CBSE CLASS X

Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: PSDYWR	Questions: 31	Maximum Marks: 85	Generated: 2026-06-26 10:02

SELECTIONS USED

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

Composition — Difficulty: 1 straightforward · 18 medium · 12 deep | Types: 22 Short · 4 Very short · 3 Long · 2 MCQ

Q1. medium | thorough-understanding | § Introduction **[3]**

India is described as agriculturally important partly because of its export earnings from certain crops. However, agriculture also supports industries within India. Explain how agriculture serves BOTH as a source of industrial raw material AND as a contributor to India's export income, giving one example for each role.

◆ **Agriculture**

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Model Answer

Agriculture serves a dual role in India's economy:

As a source of industrial raw material: Many Indian industries depend directly on agricultural produce. For example, sugarcane is used as raw material by the sugar industry, and cotton feeds the textile industry.

As a contributor to export income: Certain agricultural products are exported to earn foreign exchange. For example, tea, coffee, and spices are exported, bringing valuable export earnings to the country.

Thus, agriculture supports both domestic industrial production and India's trade income.

Source: Agriculture (Chapter 4), Introduction and Plantation Farming sections

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Explanation

- The question has **two specific roles** — examiners expect **one clear example for each**, so don't merge them.
- Both roles are directly stated in the introduction passage: *"raw material for various industries"* and *"tea, coffee, spices... are exported"* — quote/paraphrase these directly.
- For raw material, plantation crops like sugarcane/cotton are ideal examples as the passage also mentions *"all produce used as raw material in respective industries."*
- Keep each role in a separate sentence or point for clarity and easy mark allocation.

Q2. medium | thorough-understanding | § TYPES OF FARMING **[1]**

A tribal family in Bastar clears a forested plot, grows crops for two seasons, and then moves on to a new patch. Why do they abandon the original plot rather than continuing to farm it?

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Model Answer

They abandon the plot because **soil fertility decreases** after two seasons of cropping. Moving to a fresh patch allows nature to replenish the soil's fertility naturally.

Explanation

The key concept here is **shifting (slash and burn) cultivation**, called *Dipa* in Bastar. The textbook explicitly states: "When the soil fertility decreases, the farmers shift and clear a fresh patch of land for cultivation." For 1 mark, simply state the reason — declining soil fertility — and you will score full marks. Do not over-explain.

Q3. medium | thorough-understanding | § TYPES OF FARMING **[2]**

In intensive subsistence farming, farmers invest heavily in labour and biochemical inputs even on very small plots. What social and economic condition forces them to maximise output from such limited land, rather than switching to another livelihood?

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Model Answer

The right of inheritance causes land to be divided among successive generations, making holdings very small and economically unviable. Since farmers have **no alternative source of livelihood**, they are compelled to maximise output from their limited land by investing heavily in labour and biochemical inputs, leading to enormous pressure on agricultural land.

Source: Agriculture, Intensive Subsistence Farming section, Chapter 4

Explanation

The textbook directly states both causes: (1) the **right of inheritance** fragmenting landholdings over generations, and (2) the **absence of alternative livelihood**. Examiners expect both points for full marks. Avoid vague answers like "poverty" — use the textbook's exact reasoning. One point = 1 mark each.

Q4. deep thorough-understanding § TYPES OF FARMING **[3]**

[short_answer] Rice is grown as a subsistence crop in Odisha but as a commercial crop in Punjab — both regions cultivating the same crop under broadly similar agro-climatic conditions. What factors account for this difference, and what does this tell us about how 'commercial' versus 'subsistence' farming is determined?

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Model Answer

The textbook directly states: "Rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab, but in Odisha, it is a subsistence crop."

The difference lies not in agro-climatic conditions but in **socio-economic factors**:

- **Punjab** uses high doses of modern inputs (HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, irrigation via canals/tubewells) and produces surplus for the market — this is commercial farming.
- **Odisha** relies on traditional methods with limited inputs; output mainly meets the farmer's own needs.

This shows that whether farming is 'commercial' or 'subsistence' is determined by **use of modern inputs, market orientation, and degree of commercialisation** — not by the crop itself.

Source: Agriculture, Types of Farming — Commercial Farming section

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Explanation

- The textbook gives this exact rice/Punjab/Odisha example under "Commercial Farming" — quote it directly for full marks.
- Examiners look for: (1) the contrast stated, (2) reasons (inputs, surplus/market vs. self-consumption), and (3) the principle that commercialisation depends on how farming is done, not which crop.
- Avoid writing about climate differences — the question says conditions are "broadly similar," and the textbook's point is that economics/technology decides the type, not the crop.

Q5. deep thorough-understanding § TYPES OF FARMING **[3]**

Plantation agriculture is described as having an 'interface of agriculture and industry.' Justify this statement using specific features of how plantation farming is organised and what happens to its produce.

