CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2026

SOCIOLOGY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 82

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **38 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**

ii. This question paper is divided into **5 sections.**

iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 1** are case based questions

iv. **Section B** – questions number **2 to 17** are multiple choice questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **18 to 28** are very short answer

vi. **Section D** – questions number **29 to 36** are short answer

vii. **Section E** – questions number **37 to 38** are long answer

viii. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.

ix. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1. The Rural and Urban population in India (1901 – 2011) is given below : Based on the above data, answer the following questions.

Table : Rural and Urban Population				
Year	Population (Millions)		Percentage of Total Population	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1901	213	26	89·2	10·8
1911	226	26	89·7	10·3
1921	223	28	88·8	11·2
1931	246	33	88·0	12·0
1941	275	44	86·1	13·9
1951	299	62	82·7	17·3
1961	360	79	82·0	18·0
1971	439	109	80·1	19·9
1981	524	159	76·7	23·3
1991	629	218	74·3	25·7
2001	743	286	72·2	27·8
2011	833	377	68·8	31·2

(1) 'It is not a question of numbers alone, processes of modern development ensure that the economic and social significance of the agrarian-rural way of life declines relative to the significance of the industrial way of life.' Highlight the reasons for the decline in the agrarian-rural way of life.

[4 Marks]

(2) 'Rural-urban migration is preferred for 'social reasons'. Mention any two reasons.

[2 Marks]

Section B

Question 2.

Assertion (A) : Female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy.

Reason (R) : Literacy varies considerably across genders, across regions, and across social groups.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 3.

Assertion (A) : Some communities were characterised as ‘martial races’, some others as effeminate or cowardly, yet others as untrustworthy.

Reason (R) : Stereotypes are fixed and inflexible characterisations of a group of people.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 4.

_____ is a characteristic of the second/transitional stage in population growth of society.

(I) High death rate and population explosion

(II) Population explosion

(III) Low sex ratio

(IV) High maternal mortality rate

[1 Marks]

(A) (II) and (III)

(B) Only (IV)

(C) Only (II)

(D) Only (I)

Question 5.

Assertion (A) : The government sells its shares in several public sector companies as part of the process of disinvestment.

Reason (R) : Many government workers are scared that they will lose their job after disinvestment.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 6. Which of the following are not the changes brought about by colonialism to the caste system ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Numbering and recording of castes through census.

(B) Linking castes to traditional occupations.

(C) Hundreds of petitions were addressed to the Census Commissioner by representatives of different castes claiming a higher position in the social scale.

(D) Making ‘Schedules’ of castes for special treatment by the State.

Question 7. Which of the following institutional incentives helps to build a feeling of unity in diversity ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Citizens cannot build trust in common institutions.

(B) Citizens can find the institutional and political space to identify with both their country and cultural identities.

(C) Citizens do not participate in and support democratic politics.

(D) Explicit efforts are not required to end the cultural exclusion of diverse groups.

Question 8. An authoritarian state is the opposite of a democratic state because :

[1 Marks]

(A) It is a state in which people have no voice.

(B) Those in power are accountable to everyone.

(C) The state responds well to the needs of the people.

(D) Authoritarian state does not abolish civil liberties.

Question 9.

Assertion (A) : Sanskritisation operated similarly in different parts of the country.

Reason (R) : In regions where the non-Sanskritic were dominant, it was their influence that was stronger.

[1 Marks]

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

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

Question 10. Which of the following is a public perception of disability ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Disabilities are not understood as biologically given.

(B) The disabled person is not seen as a victim.

(C) Disability is not linked with an individual’s self-perception.

(D) The idea of disability suggests that they are in need of help.

Question 11.

Assertion (A) : India is still largely an agricultural country.

Reason (R) : Very few people in India have access to secure jobs.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 12.

Based on the following passage, answer:

Very few people who relax on their day off realise that this holiday is the outcome of a long struggle by workers. That the work-day should not exceed eight hours, that men and women should be paid equally for doing the same work, that workers are entitled to social security and pension — these and many other rights were gained through social movements.

How have social movements shaped the world we live in ?

[1 Marks]

(A) In the 19th century, reform movements did not influence caste and gender.

(B) Asia and Africa had nationalist movements, which ended colonialism.

(C) The Civil Rights Movement in the USA did not bring equal rights.

(D) Anti-apartheid struggle did not change society in South Africa.

Question 13.

Based on the following passage, answer:

The term ‘Adivasi’ connotes political awareness and the assertion of rights. Literally meaning ‘original inhabitants’, the term was coined in the 1930s as part of the struggle against the intrusion by the colonial government and outside settlers and moneylenders.

Which of the following is not true about Adivasis ?

[1 Marks]

(A) They are found mainly in the north-eastern parts of India.

(B) They were believed to be the people of the forest.

(C) They had practised shifting cultivation.

(D) Their economic conditions were better than the non-Adivasis.

Question 14.

Based on the following passage, answer:

The term ‘Adivasi’ connotes political awareness and the assertion of rights. Literally meaning ‘original inhabitants’, the term was coined in the 1930s as part of the struggle against the intrusion by the colonial government and outside settlers and moneylenders.

Write the following statements in the correct order :

(I) The resource extraction in areas inhabited by tribes can be traced to the British Government.

(II) Since the 1990s, when economic liberalisation policies were officially adopted by the Indian Government, the process of resource extraction in Adivasi areas has become even more powerful.
(III) The term ‘Adivasi’ was coined in the 1930s as part of the struggle against intrusion by the colonial government and outside settlers.

