

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: XZBFL6

Questions: 36

Maximum Marks: 84

Generated: 2026-06-26 10:38

SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	5 Print Culture and the Modern World
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 15 straightforward · 19 medium · 2 deep | Types: 24 Short · 7 Very short · 4 MCQ · 1 Long

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction

[1]

Before the age of print, how was knowledge typically passed from one person to another among common people?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 14:57 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Before the age of print, knowledge among common people was passed **orally** — through sacred texts read aloud, ballads recited, and folk tales narrated at gatherings.

Source: *Print Culture and the Modern World*, Section 3.1

Explanation

The key phrase from the textbook is: "*Common people lived in a world of oral culture.*" The examiner expects the word **oral/orally** and at least one example (ballads, folk tales, sacred texts). Avoid writing about books or literacy — that belongs to the print era.

Q2. medium initial-understanding § 1 The First Printed Books

[3]

How did the growth of China's civil service examination system influence the development of print culture in the country?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:43 · grounding rag

Model Answer

China's civil service examination system greatly boosted print culture in the following ways:

1. **Mass production of textbooks:** The imperial state sponsored the printing of textbooks for civil service examinations in vast numbers, making the state a major producer of printed material.
2. **Increased volume of print:** From the sixteenth century, the number of examination candidates rose significantly, which directly increased the volume of print produced.
3. **Wider readership:** Scholar-officials trained through these examinations formed a large literate class, which later expanded print culture beyond official use into leisure reading, trade, and literature.

Source: Chapter 5, *The First Printed Books*

Explanation

Examiners look for three clear, connected points: the state's role as sponsor, the link between rising candidates and rising print volume, and the broader cultural effect. Avoid vague statements — use specific details like "sixteenth century" and "imperial state sponsorship." This question is directly from the source passage, so stick to what is given; don't add outside information.

Q3. medium initial-understanding § 1.1 Print in Japan

[3]

How did print culture in Japan grow beyond simply reproducing written texts? Give two examples of different forms or uses of printed material that became popular.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:43 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Print culture in Japan grew beyond reproducing written texts in several important ways:

1. **Visual/artistic prints:** Printing of visual material led to *ukiyo* prints — illustrated collections depicting elegant urban culture involving artists, courtesans, and teahouse gatherings. Artists like Kitagawa Utamaro created woodblock prints of ordinary human experiences that later influenced European painters.
1. **Diverse printed books:** Libraries and bookstores were packed with books on women, musical instruments, tea ceremony, flower arrangements, cooking, etiquette, and famous places — showing print serving everyday practical and leisure needs, not just scholarly purposes.

Source: Print in Japan, Chapter 5

Explanation

- The question asks specifically about Japan going **beyond** reproducing texts — so focus on *ukiyo* prints (visual art) and the wide variety of printed books on daily-life topics.
- Examiners look for two distinct examples, each briefly explained. One should be the visual/*ukiyo* prints; the other the diverse range of printed books (leisure, practical topics).
- Avoid mixing up Japan with China — the urban culture diversification point belongs to China; the *ukiyo* and diverse bookshop content belongs to Japan.

Q4. straightforward initial-understanding § 2 Print Comes to Europe

[3]

How did woodblock printing technology reach Europe from China? Name one product it was widely used for in Europe before the invention of the printing press.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:43 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Woodblock printing technology was brought to Europe by **Marco Polo**, who returned to Italy in 1295 after years of exploration in China. He brought back knowledge of woodblock printing, which Italians then adopted, and the technology gradually spread to other parts of Europe.

Before the invention of the printing press, by the early fifteenth century, woodblocks were being widely used in Europe to print **textiles, playing cards, and religious pictures** with simple, brief texts.

Source: *Print Comes to Europe*, Chapter 5

Explanation

- The question has **two parts**: (1) how the technology reached Europe, and (2) one product it was used for. Address both clearly.
- Key facts examiners look for: **Marco Polo** → **1295** → **Italy** → **spread to Europe**; and at least **one product** from the list (textiles / playing cards / religious pictures). Naming any one is sufficient for the second part, but listing all three shows thoroughness within the word limit.
- Avoid vague phrasing like "through trade routes" — the passage specifically credits Marco Polo, so name him.
- The source citation is required when passages are provided.