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Model Answer

Plantation agriculture is called an 'interface of agriculture and industry' because it combines features of both sectors:

- **Agriculture side:** A single crop (tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane) is grown on large tracts of land using capital-intensive inputs and migrant labourers.
- **Industry side:** All the produce is used as raw material in respective industries (e.g., tea leaves → tea processing factories).
- A well-developed network of transport and communication links plantation areas, processing industries, and markets, making it function like an industrial enterprise.

Thus, plantation farming bridges agriculture and industry seamlessly.

Source: Chapter 4 — Types of Farming, Commercial Farming section

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Explanation

The examiner wants three clear justifications: (1) large-scale single-crop cultivation, (2) produce used entirely as industrial raw material, and (3) the role of transport/communication linking farms to processing units and markets. These three points map directly to the textbook lines on plantation farming. Avoid general definitions — be specific with examples like tea in Assam or coffee in Karnataka to score full marks.

Q6. medium | thorough-understanding | § TYPES OF FARMING **[1]**

[mcq] Which of the following best explains why a well-developed transport and communication network is essential for plantation agriculture?

(A) Plantation crops are perishable and must reach processing factories quickly before quality deteriorates.

(B) Plantation farms are small in size and need roads to connect individual farmers to markets.

(C) Plantation workers migrate seasonally and require transport to reach their home villages.

(D) Plantation crops are grown for subsistence and need to be distributed to local communities.

A Plantation crops are grown in remote areas where migrant labourers need to travel daily.

B The entire produce must reach processing industries and markets quickly, since plantations are market-oriented.

C Chemical fertilisers and HYV seeds used in plantations must be imported from abroad.

D Plantation crops require irrigation water to be transported from distant rivers.

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Model Answer

Option B — Since plantation agriculture is market-oriented and all produce is used as raw material for industries, a well-developed transport and communication network is essential to connect plantation areas, processing industries, and markets.

Source: Types of Farming, Chapter 4

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: *"Since the production is mainly for market, a well-developed network of transport and communication connecting the plantation areas, processing industries and markets plays an important role."* Examiners expect you to link market-orientation of plantations to the need for transport. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the chapter.

Q7. deep thorough-understanding § TYPES OF FARMING **[5]**

[long_answer] Compare primitive subsistence farming and intensive subsistence farming with reference to the technology and inputs used, the socio-economic conditions that give rise to each system, and the pattern of land use they involve. Which system is more sustainable in the long run, and why?

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Model Answer

Primitive Subsistence Farming:

- Uses primitive tools like hoe, dao, and digging sticks; relies on family/community labour.
- Depends entirely on monsoon and natural soil fertility; no fertilisers or modern inputs are used.
- It is 'slash and burn' agriculture — farmers clear small patches, grow food crops, and shift when fertility declines, allowing nature to replenish the soil.
- Arises in isolated, tribal communities with low population density and traditional lifestyles.

Intensive Subsistence Farming:

- Uses high doses of biochemical inputs, irrigation, and is labour intensive.
- Arises due to high population pressure on land; right of inheritance leads to fragmentation of holdings, so farmers extract maximum output from limited land.
- Land-holding size is small and uneconomical, but no alternative livelihood exists.

Sustainability: Intensive subsistence farming is more sustainable in the long run because it does not require constantly clearing new land. It produces higher yields from the same plot using irrigation and inputs, whereas primitive farming degrades soil and forces repeated migration.

Source: Chapter 4 — Agriculture, Types of Farming

Explanation

- Examiners expect a clear **comparison** with specific points on technology, socio-economic conditions, and land use — do not just describe each separately.
- Use **textbook terms**: "slash and burn," "biochemical inputs," "right of inheritance," "labour intensive."
- The sustainability question requires a **reasoned conclusion** — one or two lines justifying your choice is enough. Do not leave it unanswered.
- Avoid padding; each point should carry new information, not repeat the same idea differently.

Q8. deep | thorough-understanding | § CROPPING PATTERN **[3]**

A farmer in Punjab grows rice as his main cash crop, while a farmer in Odisha grows the same crop primarily to feed his family. What does this contrast tell us about how we should classify a crop — is it the crop itself or something else that determines whether it is 'commercial' or 'subsistence'? Justify your answer with this example.

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Model Answer

Whether a crop is 'commercial' or 'subsistence' is **not determined by the crop itself, but by the purpose for which it is grown.**

The textbook states: *"Rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab, but in Odisha, it is a subsistence crop."* The Punjab farmer grows rice using HYV seeds, fertilisers and irrigation to sell in the market for profit — this is commercial farming. The Odisha farmer grows the same crop primarily to feed his family — this is subsistence farming.

