhabha was initiated in 1948 when the Atomic Energy Commission was set up.

(i) China conducted its first nuclear test in 1964. (iii) The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entered into force in 1970. (ii) India conducted its first nuclear explosion (Pokhran-I / 'Smiling Buddha') in 1974. So the order is (iv), (i), (iii), (ii) — Option (B).

Q.9

In which year did the largest public sector undertaking, Railways, go on a strike ?

(a) 1974 <<

(b) 1973

(c) 1972

(d) 1971

Explanation:

The famous Railway Strike of 1974 was called by George Fernandes, leader of the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

It was one of the largest strikes in Indian history.

The government declared it illegal and the strike was called off after about 20 days.

This was one of the significant events in the political crisis that preceded the Emergency of 1975.

Q.10

Which one of the following was the decision of the Supreme Court given on 24 June, 1975 about the Indira Gandhi case ?

(a) Election of Indira Gandhi was invalid.

(b) Indira Gandhi used the services of the government officials in her election campaign which is against the concept of 'basic structure' of the Constitution.

(c) Indira Gandhi was ordered to resign from her post immediately.

(d) Indira Gandhi was granted a partial stay on the High Court order, allowing her to remain a member of the Parliament, but could not take part in the Lok Sabha proceedings. <<

Explanation:

On 24 June 1975, the Supreme Court (Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer) granted a conditional/partial stay on the Allahabad High Court judgment that had declared Indira Gandhi's election void.

The stay allowed her to remain an MP and Prime Minister but barred her from voting or participating in Lok Sabha proceedings.

This was not an unconditional stay, which led her to declare the Emergency on 25–26 June 1975.

Q.11

Which one of the following countries was not a founder of ASEAN ?

(a) Singapore

(b) Indonesia

(c) China <<

(d) Thailand

Explanation:

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was founded on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by five countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

China was not a founder member.

China is not even a member of ASEAN.

Q.12

In which city was the first Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held

?

(a) Belgrade <<

(b) Bandung

(c) Tokyo

(d) Delhi

Explanation:

The first Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit Conference was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961. It was attended by 25 countries and led by Jawaharlal Nehru (India), Josip Broz Tito (Yugoslavia), Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt), Sukarno (Indonesia), and Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana).

Note: The 1955 Bandung Conference was a precursor that helped pave the way for NAM, but it was not the first NAM Summit.

Q.13

Name any four republics of the Soviet Union.

Answer: Any four of the following fifteen Soviet republics: Russia (RSFSR), Ukraine, Belarus (Byelorussia), Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Moldova, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Estonia.

Explanation:

The Soviet Union (USSR) comprised 15 constituent republics.

These were: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Moldova, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Estonia.

All became independent states when the USSR dissolved in 1991.

Q.14

"Globalization has been a boon for the economy of India despite the resistance shown by certain groups." Support the statement.

Answer: Globalization benefited India's economy through: increased FDI inflows, expansion of the IT and services sector (India became a global IT hub), growth in

exports, creation of employment, access to advanced technology, higher GDP growth rates, rise of Indian multinational companies, and improved living standards for a significant section of the population.

Explanation:

Despite resistance from groups like farmers and small-scale industries who feared competition, globalization opened up India's economy post-1991 liberalization.

It led to rapid growth of the IT/BPO sector, increased FDI, higher exports, and India's integration into the global economy.

Critics like those in the Left and certain trade unions resisted it, but proponents argue the net economic impact has been positive.

Q.15

Highlight any two fundamental differences between the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan.

Answer: 1. The First Five Year Plan (1951–56) gave priority to agriculture and irrigation; the Second Five Year Plan (1956–61) emphasised rapid industrialisation, especially heavy industries. 2. The First Plan was based on the Harrod-Domar model and focused on reconstruction and balanced development; the Second Plan was based on the P.C. Mahalanobis model and gave precedence to the public sector and capital goods industries.

Explanation:

The First Five Year Plan (1951–56) focused on agricultural development, irrigation, and rehabilitation following Partition.

The Second Five Year Plan (1956–61), drafted by statistician P.C.

Mahalanobis, shifted focus to heavy industry and public sector expansion.

The Second Plan also allocated more to industry and accepted a larger fiscal deficit.

Q.16

Which two reasons were given by the Government for declaring the National Emergency in 1975 ?

