

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER
AI-generated question paper

Code: 13KBYW

Questions: 52

Maximum Marks: 147

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	7 Lifelines of National Economy
Level of understanding	Thorough understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~5 questions per section + 8 synthesis)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 3 straightforward · 29 medium · 20 deep | Types: 37 Short · 8 MCQ · 6 Long · 1 Very short

Q1. medium thorough-understanding § Introduction [3]

India is a vast country with uneven distribution of resources and population. Why is an efficient transport network considered a prerequisite for fast economic development in such a country? Support your answer with specific examples.

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Q2. deep thorough-understanding § Introduction [3]

Transport, communication and trade are described as complementary to each other. Explain what this means with the help of an example.

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Q3. medium thorough-understanding § Introduction [1]

Which of the following best explains why a dense and efficient transport and communication network is considered the 'lifeline' of a nation's economy?

- (A) It allows a country to produce a wider variety of goods by introducing new technology.
- (B) It enables the movement of goods, people, and information between areas of production and consumption, linking markets.
- (C) It ensures that every region of a country achieves equal economic development.
- (D) It reduces the need for international trade by making a country self-sufficient.

- A It allows countries to produce goods that they cannot produce themselves.
- B It enables the movement of goods and information between supply and demand locations across the world.
- C It ensures that every country maintains a favourable balance of trade.
- D It restricts trade to local and national levels for better regulation.

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Q4. deep thorough-understanding § Introduction [5]

Despite India's vast size, great diversity, and multiple languages and cultures, it remains well-linked both internally and with the rest of the world. Analyse how modern means of transport and communication have made this possible, and what would be at risk if these networks were to break down.

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Q5. deep thorough-understanding § TRANSPORT [3]

Inland oil refineries like Barauni, Mathura and Panipat are located far from the oilfields or ports that supply crude oil. Explain how pipeline transport made their establishment feasible. Also discuss ONE major limitation of pipelines as a mode of transport.

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Q6. medium thorough-understanding § Roadways [3]

Railway construction in hilly and remote regions like the Himalayas is far more challenging and expensive than road construction. Explain why roads are considered a more viable mode of transport for connecting such regions, citing at least two specific reasons.

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Q7. medium thorough-understanding § Roadways [3]

Road transport is described as a 'feeder' to other modes of transport. What does this mean, and why is this role difficult for railways to perform?

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Q8. straightforward thorough-understanding § Roadways [1]

Which of the following correctly describes the primary objective of the Golden Quadrilateral Super Highway project?

- (A) To connect every village to a district headquarters by an all-weather road
- (B) To link Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata to reduce the distance and travel time between them
- (C) To provide strategic road access along the northern and north-eastern borders
- (D) To upgrade all National Highways to six-lane expressways across the country

A To connect every village to a district headquarters by an all-weather road

B To reduce travel time and distance between India's major metropolitan cities

C To provide strategic road access along the northern and north-eastern borders

D To replace the existing National Highway network with six-lane roads

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Q9. medium thorough-understanding § Roadways [3]

The Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana and the Border Roads Organisation both build roads, but they serve entirely different purposes. Compare the specific goals of each.

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Q10. medium thorough-understanding § Roadways [3]

A transport planner recommends road transport over rail transport for moving small quantities of goods over short distances between two towns. Justify this recommendation using specific characteristics of road transport.

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Q11. deep thorough-understanding § Roadways [3]

The Lahaul-Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh remained cut off from the rest of India for nearly six months every year before a major tunnel was constructed by the Border Roads Organisation. (i) What geographic factor caused this seasonal isolation? (ii) How does tunnel construction address this problem better than a surface road through the same mountain pass?

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Q12. deep thorough-understanding § Roadways [5]

Road transport and rail transport are both land-based modes, yet they are complementary rather than purely competitive. Using at least three distinct points, explain why road transport cannot fully replace railways in India, nor railways fully replace roads.

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Q13. medium thorough-understanding § Railways [3]

Why are the northern plains of India considered the most favourable region for the development of railway networks, compared to the Himalayan region?