Thus, the **intention (market sale vs. self-consumption)** and the **inputs used** determine the nature of farming, not the crop itself.

Source: Agriculture (Chapter 4), Types of Farming — Commercial Farming

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Explanation

- The examiner wants you to extract the core concept: classification depends on **purpose**, not crop type.
- The exact textbook example (Punjab/Haryana = commercial; Odisha = subsistence) must be cited — it is given verbatim in the source and examiners expect it.
- Mention the two markers: **purpose (market vs. self-use)** and **inputs (modern vs. traditional)** for full marks.
- Avoid long intros; jump straight to the answer for a 3-mark question.

Q9. medium | thorough-understanding | § CROPPING PATTERN **[1]**

India recognises a third cropping season besides rabi and kharif. (a) Name this season and give one example of a crop grown in it. (b) Sugarcane also takes about a year to mature yet is not placed under rabi or kharif. How is the duration of sugarcane's growing cycle different from crops of the third season?

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Model Answer

(a) The third season is **Zaid**. Example: watermelon (or muskmelon/cucumber).

(b) Zaid crops grow during a **short** summer period (between rabi and kharif), whereas sugarcane takes **almost a year** to grow, spanning multiple seasons.

Source: Agriculture, Chapter 4 — Cropping Pattern

Explanation

The passage explicitly names Zaid as the short summer season between rabi and kharif, with watermelon/cucumber as examples. It separately states "Sugarcane takes almost a year to grow," distinguishing it from the brief Zaid cycle. Examiners expect both parts answered clearly; the contrast in duration is the key point for part (b).

Q10. medium | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

Rice cultivation in India is largely confined to certain regions, yet it is also grown in states like Punjab and Haryana that receive far less rainfall than required. Explain the geographical conditions necessary for rice cultivation and how irrigation has enabled its spread to drier regions, while also identifying two leading rice-producing states.

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Model Answer

Geographical Conditions for Rice Cultivation:
Rice is a kharif crop requiring high temperature (above 25°C), high humidity, and annual rainfall above 100 cm. It grows best in the plains of north and north-eastern India, coastal areas, and deltaic regions.

Role of Irrigation:
In areas of low rainfall like Punjab and Haryana, a dense network of canal irrigation and tubewells has made rice cultivation possible, enabling its spread to drier regions.

Two Leading Rice-Producing States:
West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh (also Assam, Andhra Pradesh).

Source: Major Crops, Chapter 4

Explanation

- Examiner expects three clear parts: conditions, irrigation role, and two states — each fetching 1 mark.
- Quote the exact figures: "above 25°C" and "above 100 cm" — these are frequently asked.
- Mention canal irrigation and tubewells specifically; the textbook uses both terms.
- Any two correct states from the listed rice-growing regions will earn the mark.

Q11. medium | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

Ragi is nutritionally superior to many common food grains. What specific nutrients make ragi stand out, and in which type of soils and climate does it grow best?

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Model Answer

Ragi is nutritionally superior because it is very rich in **iron, calcium, other micro nutrients, and roughage** — nutrients that many common food grains lack in such quantities.

Ragi is a crop of **dry regions** and grows well on a variety of soils including **red, black, sandy, loamy, and shallow black soils**. Major producing states are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Jharkhand, and Arunachal Pradesh.

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

Explanation

- The question has two parts: (1) nutrients and (2) soil/climate — cover both for full marks.
- The textbook specifically lists **iron, calcium, micro nutrients, and roughage** — these exact words score marks.
- "Dry regions" is the key climate descriptor; listing the soil types shows thorough knowledge.
- Naming 2–3 producing states adds context and shows you've read the chapter carefully.

Q12. medium | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

A farmer in Maharashtra regularly grows jowar without any irrigation facilities. Describe the geographical conditions that make jowar suitable for rain-fed cultivation in this region, and explain why this makes jowar a more practical choice than rice for farmers in similar areas.

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Model Answer

Jowar is a rain-fed kharif crop that grows well in **moist areas and hardly needs irrigation**, making it ideal for regions like Maharashtra where irrigation facilities are limited.

Geographical conditions suitable for jowar:

- Grows in moist areas with moderate rainfall
- Does not require irrigation — thrives on rain-fed conditions
- Maharashtra is one of the major jowar-producing states

Why jowar is more practical than rice for such farmers:
Rice requires annual rainfall **above 100 cm** and high humidity; in areas of less rainfall, it can only be grown **with the help of irrigation**. Since the Maharashtra farmer has no irrigation facility, rice cultivation would not be feasible. Jowar, being a rain-fed crop, requires no such support, making it a far more practical and economical choice.

