

CBSE CLASS X  
**Social Science (087)**

QUESTION PAPER  
*AI-generated question paper*

Code: UC48S4

Questions: 21

Maximum Marks: 42

Generated: 2026-06-26 10:10

**SELECTIONS USED**

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	7 Lifelines of National Economy
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 8 straightforward · 13 medium | Types: 13 Short · 7 Very short · 1 MCQ

**Q1.** medium initial-understanding § Introduction [2]

Why is efficient transport considered a prerequisite for the fast development of a country?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q2.** straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction [1]

Name the three natural mediums through which transport links are developed to move goods and services across a country.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q3.** medium initial-understanding § TRANSPORT [3]

Why are pipelines considered more advantageous than other modes of transport for carrying crude oil and natural gas over long distances?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q4.** medium initial-understanding § Roadways [3]

State any two reasons why roads are considered more suitable than railways for transporting goods and passengers over short distances.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q5.** straightforward initial-understanding § Roadways [1]

Which government scheme was launched specifically to connect every village in India to a major town through an all-season motorable road?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q6.** medium initial-understanding § Roadways [2]

What is the Golden Quadrilateral Super Highway project? Name the four major cities it connects.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q7.** straightforward initial-understanding § Railways [1]

Which of the following best describes why the northern plains of India developed the most extensive railway network?

- A The region had no major rivers, making construction easy.
- B The vast level land, high population density and rich agricultural resources provided favourable conditions.
- C The government prioritised the northern plains for strategic defence reasons.
- D The region already had a well-developed road network that railways could follow.

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**Q8.** medium initial-understanding § Railways [2]

Name any two types of terrain or regions in India where laying railway lines has been particularly difficult, and give one reason for each.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q9.** medium initial-understanding § Railways [3]

India's railway network operates on three different track gauges. Name all three gauges used in India and explain why operating multiple gauges creates a problem for the national railway network.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q10.** medium initial-understanding § Pipelines [3]

What are the main advantages of pipeline transport for carrying crude oil and natural gas over long distances?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q11.** straightforward initial-understanding § Waterways [1]

Why are waterways considered the most suitable mode of transport for heavy and bulky goods?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q12.** medium initial-understanding § Waterways [3]

Why does India rely heavily on sea routes for international trade? Mention any two reasons.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q13.** medium initial-understanding § Major Sea Ports [2]

Why was Deendayal Port (Kandla) developed soon after India's Independence? What specific event made its development necessary?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q14.** medium initial-understanding § Major Sea Ports [3]

Name any two major ports of India and briefly describe the most distinctive feature of each.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q15.** straightforward initial-understanding § Airways [1]

Why is air transport considered especially important for the north-eastern states of India?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q16.** straightforward initial-understanding § Communication [1]

Which organisation broadcasts radio programmes in national, regional and local languages for various categories of people across India?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q17.** medium initial-understanding § Communication [2]

What is the difference between first-class mail and second-class mail in the Indian postal system?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q18.** medium initial-understanding § Communication [3]

Why has the government made STD telephone facilities available in every village in India? Name the technology that has made this possible.

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q19.** straightforward initial-understanding § International Trade [1]

What is meant by a 'favourable balance of trade'?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q20.** straightforward initial-understanding § Tourism as a Trade [1]

Why is international trade considered a measure of a country's economic health?

◆ Lifelines of National Economy

**Q21.** medium initial-understanding § ACTIVITY [3]

The Atal Tunnel provides all-weather connectivity to the Lahaul-Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh. State any two ways in which such a tunnel is significant for a remote region like this.

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CBSE CLASS X  
**Social Science (087)**

## ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

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Questions: 21

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Q1. medium initial-understanding § Introduction

[2]

Why is efficient transport considered a prerequisite for the fast development of a country?

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**Model Answer**

The pace of development of a country depends on both the production of goods and services **and** their movement over space. Goods and services do not move from supply locations to demand locations on their own — transport is needed to facilitate this movement. Therefore, efficient means of transport are prerequisites for fast development.