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Q14. medium thorough-understanding § Railways [3]

The Konkan railway was built along the west coast despite significant engineering challenges. What were these challenges, and why was it still considered worthwhile to build it?

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Q15. straightforward thorough-understanding § Railways [1]

Which gauge covers the longest route distance in the Indian Railway network?

- (a) Metre Gauge
 - (b) Narrow Gauge
 - (c) Broad Gauge
 - (d) All gauges are equal
- a Metre Gauge
 - b Narrow Gauge
 - c Broad Gauge
 - d All gauges are equal

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Q16. deep thorough-understanding § Railways [3]

A new township is being planned in a densely forested and hilly region of central India. A planner argues that laying a railway line there would face more difficulties than in the plains of western Rajasthan. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, comparing the physiographic and construction challenges of both regions.

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Q17. medium thorough-understanding § Railways [3]

Indian Railways is described as a great integrating force for the nation. Explain this statement using specific functions of the railway network – economic, social, and administrative – to support your answer.

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Q18. deep thorough-understanding § Railways [5]

'The distribution of railway lines in India is as much a story of what could NOT be built as of what was built.' Analyse this statement with reference to the physiographic barriers that have limited railway expansion across different regions of India.

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Q19. deep thorough-understanding § Railways [3]

A fruit farmer in a remote hilly village and a construction company building a highway in a sparsely populated area both prefer road transport over rail transport for their needs. Explain TWO distinct conditions that make road transport more suitable than railways in such situations, and why railways cannot easily match roads in those contexts.

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Q20. medium thorough-understanding § Pipelines [3]

Crude oil refineries at Barauni, Mathura and Panipat are located deep inland, far from the oil fields or ports where crude arrives. Explain why pipeline transport emerged as the most suitable mode for supplying crude oil to these inland refineries. Support your answer with at least two distinct reasons.

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Q21. medium thorough-understanding § Pipelines [1]

Which of the following statements best explains why the Hazira-Vijapur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline was significant for India's industrial development?

- (A) It was the first pipeline used to transport water to cities and industries.
- (B) It linked offshore gas fields with fertilizer, power and industrial complexes in western and northern India, enabling energy-intensive industries to grow away from the coast.
- (C) It connected oil fields in upper Assam to Kanpur, reducing dependence on road transport of petroleum.
- (D) It transported solid materials converted into slurry, reducing the need for railway freight.

- A It was the first pipeline used to transport water to cities and industries.
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Q22. medium thorough-understanding § Waterways [2]

Waterways are considered the most suitable mode of transport for heavy and bulky goods. Justify this statement by giving TWO reasons.

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Q23. straightforward thorough-understanding § Waterways [1]

Which of the following correctly matches the National Waterway with its route and approximate length?

- ((A)) NW-3 — Kollam to Kottapuram (West Coast Canal), 205 km
- ((B)) NW-3 — Sadiya to Dhubri (River Brahmaputra), 891 km
- ((C)) NW-3 — Allahabad to Haldia (River Ganga), 1620 km
- ((D)) NW-3 — Kollam to Kottapuram (West Coast Canal), 168 km

- A N.W. No. 1 – Ganga river between Prayagraj and Haldia (1620 km)
- B N.W. No. 3 – West-Coast Canal (Kottapurma–Kollam, Udyogamandal and Champakkara canals – 205 km)
- C N.W. No. 2 – Brahmaputra river between Sadiya and Dhubri (891 km)
- D N.W. No. 4 – Godavari and Krishna rivers along with Kakinada–Puducherry canals (1078 km)

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Q24. deep thorough-understanding § Waterways [3]

India conducts 95 per cent of its foreign trade volume by sea, yet sea transport is rarely used for internal trade between Indian states. Using your understanding of both waterways and other transport modes covered in this chapter, explain why sea transport dominates international trade but not domestic trade in India.

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Q25. medium thorough-understanding § Major Sea Ports [3]

Deendayal Port (Kandla) was developed soon after Independence primarily to serve which function, and why was this need created?