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

Explanation

- The key contrast the examiner expects is: **jowar = rain-fed, no irrigation needed** vs. **rice = needs rainfall >100 cm OR irrigation**.
- Always quote the specific conditions from the textbook (e.g., rice needs rainfall above 100 cm; jowar hardly needs irrigation).
- Mentioning Maharashtra as a major jowar-producing state adds accuracy and earns marks.
- Avoid vague statements like "jowar is better" — always link it back to the **geographical/climatic reason**.

Q13. medium | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

India is the largest producer as well as the largest consumer of pulses in the world. Why are pulses particularly important in the Indian diet, and what additional benefit do most pulse crops provide to the soil?

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Model Answer

Pulses are the **major source of protein in a vegetarian diet**. Since a large portion of India's population is vegetarian, pulses are essential for meeting daily protein requirements.

Being **leguminous crops**, most pulses (except arhar/tur) help in **restoring soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen**. This makes them ideal for crop rotation with other crops, naturally enriching the soil without chemical fertilisers.

Source: Major Crops, Chapter 4

Explanation

- The question has two parts — dietary importance and soil benefit. Allocate roughly equal space to both.
- Key term: **leguminous crops** — examiners expect this word.
- Note the exception: **arhar (tur) does NOT fix nitrogen** — mentioning this shows thorough reading and earns full marks.
- Avoid writing general lines about agriculture; stick to the two specific points asked.

Q14. deep thorough-understanding § Major Crops **[5]**

Both sugarcane and cotton are grown in Maharashtra and require manual labour, but their geographical requirements differ significantly. Compare the rainfall, temperature and soil requirements of these two crops.

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Model Answer

Comparison of Sugarcane and Cotton in Maharashtra:

Aspect	Sugarcane	Cotton
Rainfall	75–100 cm; irrigation needed where rainfall is low	Light rainfall or irrigation; grows in drier parts
Temperature	21°C to 27°C; hot and humid climate	High temperature; 210 frost-free days required
Soil	Can be grown on a variety of soils	Grows best in black cotton soil of the Deccan plateau

Additional points:

- Sugarcane is a tropical/subtropical crop; cotton thrives specifically in drier conditions.
- Sugarcane requires bright sunshine and humidity; cotton needs bright sunshine and low moisture.
- Both are kharif crops requiring manual labour throughout their cultivation.
- Sugarcane takes nearly a year to mature; cotton takes 6–8 months.

Source: Major Crops, Chapter 4

Explanation

- The examiner expects a **direct comparison** — using a table or parallel points earns full marks efficiently.
- Quote the **exact figures** from the textbook (e.g., 75–100 cm rainfall for sugarcane; 21°C–27°C temperature) — vague answers lose marks.
- Mentioning **black cotton soil** for cotton and **variety of soils** for sugarcane is a key differentiator examiners look for.
- Do not write general facts; every point must contrast the two crops.

Q15. deep | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

Tea cultivation requires the leaves to be processed within the tea garden itself rather than being transported elsewhere. Explain why immediate processing is essential for tea, and describe any two other geographical or labour conditions that make tea a unique plantation crop in India.

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Model Answer

Tea leaves are tender and begin to lose freshness and quality very quickly after plucking. Hence, **tea is processed within the tea garden itself** to retain its flavour and freshness.

Two other unique conditions:

1. **Geographical/Climate condition:** Tea requires a warm, moist, frost-free climate throughout the year with frequent and evenly distributed rainfall to ensure continuous growth of tender leaves.
1. **Labour condition:** Tea is a labour-intensive industry requiring **abundant, cheap, and skilled labour** for plucking the delicate leaves carefully.

Source: Chapter 4 — Major Crops, Tea section

Explanation

Examiners expect three distinct points for 3 marks: (1) why immediate processing is needed — freshness, (2) one geographical condition, (3) one labour condition. Directly quote or paraphrase the textbook phrases like "restore its freshness," "warm and moist frost-free climate," and "abundant, cheap and skilled labour" — these are scoring keywords. Avoid padding with unrelated details.

Q16. straightforward | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[1]**

India's coffee cultivation is concentrated in specific hill ranges and is known for a particular variety. Name the variety of coffee predominantly grown in India, identify the hill ranges where it is cultivated, and explain why hill slopes are more suitable for coffee cultivation than plains.

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Model Answer

India grows the **Arabica** variety of coffee, cultivated in the **Nilgiri hills** of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Hill slopes provide well-drained soil and suitable cool temperatures, preventing waterlogging harmful to coffee plants.

Explanation

This question is 1 mark, so one concise line covering: (1) variety — Arabica, (2) hill ranges — Nilgiri (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu; Baba Budan Hills as origin), (3) reason for hill slopes — well-drained soil + cool climate. Don't write extra. The textbook specifically states cultivation is "confined to the Nilgiri in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu."