Source: Chapter 7, Introduction

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**Explanation**

The question is directly answered in the Introduction of Chapter 7. The key idea is the **two-part condition**: production alone is not enough; goods must also *reach* consumers. Examiners expect students to mention (1) the link between production + movement and development, and (2) the conclusion that efficient transport is therefore a prerequisite. Avoid writing vague general statements — use the textbook phrasing ("supply locales to demand locales") for full marks.

Q2. straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction

[1]

Name the three natural mediums through which transport links are developed to move goods and services across a country.

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**Model Answer**

The three natural mediums through which transport links are developed are **land, water, and air**.

Source: Chapter 7, Introduction

**Explanation**

The passage directly states that movement of goods and services takes place over "three important domains of our earth i.e. land, water and air." This is a straightforward 1-mark recall question — just name the three mediums. No elaboration is needed.

Q3. medium initial-understanding § TRANSPORT

[3]

Why are pipelines considered more advantageous than other modes of transport for carrying crude oil and natural gas over long distances?

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### Model Answer

Pipelines are more advantageous than other modes of transport for carrying crude oil and natural gas because:

1. **Minimal running costs:** Although initial cost of laying pipelines is high, subsequent running costs are very low.
2. **No trans-shipment losses or delays:** Pipelines eliminate the risk of losses or delays caused by loading and unloading at multiple points.
3. **Access to remote locations:** They enable refineries and fertilizer plants at far inland locations — such as Barauni, Mathura, and Panipat — to be established, which would otherwise be difficult to supply.
4. **Versatility:** Besides liquids and gases, solids converted into slurry can also be transported through pipelines.

Source: *Transportation and Communication*, Chapter 7, Pipelines section

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### Explanation

The examiner expects **3 distinct points** since this is a 3-mark question. The key facts come directly from the chapter: high initial but low running cost, no trans-shipment losses, enabling inland refineries, and slurry transport. Avoid generic statements — use the specific examples (Barauni, Mathura, Panipat) to show textbook accuracy. Do **not** write extra paragraphs; crisp numbered points score better in this format.

Q4. medium initial-understanding § Roadways

[3]

State any two reasons why roads are considered more suitable than railways for transporting goods and passengers over short distances.

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**Model Answer**

Roads are considered more suitable than railways for transporting goods and passengers over short distances due to the following reasons:

1. **Economical for short distances:** Road transport is more economical for transporting few persons and relatively smaller amounts of goods over short distances, as the cost per unit is lower than rail.
1. **Door-to-door service:** Roads provide door-to-door service, eliminating the need for loading and unloading at multiple points, thus reducing trans-shipment costs, time, and losses.

Source: Roadways, Chapter 7

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**Explanation**

- The examiner expects **two distinct, clearly stated points** — each explained briefly, not just named.
- The two strongest points from the textbook for *short distances* specifically are **economy** and **door-to-door service**. Avoid mixing in points about topography or construction cost, which relate to a different advantage.
- Each point should have a reason attached (not just a label), as this is a 3-mark question expecting some development.

Q5. straightforward initial-understanding § Roadways

[1]

Which government scheme was launched specifically to connect every village in India to a major town through an all-season motorable road?

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**Model Answer**

**Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana** was launched to link every village in India to a major town through an all-season motorable road.

**Explanation**

The question directly tests factual recall from the "Other Roads" sub-section under Roadways. The scheme name must be written correctly and completely — dropping any word will cost the mark. No further elaboration is needed for 1 mark.

Q6. medium initial-understanding § Roadways

[2]

What is the Golden Quadrilateral Super Highway project? Name the four major cities it connects.

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**Model Answer**

The **Golden Quadrilateral Super Highway** is a major road development project launched by the government, consisting of six-lane super highways. Its main objective is to reduce time and distance between India's mega cities.

The four major cities it connects are: **Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai.**

Source: Roadways, Chapter 7

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**Explanation**

- Examiners expect the **definition** (six-lane super highways, government project, objective = reducing time/distance) **and** the four cities — both parts are needed for full marks.
- The four cities follow a quadrilateral shape on the map — remember them clockwise: Delhi → Kolkata → Chennai → Mumbai → Delhi.
- Mentioning NHAI as the implementing authority is a bonus point but not compulsory for 2 marks.

Q7. straightforward initial-understanding § Railways

[1]

Which of the following best describes why the northern plains of India developed the most extensive railway network?

