CBSE CLASS X

Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: QOPGTW **Questions: 14** **Maximum Marks: 23** **Generated: 2026-06-26 09:53**

SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	1 Resources and Development
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 7 straightforward · 7 medium | Types: 7 Very short · 7 Short

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction **[1]**

What is meant by the statement that resources are 'a function of human activities'? Give one example to support your answer.

◆ **Resources and Development**

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Model Answer

Resources are not free gifts of nature; they are created by human beings through technology and knowledge. For example, petroleum became a resource only after humans developed the technology to extract and use it.

Source: Resources and Development, Introduction

Explanation

The examiner wants two things in one line: (1) the meaning — humans transform natural materials into resources using technology/knowledge, and (2) one supporting example. Keep it concise. Do not write a paragraph for a 1-mark answer.

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Q2. straightforward | initial-understanding | § DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES **[1]**

How does sustainable development differ from indiscriminate use of resources?

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Model Answer

Sustainable development means using resources to meet present needs **without compromising future generations' needs**, whereas indiscriminate use leads to resource depletion, environmental degradation, and ecological crises.

Explanation

The key contrast examiners look for: sustainable development = balanced use preserving resources for the future; indiscriminate use = overexploitation causing depletion and ecological problems. Quoting the textbook definition of sustainable development strengthens the answer.

Q3. medium | initial-understanding | § DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES **[2]**

Explain any two serious problems that arise from the indiscriminate use of resources by human beings.

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Model Answer

Indiscriminate use of resources by human beings has led to the following problems:

1. **Depletion of resources** for satisfying the greed of a few individuals, threatening the needs of future generations.
2. **Global ecological crises** such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, environmental pollution and land degradation due to overexploitation of resources.

Source: Resources and Development, Chapter 1 — Development of Resources

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Explanation

- The question asks for **any two** problems, so pick two distinct points from the textbook list of three.
- The most commonly expected answers are **resource depletion** and **ecological crises** (or accumulation in few hands causing rich-poor divide). Stick to textbook language — examiners check for key terms like "global warming," "ozone layer depletion," "land degradation."
- Each point should be briefly explained, not just named — that's what earns both marks.

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Q4. straightforward | initial-understanding | § RESOURCE PLANNING **[1]**

Why is resource planning considered essential for a country? Give one reason in the context of India.

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Model Answer

Resource planning is essential to ensure judicious use of resources. In India, some regions are rich in certain resources but deficient in others (e.g., Rajasthan has solar/wind energy but lacks water), making balanced planning necessary.

Source: Resources and Development, Resource Planning in India

Explanation

The examiner expects one clear reason specific to India — the uneven/diverse distribution of resources across regions. Mentioning a concrete example (like Rajasthan or Jharkhand) strengthens the answer. Avoid writing more than 1-2 lines for a 1-mark question.

Q5. medium | initial-understanding | § RESOURCE PLANNING **[2]**

Rajasthan is rich in solar and wind energy, yet it is considered underdeveloped in some respects. What does this suggest about the relationship between resource availability and economic development?

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Model Answer

Resource availability alone does not guarantee economic development. Rajasthan is rich in solar and wind energy but lacks water resources and faces infrastructural deficiencies. This shows that mere availability of resources, without corresponding technological development and institutional support, cannot drive economic growth. Technology, skill, and proper planning are equally essential.

Source: Resources and Development, Resource Planning in India

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Explanation

- The key idea examiners want: **resources are a necessary but not sufficient condition** for development.
- Mention two factors beyond resources: **technology** and **institutions/infrastructure**.
- Rajasthan as the specific example is directly from the textbook — always use it.
- Avoid writing general statements about poverty; stick to the textbook's logic.

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Q6. medium | initial-understanding | § LAND RESOURCES **[3]**

Identify any THREE distinct purposes for which land is used in India. Give one example of a land type or activity for each purpose.

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Model Answer

Land in India is used for the following three distinct purposes:

1. **Forests** – Land used for forest cover, which maintains ecological balance and supports wildlife. Example: Reserved forests in Madhya Pradesh.
1. **Agriculture (Net Sown Area)** – Land on which crops are sown and harvested. Example: Wheat cultivation in Punjab and Haryana, where net sown area exceeds 80% of total area.
1. **Non-agricultural uses** – Land used for settlements, transport, and industry. Example: Land used for roads, railways, and factories.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Utilisation / Land Use Pattern in India

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Explanation

- The textbook gives a **numbered list of land use categories** under "Land Utilisation." Pick any three distinct ones (forests, net sown area, non-agricultural uses are clearest and easiest to illustrate).
- Each purpose needs **one example** — examiners award 1 mark per correct purpose + example pair.
- Avoid vague answers; name a specific crop, region, or activity as your example.
- Do not confuse "fallow land" with "net sown area" — fallow is uncultivated, even temporarily.

Q7. straightforward | initial-understanding | § LAND UTILISATION **[1]**

What is the difference between 'net sown area' and 'gross cropped area'?

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Model Answer

Net sown area is the physical extent of land on which crops are sown and harvested once. **Gross cropped area** is net sown area plus area sown more than once in an agricultural year.

Source: Land Utilisation, Chapter 1

Explanation

The key distinction is the phrase "sown more than once." Net sown area counts each physical piece of land once; gross cropped area counts the same land again if a second crop is grown on it. Examiners expect both definitions stated together, and the relationship (gross = net + area sown more than once) to be clear. The textbook definition is direct — quote or closely paraphrase it.

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Q8. straightforward | initial-understanding | § LAND USE PATTERN IN INDIA **[1]**

Name the two broad categories of factors that determine land use in a region.