Q17. medium | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

Rubber is an equatorial crop, yet it is successfully grown in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. What specific climatic conditions make this possible in those states, and why is rubber considered important beyond agriculture?

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Model Answer

Rubber is an equatorial crop requiring high temperatures (above 25°C) and annual rainfall of more than 200 cm. Kerala and Tamil Nadu receive heavy rainfall from both the southwest and northeast monsoons and have consistently high temperatures throughout the year, fulfilling these conditions. Despite being outside the equatorial belt, these specific climatic features support rubber cultivation.

Rubber is important beyond agriculture because it serves as a **vital industrial raw material** — used in manufacturing tyres, tubes, footwear, waterproof items, and many other industrial and consumer products.

Source: Agriculture (Chapter 4), Non-Food Crops — Rubber

Explanation

- The textbook directly states rubber needs **rainfall > 200 cm** and **temperature above 25°C** — quote or paraphrase these precisely for full marks.
- The question asks TWO things: (1) climatic conditions and (2) importance beyond agriculture. Answer both clearly or you lose marks.
- "Important industrial raw material" is the key phrase from the textbook — examiners look for this. Mention specific products (tyres, footwear, etc.) to show application.
- Do not waste words explaining where equatorial regions are; focus on what makes Kerala/Tamil Nadu suitable.

Q18. medium | thorough-understanding | § Major Crops **[3]**

Jute is called the 'golden fibre'. It grows well in the flood plains of West Bengal and Bihar. What specific soil and temperature conditions does jute need, and why are flood plains particularly suited to its cultivation?

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Model Answer

Jute is called the 'golden fibre' because of its golden shine and high economic value.

Soil and Temperature conditions:

- Jute grows well on **well-drained fertile soils** in flood plains.
- It requires **high temperature** during the time of growth.

Why flood plains are suited:

Flood plains are ideal because the soils there are **renewed (replenished) every year** by fresh alluvial deposits brought by rivers during floods. This keeps the soil fertile naturally, providing the rich nutrients jute requires for healthy growth.

Major jute-producing states: West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Meghalaya.

Source: Chapter 4 — Agriculture, Non-Food Crops (Fibre Crops — Jute)

Explanation

- The question has two parts — soil/temperature conditions AND why flood plains are suited. Address both clearly.
- The key phrase from the textbook is "soils are renewed every year" — examiners specifically look for this.
- Mentioning "well-drained fertile soils" and "high temperature" covers the soil and climate conditions required.
- Naming producing states adds completeness and is good exam practice for 3-mark answers.

Q19. medium | thorough-understanding | § Technological and Institutional Reforms **[3]**

Despite the significant increase in agricultural output following the introduction of high-yielding variety seeds, India still felt the need for a comprehensive land development programme. What were the key limitations of the earlier approach that made such a programme necessary, and what goals was it intended to achieve?

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Model Answer

The Green Revolution, though successful in boosting output, concentrated development in only a few selected areas, leaving most regions underdeveloped. Additionally, sustained use of land without techno-institutional changes, continued dependence on monsoon, and fragmented land holdings hindered overall agricultural progress.

To address these limitations, a comprehensive land development programme in the 1980s–90s aimed to:

- Provide crop insurance against drought, flood, cyclone, fire and disease
- Establish Grameen banks and cooperative societies for low-interest loans
- Introduce Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PAIS for farmer welfare
- Announce minimum support prices to protect farmers from middlemen

Source: Technological and Institutional Reforms, Chapter 4

Explanation

The examiner expects two parts: (1) limitations of the earlier approach — mention the Green Revolution's uneven spread and dependence on monsoon/natural fertility, and (2) goals of the new programme — list specific schemes (crop insurance, Grameen banks, KCC, MSP). Use the exact terms from the textbook. Avoid vague statements; name the schemes directly for full marks.

Q20. medium | thorough-understanding | § Technological and Institutional Reforms **[3]**

A farmer in a drought-prone district loses her entire kharif crop to an unseasonal dry spell. Identify two specific government schemes or financial mechanisms she could turn to for relief, and explain how each one addresses a different aspect of her hardship.

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Model Answer

1. Crop Insurance against Drought:
The government provides **crop insurance** to protect farmers against losses due to drought, flood, cyclone, fire, and disease. The farmer can claim compensation for her lost kharif crop, directly addressing her production loss.

2. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) / Grameen Banks / Cooperative Societies:
These provide **loans at lower rates of interest**, helping the farmer meet immediate financial needs such as buying seeds and inputs for the next season, addressing her credit hardship.

Together, crop insurance covers the loss already suffered, while credit facilities help her rebuild and resume farming.