- A The region had no major rivers, making construction easy.
- B The vast level land, high population density and rich agricultural resources provided favourable conditions.
- C The government prioritised the northern plains for strategic defence reasons.
- D The region already had a well-developed road network that railways could follow.

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**Model Answer****Answer: (B)**

The vast level land, high population density, and rich agricultural resources of the northern plains provided favourable conditions for developing the most extensive railway network in India.

**Explanation**

Option B is correct because the northern plains offered flat terrain (easy to lay tracks), dense population (high passenger demand), and agricultural produce requiring transportation. Options A, C, and D are either factually incorrect or not supported by the textbook. Examiners expect students to identify the geographic and economic factors — level land, population, and agriculture — as the key reasons.

Q8. medium initial-understanding § Railways

[2]

Name any two types of terrain or regions in India where laying railway lines has been particularly difficult, and give one reason for each.

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### Model Answer

**1. Himalayan mountainous regions:** Laying railway lines here is difficult due to high relief, steep gradients, and sparse population, which make construction expensive and complex.

**2. Sandy plains of western Rajasthan / swamps of Gujarat / forested tracks of MP, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand:** The unstable or densely forested terrain makes it difficult to lay and maintain stable railway tracks.

Source: Chapter 7, Railways section

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### Explanation

The passage explicitly lists several problem terrains — Himalayas (high relief), sandy Rajasthan, swamps of Gujarat, forested tracks of central India, and the Sahyadris. Pick **any two** and pair each with its stated reason. Examiners award 1 mark per correct terrain + reason pair. Avoid vague answers like "hilly areas" without naming the specific region mentioned in the text.

Q9. medium initial-understanding § Railways

[3]

India's railway network operates on three different track gauges. Name all three gauges used in India and explain why operating multiple gauges creates a problem for the national railway network.

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### Model Answer

#### Three Gauges used in India:

- Broad Gauge** – track width of 1.676 m
- Metre Gauge** – track width of 1 m
- Narrow Gauge** – track width of 0.762 m or 0.610 m

**Problem:** Operating multiple gauges creates a **trans-shipment problem**. When a train crosses from one gauge zone to another, goods and passengers must be unloaded and reloaded onto a different train. This causes delays, increases costs, and reduces the efficiency of the national railway network.

Source: Transport and Communication, Chapter 7

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### Explanation

- The examiner expects all **three gauges named** (1 mark) with the specific widths being a bonus.
- The core problem to state is **trans-shipment** — goods/passengers cannot travel seamlessly across the whole network (2 marks for the explanation).
- The source passages confirm Broad Gauge = 1.676 m from the Quiz Drive clue; Metre and Narrow Gauge are standard NCERT textbook content from this chapter.
- Do not write a long essay — 3 marks = ~70 words is sufficient.

Q10. medium initial-understanding § Pipelines

[3]

What are the main advantages of pipeline transport for carrying crude oil and natural gas over long distances?

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### Model Answer

#### Advantages of Pipeline Transport for Crude Oil and Natural Gas:

1. **Low running cost:** Although initial cost of laying pipelines is high, subsequent running costs are minimal.
2. **No trans-shipment losses or delays:** It rules out losses and delays caused by loading/unloading at multiple points.
3. **Reaches inland locations:** Pipelines enable refineries and fertilizer plants at far inland locations (like Barauni, Mathura, Panipat) that would otherwise be difficult to supply.
4. **Can transport solids too:** Solids can be transported through pipelines when converted into slurry.

Source: Chapter 7 – Lifelines of National Economy, Pipelines section

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### Explanation

- Examiners expect **3–4 distinct points** for a 3-mark answer; each point should be clearly labelled or separated.
- Stick to what the passage states — avoid adding facts not mentioned in the textbook.
- The key contrast point (high initial cost but minimal running cost) is a favourite exam point — always include it.
- "Rules out trans-shipment losses or delays" is a **direct textbook line** — use it as-is for full marks.

Q11. straightforward initial-understanding § Waterways

[1]

Why are waterways considered the most suitable mode of transport for heavy and bulky goods?

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### Model Answer

Waterways are most suitable for heavy and bulky goods because they are the cheapest means of transport and are fuel-efficient, making the movement of such goods economical.