(IV) The most significant achievement of Adivasi movements includes attainment of statehood for Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in the year 2000.

[1 Marks]

(A) (I), (II), (III), (IV)

(B) (IV), (I), (III), (II)

(C) (III), (II), (IV), (I)

(D) (III), (I), (II), (IV)

Question 15. Which statement is true regarding the many-sided and paradoxical impact of the English language in India ?

[1 Marks]

(A) English is not widely used in India.

(B) We do not have an impressive body of literary writings by Indians in English.

(C) The knowledge of English has given Indians an edge in the global market.

(D) For those who were traditionally deprived of access to formal education, such as Dalits, knowledge of English did not open doors of opportunities.

Question 16. Assertion (A) : Constitutional provisions define the powers of the States and the Centre.
Reason (R) : Respecting regional sentiments is not just a matter of creating States but it has to be backed up with an institutional structure.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 17. Based on the following passage, answer: Very few people who relax on their day off realise that this holiday is the outcome of a long struggle by workers. That the work-day should not exceed eight hours, that men and women should be paid equally for doing the same work, that workers are entitled to social security and pension — these and many other rights were gained through social movements. Which of the following is not true about Karl Marx's view on violent collective action

[1 Marks]

(A) Crowds' and 'mobs' were not made up of anarchic hooligans out to destroy society.

(B) They often resorted to public protest because they had no other way of expressing their anger against deprivation.

(C) Poor people in urban areas had a good reason for protesting.

(D) Crowds' and 'mobs' have no shared understanding of right and wron

---

Section C

Question 18.

''Malthus argued that human populations tend to grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which the means of human subsistence (specially food, but also clothing and other agriculture-based products) can grow. Therefore, humanity is condemned to live in poverty forever because the growth of agricultural production will always be overtaken by population growth.''

What are the methods that Malthus suggests to check the rise in population ?

[2 Marks]

Question 19.

''Social exclusion is not accidental but systematic – it is the result of structural features of society.''

In the context of the above statement, highlight the meaning of social exclusion.

[2 Marks]

Question 20.

‘‘Untouchability is an extreme and vicious aspect of the caste system.’’

Explain any two dimensions of untouchability.

[2 Marks]

Question 21.

‘‘Many of our cultural practices and patterns can be traced to our agricultural background. There is a close relationship between agriculture and culture.’’

Give one reason to support the given statement and name any two agriculture-related festivals.

[2 Marks]

Question 22.

‘‘Our community provides us the language (our mother tongue) and the cultural values through which we comprehend the world. It also anchors our self-identity. Community identity is what we ‘are’ rather than what we have ‘become’.’’

How can you say that community identity is ascriptive ?

[2 Marks]

Question 23.

The ‘Schedules’ listing the castes and tribes recognised as deserving of special treatment because of the massive discrimination practiced against them were drawn up in 1935, by the British Indian government.

Post-independence, which was the most important initiative taken by the government to compensate for this discrimination ? Write briefly about it.

[2 Marks]

Question 24.

The notion of minority groups usually involves some sort of a relative disadvantage. Exemplify the statement.

[2 Marks]

Question 25.

Highlight the meaning of Secularism in both, the Western and Indian context.

[2 Marks]

Question 26.

“In a country where half the children in the age group of 5 – 14 years are out of school, how can there be space for children with disabilities, especially if a segregated schooling is being advocated for them ?’’ State two ways by which a disabled child can achieve autonomy.

[2 Marks]

Question 27.

‘‘In India, over 90% of the work, whether it is in agriculture, industry or services is in the unorganised or informal sector.’’ What are the social implications of this small size of the organised sector ?

[2 Marks]

Question 28.

“In our current information age, social movements around the globe are able to join together in huge regional and international networks.” Give suitable examples to support the statement.

[2 Marks]

Section D

Question 29.

“Globalisation of agriculture or the incorporation of agriculture into the larger global market – a process that has had direct effects on farmers and rural society.”

Discuss the role of ‘contract farming’ in this process of globalisation.

[4 Marks]

Question 30.

“The post-independent Indian state inherited and reflected the contradictions of the pre-independent period.”

Comment on the given statement with respect to the role of caste in the public sphere.

[4 Marks]

Question 31.

‘‘In Indian nationalism, the dominant trend was marked by an inclusive and democratic vision.” Explain.

[4 Marks]

Question 32.

‘‘A considerable part of ritual in India has a direct reference to the pursuit of secular ends. Rituals have secular dimensions as distinct from secular goals.’’

Justify with the help of suitable examples.

[4 Marks]

Question 33.

‘‘Jan Breman identified the change in the nature of relationship between landlords and agricultural workers.’’ Explain the meaning of the phrase ‘from patronage to exploitation’ stated by him.

[4 Marks]

Question 34.

‘‘Cities played a key role in the economic system of empires.’’ Elucidate the statement with the help of suitable examples.

[4 Marks]

Question 35.

‘‘The laws of a colonised country did not have to stick to the democratic norms that the British back home had to follow. ’’ In what ways did the colonial laws favour the owners and managers of the tea industry ?

[4 Marks]

Question 36.

“Because the tribal areas were located in mineral-rich and forest-covered parts of the country, tribals have paid a disproportionate price for the development of the rest of Indian society.”

How has national development been a challenge for the tribal population of India, post-Independence ?

[4 Marks]

Section E

Question 37.

Home-based work is an important part of the economy.' Elaborate on the functioning of any one 'Home-based' Industry.

[6 Marks]

Question 38.

How have the women's movements evolved over the period of history ?

[6 Marks]