Q5. medium initial-understanding § 2 Print Comes to Europe

[3]

Why could handwritten manuscripts not meet the growing demand for books in medieval Europe, even when booksellers hired large numbers of scribes?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:43 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Handwritten manuscripts could not meet the growing demand for books in medieval Europe for the following reasons:

1. **Expensive and laborious:** Copying was an extremely expensive, laborious, and time-consuming process, even when booksellers employed more than 50 scribes at a time.
2. **Fragile and inconvenient:** Manuscripts were fragile, awkward to handle, and could not be carried around or read easily.
3. **Limited circulation:** Due to these limitations, their circulation remained restricted and could not keep pace with ever-increasing demand.

Thus, there was a clear need for quicker and cheaper reproduction of texts, which eventually led to Gutenberg's printing press.

Source: *Print Comes to Europe, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The examiner expects three distinct points drawn directly from the passage. The key phrase from the source is: "*Copying was an expensive, laborious and time-consuming business. Manuscripts were fragile, awkward to handle, and could not be carried around or read easily. Their circulation therefore remained limited.*" Make sure to mention all three aspects — cost/time, fragility/handling difficulty, and limited circulation — for full 3 marks. Avoid vague general statements; use precise textbook language.

Q6. straightforward initial-understanding § 2.1 Gutenberg and the Printing Press

[1]

What was the key technological innovation in Gutenberg's printing press that allowed it to reproduce a wide variety of texts flexibly?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The key innovation was **moveable type** — Gutenberg developed metal types for each of the 26 Roman alphabet characters and devised a way of moving them around to compose different words, allowing flexible reproduction of varied texts.

Source: *Gutenberg and the Printing Press, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The examiner specifically wants "moveable type printing" as the answer — name the innovation and briefly explain it (metal letters that could be rearranged). Don't confuse this with the press mechanism (screw/platen); that is how it printed, not the flexible part. One crisp line with the term and its function scores full marks.

Q7. straightforward initial-understanding § 2.1 Gutenberg and the Printing Press

[2]

Gutenberg drew on skills and knowledge he had developed before inventing the printing press. Identify TWO areas of prior knowledge or experience that directly influenced his invention.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Gutenberg drew on two key areas of prior knowledge:

1. **Experience with presses:** Having grown up on an agricultural estate, he had observed wine and olive presses since childhood. The olive press served as the direct model for the printing press.
1. **Goldsmithing and mould-making:** He had mastered goldsmithing and acquired expertise in creating lead moulds for trinkets. This knowledge was used to cast metal types for the letters of the alphabet.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 2.1 – Gutenberg and the Printing Press

Explanation

The question asks for **two specific areas** — examiners expect students to name each one clearly and briefly explain the connection to the invention. The textbook passage explicitly states both: (1) the olive/wine press model and (2) lead moulds from goldsmithing. Avoid vague answers like "he was skilled" — name the skill and link it directly to the press. One mark per point.

Q8. medium initial-understanding § 2.1 Gutenberg and the Printing Press

[3]

Even though Gutenberg's Bible was produced on a mechanical printing press, each copy was not identical to the others. Why was this the case, and why did wealthy buyers actually prefer it that way?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 14:57 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Although Gutenberg's Bible was printed on a mechanical press, each copy was **not identical** because the borders, illustrations, and coloured highlights were added **by hand** after printing. Gutenberg printed the text in black ink, leaving blank spaces for artists to paint decorations and fill in colours manually. Since every artist worked differently, no two copies looked exactly the same.

Wealthy buyers **preferred** this lack of uniformity because it made their copy unique — no one else owned an identical book. Owning something exclusive was a mark of status among the elites.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 2.1 – Gutenberg and the Printing Press

Explanation

- The examiner wants **two parts**: (i) *why* copies differed, and (ii) *why* the rich liked it. Both must be addressed for full 3 marks.
- Key facts to include: text printed in black → spaces left blank → hand-painted borders/illustrations/colours → different artists = different results.
- For the second part, the keyword is **uniqueness as a status symbol** — elites valued exclusivity.
- Avoid over-explaining the printing process itself; that is not what the question asks.

Q9. medium initial-understanding § 2.1 Gutenberg and the Printing Press

[3]

By the sixteenth century, printing presses had spread to most parts of Europe and book production had increased dramatically. What does this rapid spread of print tell us about its impact on European society?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The rapid spread of printing presses across Europe between 1450 and 1550 shows that print had a **transformative impact** on European society:

1. **Increased book production:** From 20 million copies in the late 15th century, production rose to 200 million copies in the 16th century, making books widely available.
2. **New reading public:** Printing reduced the cost of books, reaching ever-growing readership beyond the elite.
3. **Blurring of oral and reading cultures:** Even the illiterate accessed print through ballads and folk tales read aloud at gatherings.
4. **Changed relationship with knowledge:** Print transformed how people accessed information, influenced popular perceptions, and opened new ways of thinking.