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Model Answer

Land use is determined by two broad categories: **physical factors** (topography, climate, soil types) and **human factors** (population density, technological capability, culture and traditions).

Source: Land Use Pattern in India, Chapter 1

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states both categories in one sentence. Examiners expect you to name the two categories and give at least one example of each. Don't write only the category names without examples — that may cost you the mark.

Q9. medium | initial-understanding | § LAND DEGRADATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES **[2]**

Mention any two human activities that cause land degradation in India. Also suggest one measure to conserve land resources.

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Model Answer

Two human activities causing land degradation:

1. **Overgrazing** — excess grazing by cattle destroys vegetation cover, leading to soil erosion (common in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh).
2. **Mining and quarrying** — abandoned mine sites leave deep scars and over-burdening, causing severe degradation (e.g., Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh).

Measure to conserve land resources:
Afforestation — planting trees on a large scale helps bind soil, check erosion, and restore degraded land.

Source: Resources and Development, Land Degradation and Conservation Measures

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Explanation

The question is 2 marks, so two causes + one measure is the exact requirement. Examiners look for textbook-specific terms: "overgrazing," "mining/quarrying," and conservation measures like "afforestation," "shelter belts," or "control of grazing." Avoid vague answers like "human activities harm land" — name the activity directly. Adding a state example shows textbook knowledge and can earn full marks.

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Q10. straightforward | initial-understanding | § SOIL AS A RESOURCE **[1]**

Why is soil described as a 'living system' rather than simply a non-living material?

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Model Answer

Soil is called a living system because it supports various living organisms, contains organic material (humus), and involves biological processes like decomposition by decomposers that are essential to its formation and functioning.

Source: Soil as a Resource, Chapter 1

Explanation

The examiner expects you to mention: (1) presence of living organisms, and (2) biological/organic processes occurring within soil. One precise sentence covering both points is sufficient for 1 mark. Avoid listing soil types or formation factors — those are irrelevant here.

Q11. straightforward | initial-understanding | § SOIL AS A RESOURCE **[1]**

Alluvial soil is the most widely spread soil type in India's northern plains. Name any two major river systems responsible for depositing this soil.

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Model Answer

The Indus, the Ganga, and the Brahmaputra are the three Himalayan river systems responsible for depositing alluvial soil in the northern plains. (Any two: **Indus** and **Ganga**, or **Ganga** and **Brahmaputra**.)

Source: *Resources and Development*, Classification of Soils – Alluvial Soils

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Explanation

The question asks for **any two** out of the three rivers named in the textbook. Write exactly two names — no elaboration needed for 1 mark. Avoid writing "Himalayan rivers" without naming them; examiners expect specific names.

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Q12. medium | initial-understanding | § SOIL AS A RESOURCE **[2]**

Black soil is known for a specific physical behaviour during hot weather that actually benefits the soil. What is this behaviour and why is it considered beneficial?

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Model Answer

Black soil develops **deep cracks during hot weather**. This is beneficial because the cracks allow **proper aeration of the soil** — air circulates into the deeper layers, improving soil health and making it suitable for plant growth.

Source: Resources and Development, Classification of Soils — Black Soil

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Explanation

The answer is directly from the textbook line: *"They develop deep cracks during hot weather, which helps in the proper aeration of the soil."* Examiners expect two things here — naming the behaviour (cracking) and stating the benefit (aeration). Both parts are needed to score full 2 marks. Do not confuse this with moisture retention, which is a separate property of black soil.

Q13. medium | initial-understanding | § SOIL AS A RESOURCE **[2]**

What process is mainly responsible for the formation of laterite soil, and why does this process make the soil generally poor in plant nutrients?

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Model Answer

Laterite soil is formed mainly due to **intense leaching** caused by heavy rainfall in tropical and subtropical regions with alternating wet and dry seasons.

During leaching, heavy rain washes away soluble nutrients and minerals from the upper layers of the soil. As a result, the soil becomes **acidic (pH < 6.0)** and is **generally deficient in plant nutrients**, making it infertile for most crops.

Source: Resources and Development, Laterite Soil

Explanation

- The two key points examiners look for are: (1) **leaching** as the process, and (2) **nutrients being washed away**, leaving the soil nutrient-deficient and acidic.
- Use the term "intense leaching" directly — it appears in the textbook.
- Mentioning pH < 6.0 adds precision and shows textbook familiarity, which examiners appreciate.
- Keep both points balanced since this is a 2-mark question (1 mark per point).

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Q14. medium | initial-understanding | § SOIL AS A RESOURCE **[3]**

A farmer in an arid region notices that his soil dries out very quickly after rain and does not retain moisture. Which feature of arid soil causes this, and how does the presence of soluble salts affect its fertility?

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Model Answer

Arid soils are **sandy in texture**, which means they have poor water retention capacity. The Kankar layer in the lower horizons also **restricts infiltration of water**, causing it to drain or evaporate quickly rather than being retained.

Arid soils are **saline in nature** due to high temperature and rapid evaporation, which concentrates soluble salts on the surface. This high salt content makes the soil **infertile**, as it lacks humus and moisture essential for plant growth. However, after proper irrigation, these soils can become cultivable, as seen in western Rajasthan.

Source: Soil as a Resource — Arid Soils, Chapter 1

Explanation

- The question has two parts: (1) feature causing quick drying, and (2) effect of soluble salts on fertility — address both.
- Key facts from the passage: sandy texture → poor moisture retention; Kankar layer → restricts infiltration; saline nature due to evaporation → lack of humus and moisture → low fertility.
- Mentioning western Rajasthan as an example of reclamation adds value and shows complete reading of the passage.
- Avoid writing about other soil types — stay focused on arid soils only.

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