

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: A9CoX8

Questions: 7

Maximum Marks: 17

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	3 Gender, Religion and Caste
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 2 straightforward · 5 medium | Types: 5 Short · 1 Very short · 1 MCQ

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Gender and politics

[1]

When we say there is a 'sexual division of labour' in most families, what does this mean?

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Model Answer

Sexual division of labour means all work inside the home — cooking, cleaning, washing, looking after children, etc. — is done or organised by women, while men do work outside the home.

Source: *Gender and Politics, Chapter 3 — "Sexual division of labour"*

Explanation

The textbook gives a precise definition: examiners expect you to mention (1) women handle domestic/household work and (2) men handle work outside the home. Quoting the textbook definition directly is the safest approach for 1 mark. Avoid over-explaining.

Q2. medium initial-understanding § Gender and politics

[3]

Women's representation in India's national legislature has historically been very low. What specific measure has been taken at the local government (Panchayati Raj) level to increase women's political participation, and what has been the outcome in terms of numbers?

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Model Answer

In India, the proportion of women in the Lok Sabha has been very low (only 14.36% in 2019), and their share in state assemblies is less than 5%.

To increase women's political participation, the **Panchayati Raj system** has reserved **one-third (1/3) of seats** in local government bodies — panchayats and municipalities — for women.

As an outcome, there are now **more than 10 lakh (1 million) elected women representatives** in rural and urban local bodies across India.

Source: Chapter 3 — Gender and Politics, Women's Political Representation

Explanation

- The question has two parts: (1) the specific measure taken, and (2) the outcome in numbers. Address both clearly.
- The key fact examiners expect: **one-third reservation in Panchayati Raj bodies** (not Lok Sabha or state assemblies).
- The outcome figure — **more than 10 lakh** elected women representatives — is the exact statistic from the textbook; mention it.
- Note that a similar Women's Reservation Act (2023) was later passed for Lok Sabha/assemblies too — you may add this as a bonus line if space allows, but the core answer is about Panchayati Raj.

Q3. straightforward initial-understanding § Religion, communalism and politics

[3]

What is communalism, and what is the most extreme belief it can lead to?

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Model Answer

Communalism is a political ideology based on the belief that religion is the principal basis of social community. It involves thinking that followers of one religion form one community with the same interests, while people of different religions cannot share common interests — their interests are always in conflict.

In its **most extreme form**, communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either one religious group must dominate the rest, or they must form **separate nations**. This belief is fundamentally flawed because people of the same religion do not have identical interests in every context, and everyone has multiple identities beyond religion.

Source: Chapter 3 — Religion, Communalism and Politics

Explanation

- **1 mark** — definition of communalism (religion as the basis of community; same religion = same interests; different religions = conflicting interests).
- **1 mark** — forms/expressions of communalism briefly acknowledged.
- **1 mark** — the extreme belief: people of different religions cannot coexist as equals; must dominate or separate.

Examiners expect you to use the **exact textbook phrasing** — "religion is the principal basis of social community" and "one nation cannot have people of different religions as equal citizens." Avoid vague answers like "it causes riots" — that is a consequence, not the extreme *belief*.

Q4. medium initial-understanding § Religion, communalism and politics

[3]

Why does the Indian Constitution not give official status to any one religion? What do we call this principle, and what does it mean for citizens of different faiths?

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Model Answer

The Indian Constitution does not give official status to any religion because India has followers of many different faiths, and favouring one would lead to discrimination against others. This principle is called **secularism**.

For citizens, secularism means:

- Every individual and community has the freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion, or follow none.
- The state cannot discriminate on grounds of religion.
- The state can intervene in religious matters to ensure equality within communities (e.g., banning untouchability).

Thus, secularism treats all religions equally and protects every citizen's religious freedom.

Source: Chapter 3 – Religion, Communalism and Politics; Secular State section

Explanation

Examiners expect three clear points for 3 marks: (1) reason for no official religion, (2) the term "secularism," and (3) what it means for citizens (at least two constitutional provisions). Quoting the Constitution's provisions directly (freedom to profess/practise/propagate; no discrimination; state intervention for equality) earns full marks. Avoid padding with irrelevant details about communalism.