Answer: The government gave two reasons: (1) Internal disturbance — the

Jayaprakash Narayan-led movement was described as a threat to internal security and public order; (2) External threat — citing threats to national security and integrity, though the primary stated ground under Article 352 was 'internal disturbance' (later changed to 'armed rebellion' by the 44th Amendment).

Explanation:

The Emergency was declared on 25–26 June 1975 by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on the advice of PM Indira Gandhi.

The official reasons cited were: (1) internal disturbance — the JP movement with nationwide strikes and civil disobedience, and (2) threat to the security and integrity of India.

The government used Article 352 of the Constitution on grounds of 'internal disturbance'.

Q.17

How has Information Technology been responsible in accelerating globalization across the world ? Explain with two examples.

Answer: Information Technology has accelerated globalization by: (1) enabling instant global communication and commerce — e.g., e-commerce platforms like Amazon allow businesses to sell across borders without physical presence; (2) enabling outsourcing and offshoring — e.g., India's IT/BPO industry provides services to companies in the USA, UK and other countries, integrating economies through digital connectivity.

Explanation:

IT has shrunk the world by enabling real-time communication (internet, email, video conferencing), e-commerce, digital financial transactions, and the offshoring of services.

For example, call centres in India serve customers in the US;

software developed in Bengaluru is deployed in Europe.

This cross-border flow of services, data, and capital accelerates economic globalization.

Q.18

Analyse any two factors responsible for the change in the nature of coalition governments at the Centre after the General Elections of 2014.

Answer: Two factors: (1) The BJP's outright majority in 2014 and 2019 reduced dependence on coalition partners, shifting power back towards a dominant single-party government — unlike the 1989–2014 era of genuine coalition compulsions. (2) Decline of regional parties' bargaining power at the Centre — with a single party commanding a majority, regional parties could no longer extract concessions as 'king-makers', changing the nature of alliances from necessity-based to preference-based.

Explanation:

After 2014, the BJP won an outright Lok Sabha majority (282/543 seats in 2014; 303/543 in 2019) for the first time since 1984 (for any party).

This ended the era of hung parliaments (1989–2014) where regional parties were indispensable coalition partners.

The NDA alliance post-2014 was a coalition in name, but the BJP did not depend on allies to survive — a qualitative change from earlier UPA/NDA coalitions.

Q.19

Explain any two major concerns of Indian government regarding the reorganisation of states on the basis of language after the end of colonial rule.

Answer: Two major concerns: (1) Fear that linguistic states might lead to regionalism and disintegration of the nation — political leaders like Nehru worried that organising states on linguistic lines might strengthen regional identities at the expense of national unity; (2) Fear of setting a precedent for further division — once linguistic reorganisation was accepted, demands from other linguistic groups might arise endlessly, fragmenting the country.

Explanation:

India's first Prime Minister Nehru and Sardar Patel were initially opposed to

reorganising states on linguistic grounds, fearing it would encourage secessionism and weaken national unity.
The Dar Commission (1948) also recommended against it.
However, the demand was so strong (e.g., Potti Sriramulu's fast unto death for Andhra) that the government was compelled to appoint the SRC in 1953 and ultimately reorganise states in 1956.

Q.20

Highlight any four effects of the shock therapy after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Answer: Four effects of shock therapy: (1) Collapse of old state-owned industries — rapid privatisation led to the shutdown of many factories, causing massive unemployment; (2) Hyperinflation — sudden removal of price controls caused prices to skyrocket, eroding savings; (3) Rise of 'oligarchs' — state assets were sold at throwaway prices, leading to wealth concentration among a few politically connected individuals; (4) Decline in social welfare — cuts in state subsidies for education, health and housing worsened living standards for the majority.

Explanation:
Shock therapy was the Western-advised rapid transition from a command to a free market economy in Russia and other post-Soviet states in the early 1990s.
It involved rapid privatisation, price liberalisation, and cutting state subsidies.
The immediate effects were catastrophic for most citizens: industrial output fell by half, poverty increased dramatically, and a small group of 'oligarchs' captured former state assets at negligible prices.

Q.21

Analyse any two major challenges faced by the Election Commission before conducting the first General Elections in India after independence.

