

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: J9ETMA

Questions: 11

Maximum Marks: 19

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SELECTIONS USED

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

Composition — Difficulty: 6 straightforward · 4 medium · 1 deep | Types: 5 Short · 4 Very short · 2 MCQ

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction

[1]

Mention any two ways in which agriculture contributes to India's economy other than providing food.

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Model Answer

Agriculture provides raw materials to various industries (e.g., cotton textile, sugar) and earns foreign exchange through export of products like tea, coffee, and spices.

Source: Agriculture, Chapter 4, Introduction

Explanation

The question asks for two contributions **other than food**. The passage directly mentions two: (1) supplying raw material to industries, and (2) earning foreign exchange through exports. Examiners expect both points clearly stated in one line for 1 mark.

Q2. medium initial-understanding § TYPES OF FARMING

[3]

What is 'slash and burn' agriculture? Describe any two features of this farming practice.

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Model Answer

Slash and burn agriculture is a type of primitive subsistence farming in which farmers clear a patch of land by cutting and burning vegetation, grow food crops, and when soil fertility decreases, shift to a fresh patch of land. It is also called **Jhumming** in North-East India.

Two features:

1. **Shifting nature:** When soil fertility declines, farmers abandon the plot and move to a new patch, allowing nature to restore fertility naturally.
2. **Primitive tools and low productivity:** Farmers use simple tools like hoe, dao, and digging sticks. No fertilisers or modern inputs are used, resulting in low land productivity.

Source: Chapter 4 – Types of Farming, Primitive Subsistence Farming

Explanation

- The definition must mention clearing/burning + shifting when fertility drops — examiners expect both elements.
- Name "Jhumming" to show awareness of Indian context; it adds value.
- The two features should be distinct: one about the shifting/soil aspect, one about tools/inputs/productivity.
- Avoid listing more than two features — the question asks for exactly two.

Q3. straightforward initial-understanding § TYPES OF FARMING

[1]

Which one of the following best describes plantation farming?

- (A) Small family-owned farms growing several crops for home use
 (B) Large-scale cultivation of a single crop using capital-intensive inputs, with produce going entirely to industry
 (C) Rain-fed farming on hilly slopes using only traditional tools
 (D) Subsistence farming practised on fragmented land holdings

A Small family-owned farms growing several crops for home use

B Large-scale cultivation of a single crop using capital-intensive inputs, with produce going entirely to industry

C Rain-fed farming on hilly slopes using only traditional tools

D Subsistence farming practised on fragmented land holdings

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Model Answer

(B) Large-scale cultivation of a single crop using capital-intensive inputs, with produce going entirely to industry.

Explanation

The textbook (Ch. 4) states: "In plantation farming, a single crop is grown on a large area... using capital intensive inputs... All the produce is used as raw material in respective industries." Options A and D describe subsistence farming; C describes primitive/rain-fed farming. Option B matches the definition exactly.

Q4. medium initial-understanding § TYPES OF FARMING

[3]

The same crop can be a commercial crop in one region and a subsistence crop in another. Using any one crop as an example, explain how this is possible.

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Model Answer

Yes, the same crop can serve different purposes in different regions based on the scale of farming and market orientation.

Example: Rice

In **Punjab and Haryana**, rice is a **commercial crop**. Farmers here use HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, and extensive irrigation to produce large surpluses, which are sold in the market for profit.

In **Odisha**, however, rice is a **subsistence crop**. Farmers grow it mainly to feed their own families, with little or no surplus left for sale.

Thus, the degree of commercialisation, availability of modern inputs, and market access determine whether a crop is commercial or subsistence in a given region.

Source: *Agriculture (Chapter 4), Commercial Farming section*

Explanation

- The textbook directly gives this example: "*rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab, but in Odisha, it is a subsistence crop.*" Always quote the textbook example unless asked to give your own.
- For 3 marks, examiners expect: (1) a clear statement of the concept, (2) the crop example with two contrasting regions, and (3) the reason for the difference. Cover all three.
- Avoid writing extra paragraphs — this length (~75 words) is ideal for 3 marks.

Q5. straightforward initial-understanding § CROPPING PATTERN

[1]

India has three main cropping seasons. Name them and state the approximate sowing and harvesting months for any one of them.

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Model Answer

India's three cropping seasons are **Rabi, Kharif, and Zaid**. Rabi crops are sown in winter (October–December) and harvested in summer (April–June).

Explanation

For 1 mark, simply name all three seasons and give sowing/harvesting months for one. Rabi is the easiest to quote directly from the textbook. Do not elaborate on crops or conditions — that wastes time and adds no marks.