Source: Waterways, Chapter 7

### Explanation

The key phrase from the textbook is "cheapest means of transport" and "fuel-efficient." For a 1-mark answer, directly link these two reasons to why heavy/bulky goods are best carried by water. Avoid adding extra points — one clean line is enough.

Q12. medium initial-understanding § Waterways

[3]

Why does India rely heavily on sea routes for international trade? Mention any two reasons.

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### Model Answer

India relies heavily on sea routes for international trade due to the following reasons:

1. **Cheapest mode of transport:** Waterways are the cheapest means of transport and most suitable for carrying heavy and bulky goods over long distances, making them ideal for large-scale international trade.
1. **High volume of trade handled:** 95 per cent of India's trade volume (68 per cent in terms of value) is moved by sea, as India has a long coastline with several well-developed ports that facilitate large-scale import and export of goods.

Additionally, sea transport is fuel-efficient and environment friendly, making it a preferred choice for international trade.

Source: *Waterways & International Trade, Chapter 7*

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### Explanation

- The key stat examiners love: "**95% of trade volume and 68% by value**" — write this; it shows you've read the text carefully.
- Two clear, labelled reasons are required. Don't just list vague points — link each reason to *why* it suits international trade.
- The third point (fuel-efficient/eco-friendly) is a bonus; stick to two if pressed for time.
- Avoid writing about inland waterways here — the question is specifically about **international trade via sea routes**.

Q13. medium initial-understanding § Major Sea Ports

[2]

Why was Deendayal Port (Kandla) developed soon after India's Independence? What specific event made its development necessary?

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### Model Answer

Deendayal Port (Kandla) in Kutch was developed soon after Independence to **ease the volume of trade on Mumbai port**. The specific event that made its development necessary was the **Partition of India**, due to which the port of Karachi was lost to Pakistan, creating an urgent need for an alternative port in western India.

Source: *Major Sea Ports, Chapter 7*

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### Explanation

- The question has **two parts**: (1) why it was developed, and (2) the specific event — answer both clearly.
- The key phrase examiners look for is "**loss of Karachi port to Pakistan after Partition**" — this is the specific event worth 1 mark.
- The other mark is for stating it was meant to **relieve pressure/ease trade volume on Mumbai port**.
- Keep it factual and direct — no extra details needed.

Q14. medium initial-understanding § Major Sea Ports

[3]

Name any two major ports of India and briefly describe the most distinctive feature of each.

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### Model Answer

**Mumbai Port:** Mumbai is the biggest port in India with a spacious natural and well-sheltered harbour. It handles the largest volume of trade and cargo. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port was developed to decongest it and serve as a hub port.

**Vishakhapatnam Port:** Vishakhapatnam is the deepest landlocked and well-protected port in India, located along the east coast. It was originally conceived as an outlet for iron ore exports.

Source: *Manufacturing Industries, Major Sea Ports — Chapter 7*

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### Explanation

- The question asks for **two ports + one distinctive feature each** = 3 marks (roughly 1 mark per port identified, 1 mark for features).
- Examiners look for the **specific distinguishing trait** of each port — don't just say "it is big"; use the textbook's exact language (e.g., "deepest landlocked," "natural and well-sheltered harbour").
- Any two valid major ports from the chapter are acceptable; Mumbai and Vishakhapatnam are safe, clear choices because their features are explicitly stated in the textbook.
- Avoid listing too many ports — the question says "any two," so stick to two with clear descriptions.

Q15. straightforward initial-understanding § Airways

[1]

Why is air transport considered especially important for the north-eastern states of India?

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### Model Answer

The north-eastern states have big rivers, dissected relief, dense forests, frequent floods, and international frontiers, making air transport the easiest and most accessible mode of transport there.

Source: *Chapter 7, Airways section*

### Explanation

The examiner expects you to cite the specific geographical challenges of the north-east (rivers, forests, floods, difficult terrain) that make surface transport difficult, justifying the importance of air travel. One line with 2–3 specific reasons is sufficient for 1 mark.

Q16. straightforward initial-understanding § Communication

[1]

Which organisation broadcasts radio programmes in national, regional and local languages for various categories of people across India?