Answer: Two major challenges: (1) Massive scale and near-total illiteracy — the electorate comprised about 176 million voters, the majority of whom were illiterate; the Commission had to devise a system (colour-coded ballot boxes per candidate) to enable illiterate voters to participate meaningfully. (2) Delimitation of

constituencies and voter registration — the country had just been reorganised and partitioned; preparing electoral rolls for such a vast and diverse population, many of whom were displaced refugees, was an enormous logistical challenge.

Explanation:

India's first general elections (1951–52) were a monumental exercise.

The Election Commission under Sukumar Sen faced challenges including: creating a voters' list from scratch for 173 million voters, dealing with widespread illiteracy (85%), ensuring free and fair conduct across 489 constituencies, managing a massive exercise in a newly independent country still recovering from Partition, and training hundreds of thousands of polling staff.

Q.22

(a) "The United Nations Organisation is generally regarded as the great hope of humanity for peace and progress." Support the statement with two arguments.

Answer: Two arguments: (1) The UN has prevented a third world war — since its establishment in 1945, the UN has served as a forum for dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy that has averted direct conflict between major powers; UN peacekeeping missions have helped maintain ceasefires in numerous conflicts. (2) The UN has championed global development and human rights — through specialised agencies like UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and UNDP, the UN has made significant progress in reducing poverty, improving health and promoting education worldwide.

Explanation:

The UN was created after the devastation of World War II with the primary purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

Despite its limitations, it has provided a neutral platform for resolving disputes (Korean War ceasefire, Suez Crisis mediation), has coordinated global responses to humanitarian crises, and through agencies like WHO (eradication of smallpox) and UNICEF has improved quality of life globally.

OR

Q.22

(b) [OR] Suggest any four measures to make the United Nations Organisation more relevant in the current scenario.

Answer: Four measures: (1) Reform the Security Council — expand permanent membership to include major developing nations like India, Brazil, Germany, Japan, and African representation to reflect 21st-century geopolitical realities. (2) Reduce veto power abuse — reform or limit the veto to prevent powerful nations from blocking collective action. (3) Strengthen the UN's financial base — ensure all member states pay dues in full and on time to make the organisation less dependent on a few major donors. (4) Enhance the role of the General Assembly — give greater decision-making power to the General Assembly as a more democratic body representing all member states.

Explanation:

Critics argue the UN's structures reflect the post-WWII world order and need modernisation.

Key reforms include: expanding the UNSC, democratising decision-making, improving peacekeeping effectiveness, strengthening enforcement mechanisms, and ensuring the UN can act without being paralysed by great-power vetoes.

Q.23

(a) Why have the global efforts to protect the environment not been as successful as desired ? Analyse the reasons.

Answer: Reasons: (1) Conflict between development and environment — developing countries argue they need to industrialise to reduce poverty and cannot afford the same environmental standards as already-developed rich nations who industrialised without such constraints; (2) Lack of binding commitments — many international agreements (like the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement) lack strong enforcement mechanisms, allowing states to renege on commitments; (3) Divergence of interests between developed and developing nations — developed countries want cuts in emissions but developing nations

argue historical responsibility lies with the developed world; (4) Short-term economic interests over long-term environmental goals — governments prioritise immediate economic growth and employment over distant environmental benefits.

Explanation:

Global environmental agreements often fail because of the 'tragedy of the commons' at the international level — no single actor bears the full cost of environmental degradation, so all have incentives to free-ride.

The North-South divide (developed vs developing countries), lack of enforcement, domestic political pressures, and the complexity of coordinating 190+ sovereign states make effective global environmental governance extremely difficult.

OR

Q.23

(b) [OR] Evaluate the efforts made to achieve the objectives of the Rio Declaration by the developed and developing countries.

Answer: Evaluation: Developed countries have made some progress — EU reduced emissions, invested in renewables — but fell short of commitments (USA did not ratify Kyoto; Australia and Canada also withdrew). Developing countries like India and China have grown rapidly, increasing emissions, though they argue per-capita emissions remain far below developed nations. The Rio Declaration's Agenda 21 framework was adopted widely but implementation was uneven. The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' acknowledged the North-South divide but did not resolve funding gaps. Overall, the efforts have been insufficient to halt environmental degradation at the scale the Rio Declaration envisioned.

Explanation:

The 1992 Rio Earth Summit produced the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. Developed nations pledged to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries for sustainable development.