Source: Chapter 4, Technological and Institutional Reforms

Explanation

- The passage explicitly names **crop insurance against drought**, **Grameen banks**, **cooperative societies/banks for lower-interest loans**, and the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** as government measures.
- Examiners expect you to name **two distinct schemes** and link each to a **different aspect** of hardship — here: (i) compensation for crop loss, and (ii) access to credit for recovery.
- Do not invent schemes not mentioned in the passage (e.g., PM-KISAN is not in the source text).
- Always end with the source citation when passages are provided.

Q21. deep | thorough-understanding | § Technological and Institutional Reforms **[3]**

The right of inheritance, while culturally significant, has had unintended consequences for agricultural productivity in India. Explain the chain of events through which inheritance practices lead to a structural problem in Indian agriculture, and describe the institutional reform that has been proposed or undertaken to address this problem.

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Model Answer

The right of inheritance causes land to be divided among successive generations, resulting in **fragmentation of holdings** — plots become increasingly small and uneconomical to farm efficiently.

This fragmentation reduces agricultural productivity as small, scattered plots cannot be cultivated with modern machinery or techniques effectively.

To address this, the government undertook **consolidation of holdings** as an institutional reform, prioritised under the First Five Year Plan as part of land reforms, so that farmers receive one compact plot equivalent in value to their scattered fragments.

Source: Technological and Institutional Reforms, Chapter 4

Explanation

- The chain must be clear: inheritance → fragmentation → uneconomical holdings → reduced productivity.
- "Consolidation of holdings" is the specific institutional reform — name it precisely.
- Examiners award marks for: (1) identifying fragmentation, (2) linking it to productivity loss, (3) naming the reform. Don't skip any step.

Q22. medium | thorough-understanding | § Technological and Institutional Reforms **[2]**

The government announces a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for important crops every season. Explain why this policy is considered necessary for Indian farmers and discuss whose interests it is designed to guard against. How does it contribute to the broader goal of agricultural stability?

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Model Answer

The government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) to **check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen**. Farmers often sell their produce at very low prices after harvest due to financial pressures. MSP guarantees a remunerative price, ensuring fair income and encouraging farmers to invest in production, thereby contributing to agricultural stability.

Source: Technological and Institutional Reforms, Chapter 4

Explanation

The textbook directly states that the government announces "minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops **to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen**." Use this exact phrase — examiners look for it. For 2 marks, cover (1) the reason/necessity and (2) whose interests it guards against. Mentioning agricultural stability as an outcome rounds off the answer.

Q23. medium | thorough-understanding | § PROJECT WORK **[3]**

Name TWO major wheat-producing states from the Ganga-Satluj plains and ONE wheat-producing state from the black soil region of the Deccan. For any ONE of the states you have named, explain how its physical geography — such as relief, climate, and soil — makes it suitable for wheat cultivation.

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Model Answer

Two wheat-producing states from the Ganga-Satluj plains: Punjab and Haryana.

One wheat-producing state from the black soil region of the Deccan: Madhya Pradesh.

Physical geography of Punjab (suitability for wheat):
Punjab lies in the flat, fertile plains of the Ganga-Satluj basin, with level relief ideal for mechanised farming. Its climate provides a cool growing season in winter (rabi) and bright sunshine during ripening. The alluvial soil is deep and fertile. Western temperate cyclones bring 50–75 cm of well-distributed rainfall, perfectly meeting wheat's moisture needs.

Source: Agriculture, Major Crops — Chapter 4

Explanation

- The textbook explicitly names Punjab, Haryana, UP as Ganga-Satluj states and lists MP among major wheat producers (black soil/Deccan region).
- For the physical geography part, link **three factors**: relief (flat plains → mechanised farming), climate (cool winter + bright sunshine at ripening + western cyclone rainfall), and soil (fertile alluvial).
- Do not write generic points — tie each factor directly to wheat's stated requirements (cool season, 50–75 cm rainfall, sunshine at ripening).
- Examiners award 1 mark for the two Ganga-Satluj states, 1 mark for the Deccan state, and 1 mark for the geographical explanation.

Q24. deep | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[3]**

Both primitive subsistence farming and intensive subsistence farming are ultimately driven by the need to feed the farmer's family, yet they respond to land pressure in opposite ways. Explain how each type adapts to its constraints, and why intensive subsistence farmers cannot simply adopt the 'shift to fresh land' solution used in primitive subsistence farming.

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Model Answer

Primitive subsistence farming adapts to declining soil fertility by abandoning exhausted plots and shifting to fresh land ('slash and burn'). Tools are primitive, no fertilisers are used, and nature restores soil fertility naturally over time.

Intensive subsistence farming adapts by applying high doses of biochemical inputs, irrigation, and intensive labour to extract maximum output from the same limited land.

Intensive subsistence farmers **cannot shift** because high population pressure means no spare land is available. Also, 'right of inheritance' has already fragmented holdings, leaving farmers with no alternative livelihood — they must continue farming the same plot.