Q5. medium initial-understanding § Caste and politics

[3]

Why is it incorrect to say that elections in India are decided by caste alone? Give two reasons.

◆ Gender, Religion and Caste

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Model Answer

It is incorrect to say that elections in India are decided by caste alone because:

1. **No single-caste majority:** No parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste. Therefore, every candidate must win the confidence of more than one caste or community to win elections.
1. **Caste is not the only factor:** Voters have strong attachment to political parties, often stronger than to their caste. People's assessment of government performance, economic conditions, and leadership popularity also influence voting. Rich and poor, or men and women of the same caste, often vote very differently.

Thus, while caste matters in electoral politics, many other factors are equally decisive.

Source: Chapter 3, "Caste in politics"

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two distinct reasons**, clearly stated — award yourself 1 mark per reason + 1 mark for overall logical framing.
- Key points: **no single-caste majority in any constituency** (structural reason) and **other factors like party loyalty, performance, economic status also decide votes** (behavioural reason).
- Avoid vague answers like "caste is not everything" — be specific with textbook language such as "no parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste."

Q6. medium initial-understanding § Caste and politics

[1]

Which of the following best describes how politics influences the caste system in India?

- (A) Political competition eliminates caste identities and replaces them with party loyalties.
- (B) Caste groups remain completely unchanged regardless of political activity.
- (C) Political processes reshape caste identities — groups widen their boundaries and new social categories such as 'backward' and 'forward' castes gain prominence.
- (D) Politics causes all caste groups to merge into one unified national community.

A Politics eliminates caste identities by replacing them with party loyalties.

B Politics causes caste groups to merge into a single unified community.

C Political processes cause caste identities to be reshaped — for example, groups expand by incorporating neighbouring sub-castes and new groupings like 'backward' and 'forward' castes emerge.

D Politics has no real effect on caste; the relationship is entirely one-way.

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Model Answer

Option C — Political processes cause caste identities to be reshaped — for example, groups expand by incorporating neighbouring sub-castes and new groupings like 'backward' and 'forward' castes emerge.

Source: Gender, Religion and Caste, Section: Politics in Caste

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "Politics too influences the caste system and caste identities by bringing them into the political arena." It lists three effects — groups widen by absorbing sub-castes, coalitions form through negotiation, and new categories like 'backward' and 'forward' castes emerge. Option C captures all three ideas. Options A and D are wrong because the textbook says caste is *not* eliminated and the relationship is two-way, not one-way.

Q7. medium initial-understanding § Caste and politics

[3]

Explain any three effects — positive or negative — that caste-based political mobilisation can have on democracy in India, with reference to disadvantaged communities.

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Model Answer

Caste-based political mobilisation has both positive and negative effects on democracy:

- 1. Empowerment of disadvantaged groups (Positive):** Universal adult franchise brought new consciousness among Dalits and OBCs. Caste politics has helped these communities gain better access to decision-making and demand their share of power.
- 1. Demands for justice and dignity (Positive):** Political and non-political organisations have used caste mobilisation to agitate for an end to discrimination, more dignity, and greater access to land, resources, and opportunities for lower castes.
- 1. Diversion from real issues / social conflict (Negative):** Exclusive focus on caste identity can divert attention from pressing issues like poverty, development, and corruption. It can also lead to tensions, conflict, and even violence between caste groups.

Source: Chapter 3 — Gender, Religion and Caste; Section: Caste in Politics / Politics in Caste

Explanation

- The question asks for **three** effects — positive **or** negative. You may mix both.
- Always use textbook language: "disadvantaged communities," "Dalits and OBCs," "decision-making," etc.
- The examiner awards 1 mark per valid effect — so state each clearly and briefly. No need for long elaboration.
- Avoid listing caste arithmetic points (e.g., "no single caste wins alone") — those relate to why caste *alone* doesn't decide elections, not to effects on democracy.

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