In practice, the promised 0.7% GNP for development aid was rarely met.

Developing nations participated but faced tensions between growth needs and

environmental obligations.
Subsequent summits (Johannesburg 2002, Rio+20 2012) showed limited progress.

Q.0

Read the passage : "India made earnest efforts for the early realisation of freedom of Indonesia from the Dutch colonial regime by convening an international conference in 1949 to support its freedom struggle. India was a staunch supporter of the decolonisation process and firmly opposed racism, especially apartheid in South Africa. The Afro-Asian Conference held in the Indonesian city of Bandung in 1955, commonly known as the Bandung Conference, marked the zenith of India's engagement with the newly independent Asian and African nations. The Bandung Conference later led to the establishment of the NAM."

(i) Which Indian leader played an important role in manifesting the Afro-Asian unity ?

(a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(b) Jawaharlal Nehru <<
(c) Mahatma Gandhi
(d) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Explanation:
Jawaharlal Nehru was the key Indian leader who championed Afro-Asian unity.
He was instrumental in organising the 1949 Asian Relations Conference and participated actively in the 1955 Bandung Conference.
His policy of Non-Alignment and solidarity with newly independent Asian and African nations was central to India's foreign policy in this era.

Q.0

(Passage Q.24) (ii) In which year did the Non-Alignment Movement become the symbol of Afro-Asian unity ?

(a) 1959
(b) 1960

(c) 1961 <<

(d) 1962

Explanation:

The first Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961. This summit formally established NAM as the symbol of Afro-Asian (and broader developing world) unity and solidarity in the face of Cold War bipolarity.

Q.0

(Passage Q.24) (iii) Identify the main intention behind the strengthening Afro-Asian unity.

(a) To gain economic support from the USA bloc

(b) To co-operate with the USSR bloc in enhancing its global policies

(c) To form military alliances in the era of Cold War

(d) To maintain distance from both the superpowers (USA and USSR) in order to protect its freedom <<

Explanation:

The core intention of Afro-Asian unity and Non-Alignment was to preserve the newly won independence of these nations by not aligning with either superpower bloc (USA/NATO or USSR/Warsaw Pact).

This allowed them to chart an independent foreign policy and avoid becoming pawns in Cold War rivalry.

Q.0

(Passage Q.24) (iv) The first summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held in which year ?

(a) 1961 <<

(b) 1962

(c) 1963

(d) 1964

Explanation:

The first NAM Summit was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961. It was attended by 25 heads of state or government.

The founding leaders included Nehru (India), Tito (Yugoslavia), Nasser (Egypt), Sukarno (Indonesia), and Nkrumah (Ghana).

Q.0

Study the cartoon carefully and answer : (i) Name any two countries of East Asia.

Answer: Any two of: China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan.

Explanation:

East Asia comprises the countries in the eastern part of the Asian continent.

The major countries are China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan.

The cartoon in this question is about China's rise as a global power and its impact on other East Asian countries.

Q.0

(Cartoon Q.25) (ii) Identify and name the leader shown in the cartoon.

Answer: China (represented as a nation/power, not a specific individual leader). The figure in the cartoon is a symbolic caricature of China — dressed in a traditional Chinese robe and hat — representing China's emergence as a major economic and political power. No specific named individual leader (such as Mao Zedong or any other) is depicted; it is China as a country/actor.

Explanation:

The cartoon on p013 shows a figure dressed in a traditional Chinese-style white robe and tall conical hat, standing next to a pot/cauldron labeled 'COMPETITION' with flames, alongside the text 'EAST ASIAN NATIONS' and 'WE'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO IT...'.

The figure is a generic symbolic representation of China as a rising power — not a portrait of any specific named leader.

In NCERT Class 12 Political Science (Chapter on Alternative Centres of Power), this cartoon illustrates China's growing economic and military competition.
Students should identify 'China' as the actor shown, not a specific individual.

Q.0

(Cartoon Q.25) (iii) Explain the meaning of the sentence given in the cartoon 'WE'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO IT'.

Answer: The sentence 'WE'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO IT' in the cartoon suggests that other countries and the world community must accept and adapt to China's growing economic, military and political power in the 21st century. China's rapid rise as a global power — its massive economy, military modernisation, and increasing geopolitical assertiveness — is a new reality that the international community, especially East Asian neighbours and the USA, must come to terms with, whether they like it or not.