Source: Chapter 5, Sections 2.1, 3, and 3.1

Explanation

Examiners expect you to link the **factual evidence** (numbers: 20 million → 200 million copies; presses set up in most countries by 1550) to **broader social impact** (new reading public, democratisation of knowledge, oral culture merging with print culture). Don't just describe *what* happened – explain *what it tells us* about impact. Use 3–4 crisp points for a 3-mark question. Avoid padding.

Q10. medium initial-understanding § 3 The Print Revolution and Its Impact

[3]

Why did printers in early modern Europe include popular ballads, folk tales, and illustrated pictures in their publications along with serious texts?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Printers in early modern Europe included popular ballads, folk tales, and illustrated pictures because **literacy rates were very low** across most European countries. Since books could only be read by the literate, publishers needed to reach common people as well. Even those who could not read could **listen to books being read aloud**, watch illustrated pictures, and enjoy ballads and folk tales sung or recited at village gatherings and taverns in towns. This way, oral culture entered print, and the hearing public and reading public became intermingled.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 3.1 – A New Reading Public

Explanation

The examiner expects three clear points here: (1) low literacy rates were the problem, (2) the solution was reaching non-readers through listening/recitation, and (3) the result – oral and print cultures merged. Avoid writing vaguely about "reaching more people" without explaining *why* this specific content was chosen. The phrase "oral culture thus entered print" from the textbook is a strong concluding line to include.

Q11. medium initial-understanding § 3.1 A New Reading Public

[3]

Even after the printing press made books widely available in Europe, a large section of the population still could not access printed knowledge on their own. What methods did publishers adopt to reach this wider audience? Mention any two.

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Even though books became cheaper after the printing press, literacy rates in Europe remained very low. Publishers adopted the following methods to reach a wider audience:

- 1. Printing popular ballads and folk tales:** Publishers printed popular ballads and folk tales, which were profusely illustrated with pictures. These could be enjoyed without reading skills.
- 1. Oral transmission at public gatherings:** These printed materials were sung and recited at gatherings in villages and in taverns in towns, so even the illiterate could access the content.

Thus, oral culture entered print, and printed material was orally transmitted, blurring the line between hearing and reading publics.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 3.1 – A New Reading Public

Explanation

The examiner expects two clearly stated methods from the textbook. The key points are: (i) publishing illustrated ballads/folk tales, and (ii) public reading/recitation at villages and taverns. Avoid vague answers like "they made books cheaper" – the question specifically asks about reaching those who *could not read*. Mention the blurring of oral and reading cultures for the third mark.

Q12. straightforward initial-understanding § 3.1 A New Reading Public

[1]

Before the age of print, who primarily had access to knowledge and books in Europe?

- A Merchants and traders
- B Elites and the privileged
- C Peasants and artisans
- D Soldiers and noblemen

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

B) Elites and the privileged

Before the age of print, reading was restricted to the elites; common people lived in a world of oral culture where knowledge was transferred orally.

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "Earlier, reading was restricted to the elites. Common people lived in a world of oral culture." This is the direct textual evidence needed. In MCQs from this chapter, examiners expect students to recall this contrast between pre-print elite access and post-print wider readership.

Q13. medium initial-understanding § 3.2 Religious Debates and the Fear of Print

[3]

How did print culture directly contribute to the spread of the Protestant Reformation in Europe?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Print culture directly contributed to the Protestant Reformation in the following ways:

1. **Wide circulation of Luther's ideas:** In 1517, Martin Luther wrote the *Ninety Five Theses* criticising the Roman Catholic Church. A printed copy was posted on a church door in Wittenberg, challenging the Church to debate. His writings were immediately reproduced in vast numbers and read widely.
1. **Rapid spread:** Luther's translation of the New Testament sold 5,000 copies within a few weeks, and a second edition appeared within three months.
1. **New intellectual atmosphere:** Print introduced wide debate and discussion. Even those who disagreed with established authorities could now print and circulate their ideas, persuading people to think differently. Scholars believe print helped spread new ideas that led to the Reformation.

Luther himself said, "Printing is the ultimate gift of God and the greatest one."