Source: Agriculture, Types of Farming — Chapter 4

Explanation

- The question tests **comparison + reasoning**, so both farming types must be explained AND the 'why not' must be explicitly answered.
- Key contrast: primitive farming solves the problem by *moving away*; intensive farming solves it by *working harder on the same land*.
- The critical reason intensive farmers can't shift: **high population pressure + no surplus land + no alternative livelihood** — all three points come directly from the passage.
- Examiners award marks for: (1) primitive adaptation, (2) intensive adaptation, (3) the reason shifting is impossible. Hit all three clearly.

Q25. medium | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[1]**

Ragi, bajra and jowar are all millets, yet they thrive on different soils. At the same time, pulses are deliberately grown in rotation with these and other crops. What soil-related property of pulses makes them a logical rotation partner for millets and other cereals?

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Model Answer

Pulses are leguminous crops that fix atmospheric nitrogen into the soil, thereby restoring soil fertility. This makes them a logical rotation partner, as they replenish the nitrogen depleted by millets and other cereals.

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: *"Being leguminous crops, all these crops except arhar help in restoring soil fertility by fixing nitrogen from the air. Therefore, these are mostly grown in rotation with other crops."* For 1 mark, simply name the property (nitrogen fixation / restoring soil fertility) — one clear sentence is enough.

Q26. deep | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[3]**

Tea and coffee are both plantation crops and important beverage exports, yet their cultivation is confined to very different parts of India. Compare the geographical conditions each crop requires and explain why coffee cultivation remains far more regionally restricted than tea.

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Model Answer

Tea: Grows in tropical and sub-tropical climates with deep, fertile, well-drained humus-rich soil. Requires warm, moist, frost-free climate throughout the year with evenly distributed rainfall for continuous leaf growth. Grown widely in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and several other states.

Coffee: The Arabica variety requires specific hill conditions. Its cultivation is confined only to the Nilgiris in Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu — the same hills where it was originally introduced on Baba Budan Hills.

Why coffee is more restricted: Coffee requires very specific highland/hill conditions suited to a limited region of southern India, whereas tea can thrive across a wider range of tropical and sub-tropical zones in both north and south India.

Source: Major Crops, Chapter 4

Explanation

- The passage gives detailed conditions for tea but very little for coffee — examiners expect you to use what is given; do not fabricate conditions for coffee.
- Key contrast: tea grows in multiple states across north-east and south; coffee is explicitly stated to be "confined to the Nilgiri in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu."
- Mention the Arabica variety and Baba Budan Hills origin for full credit on coffee.
- Keep the comparison parallel and concise — this is only 3 marks.

Q27. deep | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[3]**

The Green Revolution dramatically raised India's foodgrain output but also deepened regional and social inequalities in agriculture. Identify any ONE major problem created or worsened by the Green Revolution, and describe any ONE institutional reform introduced by the government to specifically address this or related agricultural challenges.

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Model Answer

Problem created by the Green Revolution:
The Green Revolution led to concentration of development in a few selected areas (mainly Punjab, Haryana, and western UP), deepening regional inequalities. Benefits were limited to farmers with large landholdings and irrigation access, worsening social and economic disparities among farmers.

Institutional Reform introduced:
The government established **Grameen Banks and cooperative credit societies** to provide loans to farmers at lower rates of interest. Additionally, the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme was introduced to give farmers easy access to credit, reducing their dependence on moneylenders and middlemen.

Source: Chapter 4 — Technological and Institutional Reforms

Explanation

- The question asks for ONE problem + ONE reform. Examiners expect both parts to be answered clearly.
- Avoid writing too broadly — name specific reforms (KCC, Grameen Banks, crop insurance) rather than vague statements.
- The passage explicitly links Green Revolution to regional concentration of development, so quote/paraphrase that directly.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP), crop insurance, and weather bulletins are also valid reforms from the passage — any one is acceptable.

Q28. medium | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[1]**

Assertion (A): A farmer in Punjab growing rice for sale is engaged in commercial farming, while a farmer in Odisha growing rice primarily to feed his household is engaged in subsistence farming.
Reason (R): The degree of commercialisation of a crop depends not on the crop itself but on the region and the purpose for which it is grown.

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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Model Answer

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

Rice is a commercial crop in Punjab/Haryana but a subsistence crop in Odisha — the same crop differs by region and purpose, which R correctly explains.

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: *"The degree of commercialisation of agriculture varies from one region to another. For example, rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab, but in Odisha, it is a subsistence crop."* This directly supports both A and R, and R logically explains why A is true — making Option A the correct choice.