Explanation:

The cartoon captures the sentiment that China's emergence as a superpower is irreversible.
The phrase reflects the inevitability of China's rise and the need for other nations to adjust their policies and expectations.
This is a key theme in NCERT Class 12 Political Science Chapter on 'Emerging New World Order' and China's growing influence in global politics.

Q.0

In the given political outline map of India, four States have been marked. Identify the States on the basis of the information given below : (i) The state related to Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Answer: Uttar Pradesh — Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in Mughalsarai (now Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar), Uttar Pradesh, and represented it politically.

Explanation:

Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, was from Uttar Pradesh.

He was born in Mughalsarai, Varanasi district (now renamed), UP.

He represented Allahabad constituency in the Lok Sabha and served as PM from 1964–1966, during which he coined the famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war.

Q.0

(Map Q.26) (ii) The state for which K. Kamaraj initiated Mid-day Meal programme to increase enrolment in education.

Answer: Tamil Nadu (then Madras State) — K. Kamaraj was Chief Minister of Madras State (1954–1963) and launched the pioneering Mid-day Meal scheme to increase school enrolment among poor children.

Explanation:

K.

Kamaraj was Chief Minister of Madras State (now Tamil Nadu) from 1954 to 1963. He introduced the Noon Meal Scheme (Mid-day Meal programme) in Madras State in the late 1950s to address school dropout rates among poor children who came to school hungry.

This programme became a model for other states and was later expanded nationally.

Kamaraj is also remembered for the 'Kamaraj Plan' of 1963.

Q.0

(Map Q.26) (iii) The state in which the Congress Party did not get majority in the Assembly Elections of 1967, but formed a government with the support of other parties.

Answer: D — Rajasthan

Explanation:

Marker D on the map is positioned in the northwestern part of India (large state, upper-left quadrant), which corresponds to Rajasthan.

In the 1967 Assembly Elections, Congress won 89 seats in Rajasthan (out of 184,

majority = 93), falling short of a majority.

Congress then formed a minority government with the support of independents and smaller parties.

This fits the description: 'Congress Party did not get majority but formed a government with the support of other parties.' The answer is D = Rajasthan.

Q.0

(Map Q.26) (iv) The state where Non-Congress coalition government was formed after the Assembly Elections of 1967.

Answer: A — Bihar

Explanation:

Marker A on the map is positioned in the northeastern Gangetic plain area of India, which corresponds to Bihar.

After the 1967 Assembly Elections, Bihar was one of the states where a Non-Congress coalition government (Samyukta Vidhayak Dal, SVD) was formed under Mahamaya Prasad Sinha.

Bihar is the remaining marker (A) after assigning B=UP, C=Tamil Nadu, D=Rajasthan, and it geographically fits Bihar's location on the eastern Gangetic plain.

The answer is A = Bihar.

Q.27

(a) Describe the sequence of events responsible for the establishment of democracy in Nepal.

Answer: Key sequence: (1) Nepal was ruled as an absolute monarchy for decades. (2) Pro-democracy movement launched in 1990 (jana andolan I) forced King Birendra to accept constitutional monarchy and multiparty democracy; constitution promulgated in 1990. (3) Maoist insurgency began in 1996 (People's War), demanding a republic and abolition of monarchy. (4) Royal massacre of June 2001 — King Birendra and family killed; King Gyanendra took power. (5) King Gyanendra dismissed the government in 2005 and assumed direct rule. (6) Second People's Movement (Jana Andolan II) in April 2006 — massive protests by political parties and Maoists forced Gyanendra to reinstate parliament. (7)

Parliament declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic in 2008, abolishing the monarchy. Elections to Constituent Assembly held; republic formally proclaimed.

Explanation:

Nepal's transition to democracy was a long process.

The 1990 movement established constitutional monarchy.

The Maoist insurgency (1996–2006) further destabilised the monarchy.

The 2006 Jana Andolan II was a turning point — it ended Gyanendra's autocratic rule.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2006) ended the decade-long civil war.

The Constituent Assembly in 2008 abolished the monarchy and declared Nepal a federal democratic republic.

OR

Q.27

(b) [OR] Describe the sequence of events responsible for the end of the military government and establishment of democracy in Bangladesh.