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### Model Answer

**All India Radio (Akashwani)** broadcasts a variety of programmes in national, regional and local languages for various categories of people spread across India.

Source: *Communication, Chapter 7*

### Explanation

The question directly tests recall of the mass communication topic. The examiner expects the full name **All India Radio (Akashwani)** — writing only one of the two names is acceptable but both is ideal. No extra detail is needed for 1 mark.

Q17. medium initial-understanding § Communication

[2]

What is the difference between first-class mail and second-class mail in the Indian postal system?

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### Model Answer

**First-class mail:** Cards and envelopes are considered first-class mail. They are airlifted between stations, covering both land and air routes, ensuring faster delivery.

**Second-class mail:** It includes book packets, registered newspapers, and periodicals. These are carried by surface mail, covering land and water transport, making delivery slower and cheaper.

Source: *Communication, Chapter 7*

### Explanation

- The answer must clearly distinguish **both classes** — one mark each.
- Key contrast: **airlifted (faster)** vs. **surface mail (slower)** — examiners look for this difference.
- Also mention what each class *contains* (cards/envelopes vs. book packets/newspapers/periodicals).
- Avoid writing extra information about mail channels; it is not asked.

Q18. medium initial-understanding § Communication

[3]

Why has the government made STD telephone facilities available in every village in India? Name the technology that has made this possible.

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### Model Answer

The government has made STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling) telephone facilities available in every village to **strengthen the flow of information from the grassroot level to higher levels**. A uniform rate of STD facility across India ensures that even rural citizens can access long-distance communication without financial disadvantage, helping integrate remote villages into the national communication network.

**Technology:** This has been made possible by **integrating space technology with communication technology** (i.e., satellite communication combined with the existing telecom network).

Source: *Communication, Chapter 7*

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### Explanation

- The question has two parts: (i) *why* STD was extended to villages, and (ii) *which technology* enabled it — address both clearly.
- The exact phrase from the textbook is "integrating the development in space technology with communication technology" — use this in the exam; don't just say "internet" or "digital technology."
- Mentioning uniform STD rates adds a useful supporting point for the 'why' part and helps earn full marks.

Q19. straightforward initial-understanding § International Trade

[1]

What is meant by a 'favourable balance of trade'?

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### Model Answer

A favourable balance of trade is when the value of a country's exports **exceeds** the value of its imports, resulting in a trade surplus.

Source: *International Trade, Chapter 7*

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### Explanation

The passage directly defines this term: "When the value of export exceeds the value of imports, it is called a favourable balance of trade." For 1 mark, simply state this definition clearly in one line. Avoid writing about unfavourable balance of trade — that is not asked.

**Q20.** straightforward initial-understanding § Tourism as a Trade

[1]

Why is international trade considered a measure of a country's economic health?

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### Model Answer

Advancement of international trade is an index of a country's economic prosperity; therefore, it is considered the **economic barometer** for a country.

Source: International Trade, Chapter 7

### Explanation

The key phrase examiners expect is "economic barometer." The passage directly states this, so reproduce it accurately. Avoid vague answers like "it shows how rich a country is." One precise line is enough for 1 mark.

**Q21.** medium initial-understanding § ACTIVITY

[3]

The Atal Tunnel provides all-weather connectivity to the Lahaul-Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh. State any two ways in which such a tunnel is significant for a remote region like this.

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### Model Answer

The Atal Tunnel (9.02 km), built by the Border Roads Organisation, connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti Valley throughout the year. Its significance:

1. **All-weather connectivity:** Earlier, the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year due to heavy snowfall. The tunnel ensures uninterrupted access throughout the year.
1. **Economic and strategic development:** It improves accessibility in difficult terrain, boosting trade, movement of goods, and overall economic development of the remote region. It also holds strategic importance for border areas.

Source: Roadways/Railways, Chapter 7

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### Explanation

The question is worth 3 marks, so two well-explained points are sufficient (1 mark each) plus a brief introduction (1 mark). Always link your points directly to the source: "cut off for 6 months" is a key textbook phrase examiners expect. The second point can draw from the Border Roads section, which mentions economic development and strategic importance. Avoid writing vague answers like "it helps people travel" — be specific.

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