Q29. deep | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[3]**

Cotton requires 210 frost-free days and grows best on black (regur) soil, while jute requires high temperatures, heavy rainfall, and well-drained fertile flood-plain soil. Both are classified as kharif fibre crops. Using these contrasting requirements, explain why major cotton-producing states and major jute-producing states barely overlap in India. Are there any geographical conditions that could allow a state to cultivate both? Justify your answer.

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Model Answer

Cotton thrives on black (regur) soil in drier parts of the Deccan plateau with 210 frost-free days, making Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka its major producers. Jute requires high temperatures, heavy rainfall, and fertile flood-plain soils renewed annually, making West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, and Odisha its major producers. Since black soil zones and flood-plain regions are geographically distinct, these states barely overlap.

However, states like **Andhra Pradesh** or **Uttar Pradesh**, which have both alluvial flood plains near rivers and areas of suitable temperature, could potentially cultivate both crops depending on local soil and water availability.

Source: Chapter 4 — Non-Food Crops (Fibre Crops), Cropping Pattern

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Explanation

- Examiners expect you to directly link **soil type** (black soil vs. flood-plain alluvial) and **climatic needs** (dry vs. heavy rainfall) to the regional separation.
- Name specific states from the textbook for both crops — don't generalise.
- For the "both crops" part, pick a state that appears in neither exclusive list but has mixed geographical features; justify briefly. You won't lose marks for a reasonable geographical justification even if the exact state isn't named in the textbook for both.
- Do not write more than 3–4 sentences total for a 3-mark answer.

Q30. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[3]**

Plantation farming is the most commercially productive form of agriculture in India. Despite this, explain any TWO reasons why a policy of rapidly expanding area under plantation farming would be unsuitable for meeting the agricultural and livelihood needs of India's overall farming population.

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Model Answer

Plantation farming, though commercially productive, is unsuitable for India's overall farming population for the following reasons:

1. **Large-scale, capital-intensive nature:** Plantation farming covers large tracts of land using capital-intensive inputs and migrant labourers. India's majority of farmers have small, fragmented holdings and cannot afford such investment, leaving most small farmers without land or livelihood.
1. **Single-crop production for industry, not food:** Plantation crops like tea, coffee, and rubber are used entirely as industrial raw material, not as food. India's farming population depends on agriculture for food security, and shifting to plantations would threaten subsistence and food needs of the rural poor.

Source: Chapter 4, Types of Farming — Commercial Farming (Plantation)

Explanation

- The question asks for TWO reasons — award yourself marks only if both are clearly stated and distinct.
- Both points must be grounded in the textbook description of plantation farming: capital-intensive, large-area, single-crop, produce used as raw material, reliant on migrant labour.
- Contrast plantation farming with the reality of India's farmers: small holdings, food-dependent, labour-abundant — this contrast is what the examiner wants.
- Do not write about benefits of plantation farming; the question asks only why *expanding* it would be unsuitable.

Q31. medium | thorough-understanding | § (whole-chapter synthesis) **[5]**

Sugarcane, rubber, and cotton are all important industrial raw-material crops in India, yet they are cultivated in entirely different climatic and geographical zones. For each of these three crops, describe the primary climatic and soil conditions required for its cultivation, name ONE major producing state, and explain why that crop's cultivation belt is concentrated in that particular region of India.

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Model Answer

Sugarcane: It is a tropical and subtropical crop requiring hot and humid climate with temperature of 21°C–27°C and annual rainfall of 75–100 cm. It can grow on a variety of soils and needs manual labour. **Major producing state: Uttar Pradesh.** The Ganga plains of UP provide fertile alluvial soil, suitable temperature, and irrigation facilities, making it the largest sugarcane-producing state.

Rubber: It requires a moist and humid equatorial/tropical climate with rainfall above 200 cm and temperature above 25°C. **Major producing state: Kerala.** Kerala's high rainfall, warm temperatures, and humid Western Ghats coast create ideal equatorial-type conditions for rubber cultivation.

Cotton: It grows best in drier parts of black cotton soil, requiring high temperature, light rainfall/irrigation, 210 frost-free days, and bright sunshine. **Major producing state: Maharashtra.** The Deccan plateau's black soil (regur) retains moisture well and suits cotton perfectly, concentrating cultivation there.

Source: Chapter 4 — Agriculture, Major Crops section

Explanation

- Examiners expect **three separate, structured points** — one per crop — each covering climate/soil, one state, and reason for concentration.
- Key figures to remember: sugarcane 21–27°C, 75–100 cm rainfall; rubber >200 cm rainfall, >25°C; cotton needs black soil + 210 frost-free days.
- The "why that region" part is crucial for full marks — don't just name the state; link it to the specific soil/climate condition discussed.
- Avoid mixing up crops: black soil → cotton; high rainfall humid coast → rubber; fertile alluvial plains with irrigation → sugarcane.

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