Answer: Key sequence: (1) Bangladesh gained independence in 1971 (with Indian military support, defeating Pakistan). Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became the first PM. (2) Mujib was assassinated in 1975; military coups followed. (3) General Ziaur Rahman (Zia) came to power, ruled as military dictator, introduced some political openness but maintained army control. (4) Zia was assassinated in 1981; General Hussain Muhammad Ershad took power in 1982 coup. (5) Mass pro-democracy movement in late 1980s–1990 forced Ershad to resign in December 1990. (6) Multiparty elections in 1991 — Begum Khaleda Zia (BNP) won; Bangladesh returned to parliamentary democracy. (7) Since then, power has alternated between BNP (Khaleda Zia) and Awami League (Sheikh Hasina), though with periods of political instability.

Explanation:

Bangladesh has had a turbulent political history since independence.

After the murder of Mujibur Rahman, the country went through several military coups.

The restoration of democracy came through mass popular movements — the anti-Ershad movement of 1990 was particularly significant.

Free elections in February 1991 marked Bangladesh's return to multiparty parliamentary democracy.

Q.28

(a) Explain the efforts of the Punjab government and the Indian government to foster peace in the State of Punjab.

Answer: Efforts to restore peace in Punjab: (1) Operation Blue Star (1984) — Indian Army stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out Sikh militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale who had fortified it; this was controversial and led to PM Indira Gandhi's assassination by her Sikh bodyguards. (2) Following the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, rehabilitation and reconciliation efforts were undertaken. (3) Rajiv Gandhi–Longowal Accord (Punjab Accord) of 1985 — agreement between PM Rajiv Gandhi and Akali Dal leader Harchand Singh Longowal on: transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, river water sharing (Ravi-Beas), territorial transfers, and appointment of a commission for district allocation. (4) Elections held in Punjab in 1985; Akali Dal won. (5) Despite the accord (Longowal was assassinated in 1985), militancy continued; President's Rule imposed several times in the late 1980s. (6) By early 1990s, security forces gradually suppressed militancy; democratic elections held in 1992; normalcy largely restored.

Explanation:

The Punjab crisis (1980s–early 1990s) was one of India's most serious separatist challenges.

It involved demands for Khalistan (a separate Sikh homeland), terrorism, and thousands of deaths.

The combination of political accommodation (Punjab Accord, elections) and security measures (Operation Blue Star, police action under KPS Gill in the early 1990s) eventually brought peace to the state.

OR

Q.28

(b) [OR] Explain the main factors responsible for the demands of autonomy by the north-eastern states in India.

Answer: Main factors: (1) Distinct ethnic and cultural identity — the north-east has a rich diversity of tribal communities with their own languages, cultures and traditions, different from the Hindi-belt majority; they felt their identities were threatened by 'outsider' migration. (2) Geographic isolation — the region is connected to mainland India only through the Siliguri Corridor ('Chicken's Neck'), leading to a sense of physical and political marginalization. (3) Perceived economic neglect — the region lagged behind in development, industrialisation and infrastructure, fuelling grievances. (4) Large-scale migration from Bangladesh and other parts of India — demographic changes threatened indigenous communities' political representation and economic opportunities. (5) Historical factors — many north-eastern communities were never fully integrated into the Indian state and had traditions of self-governance; some had British-era special status (Inner Line Permit areas).

Explanation:

The north-east of India comprises the 'Seven Sisters' (Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh) plus Sikkim.

Each state has had distinct autonomy/separatist movements (Naga insurgency since 1950s, Mizo movement, Bodo demands, ULFA in Assam).

The central government addressed these through the creation of new states, granting of special autonomy provisions under Sixth Schedule, and peace accords.

Q.29

(a) How did the Mandal Commission recommendations prove to be an effort to solve the problems of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) ? Analyse.

Answer: The Mandal Commission (1979, chaired by B.P. Mandal) identified 3,743 OBC castes constituting about 52% of India's population. Its key recommendations and their impact: (1) 27% reservation in central government jobs and educational institutions for OBCs — addressed historical social and educational backwardness, providing OBCs access to government employment and higher education they had been denied. (2) Recognition of social backwardness — the Commission's report formally documented and

acknowledged the extent of OBC disadvantage, giving political legitimacy to their demands. (3) Implementation by the V.P. Singh government in 1990 triggered massive protests (anti-Mandal agitations) but also politically mobilised OBC communities. (4) Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney case (1992) upheld the 27% reservation but capped total reservations at 50% and excluded the 'creamy layer'. (5) Long-term political impact — OBC mobilisation transformed Indian politics, leading to the rise of parties like Samajwadi Party, RJD representing OBC interests.