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Q26. medium thorough-understanding § Major Sea Ports [1]

Which of the following correctly explains why Kolkata (Shyama Prasad Mookerjee) port requires constant dredging?

- (a) It handles the largest volume of iron ore exports, which settles as sediment in the harbour.
- (b) It is a tidal, riverine port on the Hooghly, where silt continuously accumulates in the channel.
- (c) It was built as a subsidiary port and its approach channel was never fully completed.
- (d) Its landlocked location means freshwater inflow raises the riverbed level over time.

- a It handles the largest volume of iron ore exports, which settles as sediment in the harbour.
- b It is a tidal, riverine port on the Hooghly, where silt continuously accumulates in the channel.
- c It was built as a subsidiary port and its approach channel was never fully completed.
- d Its landlocked location means freshwater inflow raises the riverbed level over time.

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Q27. medium thorough-understanding § Major Sea Ports [2]

Mormugao and Paradwip are both prominently associated with iron ore exports. New Mangalore port, on the other hand, handles a different primary commodity. Identify that commodity and explain what this tells us about the relationship between a port's hinterland and its cargo profile.

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Q28. medium thorough-understanding § Major Sea Ports [3]

Jawaharlal Nehru Port was not built to replace Mumbai port but rather to complement it. Justify this statement by explaining the specific problem it was designed to solve and the broader role it now plays.

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Q29. deep thorough-understanding § Major Sea Ports [3]

Chennai is described as one of India's oldest artificial ports on the east coast, while V.O. Chidambaranar (Tuticorin) port in Tamil Nadu handles a large volume of cargo without the same infrastructure investment. What geographic characteristic gives Tuticorin a natural advantage that Chennai lacks, and how does this illustrate the role of physical geography in port development?

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Q30. deep thorough-understanding § Major Sea Ports [3]

India handles 95% of its foreign trade volume by sea, yet sea transport is sometimes considered slower and less flexible than air or road. Explain why sea ports remain so dominant for India's international trade despite these limitations, drawing on the nature of the goods traded and the characteristics of sea transport.

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Q31. medium thorough-understanding § Airways [3]

Despite India having well-developed road and rail networks, air transport remains the preferred mode of travel in the north-eastern states. Why?

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Q32. medium thorough-understanding § Airways [3]

What is the primary goal of the UDAN scheme, and how does it aim to make air travel more inclusive for the common citizen?

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Q33. deep thorough-understanding § Airways [5]

A student argues: 'Since airways are the fastest and most comfortable mode of transport, India should invest exclusively in expanding airports rather than developing any other mode of transport.' Using your understanding of India's geography and transport needs, evaluate this argument.

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Q34. deep thorough-understanding § Communication [3]

[short_answer] India has the largest postal network in the world, yet special mail channels had to be introduced for large towns and cities. What problem were these channels designed to solve, and what does their introduction reveal about the limitations of a single uniform postal system?

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Q35. medium thorough-understanding § Communication [2]

[short_answer] How has the integration of space technology with communication technology helped bridge the information gap between urban and rural India? Give specific examples to support your answer.

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Q36. medium thorough-understanding § Communication [3]

[short_answer] In a country as diverse as India, mass communication through television and radio serves purposes that go far beyond entertainment. Explain these broader roles, giving examples of the kinds of messages or content that make these media nationally important.

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Q37. deep thorough-understanding § Communication [3]

Consider this situation: a government wants to rapidly spread awareness about a new health policy to people living in remote villages who have limited access to the internet and newspapers. Based on your understanding of the means of communication in India, which medium would be most effective and why?

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Q38. deep thorough-understanding § Communication [5]

[long_answer] 'Digital India is not merely about providing internet access — it is about transforming the lives of citizens through technology.' Explain this statement by discussing how the Digital India Programme aims to bring about social and economic change, particularly for those in rural and underserved areas of the country.

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Q39. medium thorough-understanding § International Trade [1]

A country consistently imports far more than it exports year after year. (a) What is this trade situation called? (b) What does it indicate about the country's economic position in international trade?