Q6. straightforward initial-understanding § Major Crops

[1]

Why are pulses particularly valued in a vegetarian diet, and what special property do most of them add to the soil?

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Model Answer

Pulses are valued in a vegetarian diet as they are rich in protein. Being leguminous crops, most pulses fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil, thereby increasing soil fertility.

Explanation

The question combines two parts: nutritional value and soil property. Pulses are leguminous crops (as confirmed by the MCQ in the passage), and legumes are known for nitrogen fixation — a standard fact expected in this chapter. Keep both points in one line for full credit.

Q7. straightforward initial-understanding § Major Crops

[1]

What specific nutrients present in ragi make it an important food crop, especially in dry and hilly regions of India?

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Model Answer

Ragi is very rich in **iron**, **calcium**, other **micro nutrients**, and **roughage**, making it a highly nutritious millet crop important for dry and hilly regions.

Source: Agriculture (Chapter 4), Major Crops — Millets

Explanation

The question is directly from the Millets section. The textbook lists exactly four nutritional components of ragi: iron, calcium, other micro nutrients, and roughage. In a 1-mark answer, mention all four — examiners expect these specific terms as they appear in the textbook.

Q8. medium initial-understanding § Major Crops

[2]

In India, rice is grown both as a subsistence crop and as a commercial crop. What does this mean, and why does the same crop serve different purposes in different regions?

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Model Answer

Subsistence crop means the crop is grown mainly for the farmer's own family consumption, with little or no surplus for sale. **Commercial crop** means it is grown primarily for sale in the market using modern inputs.

Rice serves both purposes because of regional differences. In Odisha, small farmers grow rice on limited land to feed their families (subsistence). In Punjab and Haryana, canal irrigation and HYV seeds enable large-scale production, making rice a commercial crop sold in the market.

Source: *Types of Farming, Chapter 4*

Explanation

- The key distinction examiners want: **subsistence = for own consumption; commercial = for market/sale.**
- The textbook gives the **exact example** — rice is commercial in Punjab/Haryana, subsistence in Odisha. Always quote this when asked about rice.
- Mention **why** (irrigation, HYV seeds, modern inputs in Punjab/Haryana vs. small holdings and limited resources elsewhere).
- For 2 marks: define both terms briefly + give the textbook example with a reason. That's all you need.

Q9. straightforward initial-understanding § Major Crops

[1]

Which of the following is NOT a kharif crop?

- A Cotton
- B Groundnut
- C Mustard
- D Jute

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Model Answer

C. Mustard

Mustard is a **rabi crop**, sown in winter (October–December) and harvested in summer. Cotton, groundnut, and jute are all kharif crops.

Explanation

The passage clearly lists mustard among rabi crops and cotton, groundnut, and jute among kharif crops. Examiners expect you to state the correct option and give a one-line reason — do not write more for a 1-mark MCQ.

Q10. deep initial-understanding § Major Crops

[3]

Compare the climate and soil conditions required for the cultivation of cotton and jute in India. How do their requirements differ from each other?

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Model Answer

Cotton grows well in the drier parts of the black cotton soil of the Deccan plateau. It requires **high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210 frost-free days**, and bright sunshine. It is a kharif crop taking 6–8 months to mature.

Jute grows well on **well-drained fertile soils in flood plains** where soils are renewed every year. It requires **high temperature** and is also a kharif crop.

Key difference: Cotton needs drier conditions with light rainfall and black soil, whereas jute requires fertile, well-drained flood-plain soils with adequate moisture. Cotton needs frost-free days and bright sunshine; jute thrives in humid, alluvial flood plains.

Source: Chapter 4, Non-Food Crops — Fibre Crops

Explanation

- The question asks for **comparison**, so examiners expect at least one clear point of contrast alongside the individual conditions.
- Both are kharif crops — mentioning this shows awareness of cropping seasons.
- Key contrast: **soil type** (black soil vs. flood-plain alluvial soil) and **moisture requirement** (light rainfall vs. moist flood plains).
- Avoid writing long paragraphs; 3 marks = ~3 distinct points covering both crops and a comparison.

Q11. medium initial-understanding § Technological and Institutional Reforms

[2]

Why does the government announce minimum support prices and procurement prices for important crops?

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Model Answer

The government announces minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops **to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen**. This ensures that farmers receive a fair and remunerative price for their produce, protecting their interests and encouraging continued agricultural production.

Source: *Technological and Institutional Reforms, Chapter 4*

Explanation

The answer is directly lifted from the passage: "The government also announces minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen." For 2 marks, state **what** the government does (announces MSP/procurement prices) and **why** (to protect farmers from exploitation by speculators and middlemen). No extra elaboration is needed.

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