Explanation:

The Mandal Commission report implemented in 1990 was a watershed in Indian social policy.

It extended the principle of affirmative action (already existing for SCs and STs) to OBCs.

While controversial, it addressed systemic disadvantages faced by OBC communities in access to education and government employment, and fundamentally changed the social composition of India's bureaucracy and the character of its politics.

OR

Q.29

(b) [OR] Examine any three grounds on which the regional parties support the various coalition governments formed at the Centre in India.

Answer: Three grounds: (1) Protection and promotion of regional/state interests — regional parties support central coalition governments to secure special economic packages, central grants, infrastructure projects, and favourable central policies for their states; they leverage their coalition position to extract concessions. (2) Political survival and power — by being part of the ruling coalition, regional parties gain access to central power, ministerial positions, and resources that help them consolidate their base at home. (3) Federalism and autonomy — regional parties use their coalition position to push for greater decentralisation, more fiscal devolution to states, and protection of state rights against central encroachment; they advocate for stronger federal principles in governance.

Explanation:

India's era of coalition politics (1989–2014) saw regional parties like TDP, DMK, TMC, NCP, SP, and RJD become kingmakers at the Centre.

They supported coalition governments primarily to advance state/regional interests (special category status, river water, industrial projects), gain political power, and strengthen federalism.

This 'coalition compulsion' fundamentally changed the Centre-state power dynamic.

Q.30

(a) Highlight the differences between the external and internal notions of security in the contemporary world.

Answer: External security refers to threats from outside a nation's borders — traditional military threats like invasion, cross-border terrorism, nuclear attacks, and border disputes from other states or non-state actors based abroad. Internal security refers to threats within a country's borders — insurgencies, separatist movements, communal violence, civil war, coups, and domestic terrorism. Key differences: (1) Source: external threats come from outside; internal threats arise within; (2) Nature: external security is primarily a military/diplomatic challenge; internal security involves law enforcement, intelligence, and political solutions; (3) Instruments: external security uses armed forces, diplomacy, alliances; internal security uses police, paramilitary forces, dialogue, development; (4) In contemporary world, the distinction is blurring — external actors often support internal insurgencies (e.g., cross-border terrorism in Kashmir involves both external and internal dimensions).

Explanation:

Traditional security theory focused on military threats between states (external).

Post-Cold War, internal conflicts (ethnic, separatist, civil wars) became the dominant form of political violence.

The contemporary security environment requires dealing with both: external threats (state aggression, terrorism, nuclear/cyber attacks) and internal threats (insurgencies, communal violence).

Many security challenges today are hybrid — involving both internal and external dimensions.

OR

Q.30

(b) [OR] "The non-traditional notions of security are more comprehensive than the traditional notions of security." Support the statement with the help of suitable examples.

Answer: Support: Traditional security focuses narrowly on military threats to state sovereignty and territorial integrity — threats from other states' armies, nuclear weapons, and military alliances. Non-traditional security broadens the concept to include: (1) Human security — threats to individual safety and well-being: poverty, disease (e.g., HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 pandemic), hunger, which kill far more people than wars; (2) Environmental security — climate change, resource depletion, natural disasters that threaten human survival (e.g., sea-level rise threatening island nations); (3) Economic security — financial crises, food insecurity, energy security; (4) Terrorism and cybersecurity — non-state actors using violence for political ends; cyberattacks on critical infrastructure; (5) Migration and refugees — large-scale forced displacement as a security challenge. These non-traditional threats are more comprehensive because they affect billions of people across borders, cannot be addressed by military means alone, and require multilateral cooperative solutions rather than unilateral state action.

Explanation:

Non-traditional or 'human security' concepts emerged post-Cold War, particularly through the UNDP's Human Development Report 1994. They argue that real security is not just about protecting states from military attack, but about protecting individuals from a wide range of threats.

This shift from 'national security' to 'human security' is more comprehensive because it addresses the actual lived experiences of people worldwide.