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Q40. deep thorough-understanding § International Trade [3]

International trade is described as the 'economic barometer' of a country. Analyse this claim. How does the advancement of international trade reflect a country's economic prosperity, and in what way has India's emergence as a software giant altered the traditional understanding of what countries 'export'?

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Q41. medium thorough-understanding § Tourism as a Trade [3]

Tourism is described as a form of trade. In what sense does international tourism function like an export for India?

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Q42. deep thorough-understanding § Tourism as a Trade [3]

A heritage monument located in a remote district lacks road and rail connectivity. How does poor transport linkage hinder the economic development of such a region? Support your answer with relevant examples.

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Q43. medium thorough-understanding § QUIZ DRIVE [3]

Describe the North-South Corridor of the National Highways Development Project. How does it differ in purpose and coverage from the Golden Quadrilateral?

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Q44. medium thorough-understanding § ACTIVITY [3]

Certain regions of India, particularly in the Himalayas, remain cut off from the rest of the country for several months each year due to extreme weather and difficult terrain. How has the development of border road infrastructure addressed such challenges, and what does this reveal about the strategic and developmental significance of roads in India's mountainous and frontier regions? Support your answer with a suitable example.

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Q45. deep thorough-understanding § ACTIVITY [3]

The railway line extended from Banihal to Baramula passes through a region characterised by difficult terrain, international frontiers and extreme weather. Considering the factors that generally hinder railway expansion in such regions, why is extending rail connectivity to such areas considered especially significant despite the challenges?

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Q46. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

Recommend the single most suitable mode of transport for each of the following situations and justify your choice with specific reasons: (a) Transporting crude oil from an oil field in Assam to an inland refinery. (b) Providing emergency connectivity to a remote Himalayan valley cut off by landslides or snow.

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Q47. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

Waterways are described as the cheapest and most fuel-efficient mode of transport, yet India's foreign trade relies overwhelmingly on sea ports rather than inland waterways for international commerce. Using evidence from the chapter, explain why inland waterways alone cannot substitute for sea ports in handling India's external trade.

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Q48. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [1]

Consider the following assertion and reason and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Pipeline transport has enabled oil refineries such as Barauni, Mathura and Panipat to be established deep in the interior of India, far from the oil fields.

Reason (R): Pipelines, once laid, operate with minimal running costs, cause negligible trans-shipment losses, and can transport not only liquids and gases but also solids converted into slurry.

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

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

(C) A is true but R is false.

(D) A is false but R is true.

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

B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C A is true but R is false.

D A is false but R is true.

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Q49. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [5]

Railways are called the backbone of India's transport system, while roads are described as a necessary feeder to other modes of transport. Using specific features of both, explain how railways and roads complement rather than simply compete with each other in moving goods and people across India.

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Q50. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

India's international trade depends heavily on its ports and airports. Identify any two categories of goods India exports and any two it imports, and explain how the development of sea port infrastructure and air transport directly facilitates this trade. What limitations would India's external trade face without well-developed ports?

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Q51. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

The north-eastern region of India presents a unique challenge for connectivity. Which specific geographic and terrain-related factors make conventional road and rail construction difficult there, and how do airways and inland waterways together address these challenges for this region?

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Q52. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[1]

Which of the following correctly pairs a port with its most distinctive feature or primary reason for development?

- (i) Deendayal (Kandla) – developed after Partition to replace trade lost at Karachi
- (ii) Jawaharlal Nehru Port – India's largest container port, developed to decongest Mumbai
- (iii) Mormugao – accounts for a significant share of India's iron ore exports
- (iv) Haldia – developed as a subsidiary port to decongest Kolkata

Options:

- (A) Only (i) and (iii) are correctly matched.
- (B) Only (ii) and (iv) are correctly matched.
- (C) (i), (iii) and (iv) are correctly matched.
- (D) All four are correctly matched.

A Both (i) and (iii) are correct.

B Both (ii) and (iv) are correct.

C Only (i) is correct.

D (i), (iii) and (iv) are correct.

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