Source: Chapter 5, Section 3.2 – Religious Debates and the Fear of Print

Explanation

The examiner expects three clear, distinct points linking print directly to the Reformation — circulation of Luther's Theses, speed/scale of spread (sales figures are impressive evidence), and print enabling debate beyond Church control. The Luther quote is a bonus and shows textbook familiarity. Avoid writing a general essay on print culture; stay focused on the Reformation angle as the question demands.

Q14. straightforward initial-understanding § 3.2 Religious Debates and the Fear of Print

[1]

Why did the Roman Catholic Church begin maintaining an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:44 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The Roman Catholic Church feared that popular reading and questioning of religious faith would spread heretical ideas and challenge its authority, so it maintained the Index of Prohibited Books from 1558 to control publishers and booksellers.

Source: *Print and Dissent*, Section 3.3, Chapter 5

Explanation

The examiner expects you to link the **cause** (spread of heretical/questioning ideas through print) to the **action** (Index of Prohibited Books). The example of Menocchio supports this, but naming him is optional for 1 mark. Keep the answer to one line — do not elaborate on the Reformation or Luther here.

Q15. medium initial-understanding § 3.3 Print and Dissent

[3]

Why did the Roman Catholic Church begin maintaining an Index of Prohibited Books? What does this tell us about the Church's attitude towards print culture?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The Roman Catholic Church began maintaining an **Index of Prohibited Books from 1558** because print had made it easy for people to access and spread ideas that questioned Church authority. Cases like Menocchio — a miller who reinterpreted the Bible and was ultimately executed — showed how printed books led people to form heretical and independent views of faith. The Church imposed controls over publishers and booksellers to repress such ideas.

This tells us that the Church viewed print culture as a **threat to its religious authority**. It feared that unrestricted reading would encourage dissent, heresy, and rebellious thinking among common people, undermining the Church's control over belief.

Source: *Chapter 5, Section 3.3 — Print and Dissent*

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two parts**: (1) the reason for the Index, and (2) what it reveals about the Church's attitude. Address both clearly.
- Key facts to include: **year 1558**, the example of **Menocchio**, the terms **heresy/heretical**, and **control over publishers**.
- Avoid writing a long narrative — keep it tight and factual. The example of Menocchio strengthens the answer and shows you've read the source.

Q16. straightforward initial-understanding § 4 The Reading Mania

[3]

Despite the rise in book production in eighteenth-century Europe, many common people who could not read still engaged with printed content. How did this happen?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 14:57 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Despite low literacy rates, common people engaged with printed content through **oral transmission**. Printers published popular ballads, folk tales, and illustrated books that were **sung and recited** at village gatherings and in taverns in towns. Illiterate people could listen to books being read aloud by others. Thus, oral culture entered print, and printed material was orally transmitted. The line between the hearing public and the reading public became blurred, and the two became intermingled.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 3.1 – A New Reading Public

Explanation

The examiner looks for three key ideas worth 1 mark each:

1. **How** non-readers accessed print — through listening/oral recitation.
2. **What** was published for this purpose — ballads, folk tales, illustrated books.
3. **Where** this happened — village gatherings, taverns; and the outcome — oral and reading cultures merged.

Avoid a vague answer like "they listened to stories." Be specific: printers *deliberately* targeted this audience, and the content was *designed* to be sung or recited aloud.

Q17. medium initial-understanding § 4 The Reading Mania

[1]

[mcq] In eighteenth-century Europe, print culture was considered a threat to monarchs and the Church primarily because it —

- (A) made books too expensive for common people to buy
- (B) allowed ideas criticising authority to spread widely and quickly
- (C) replaced oral storytelling in rural areas
- (D) encouraged people to learn Latin instead of local languages

A Printed books were so expensive that only educated elites could buy them, keeping power with intellectuals.

B Books spread Enlightenment ideas of reason and rationality, encouraging people to question traditional authority and the power of rulers.

C Monarchs used the printing press to publish their own laws, making governance more transparent.

D The Church sponsored the printing of books to promote moral education among common people.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Answer: (B)

Print allowed Enlightenment ideas questioning reason and authority to spread widely, making monarchs and the Church fear loss of control over people's minds.

Source: *Religious Debates and the Fear of Print, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The passage directly states that monarchs and religious authorities feared print because it could spread "rebellious and irreligious thoughts," challenging their authority. The key phrase to remember: "Even those who disagreed with established authorities could now print and circulate their ideas." Options A, C, and D contradict the passage — books actually became *cheaper*, oral culture was *incorporated into* print (not replaced), and the Church *feared* print rather than sponsoring it.

Q18. medium initial-understanding § 4.1 'Tremble, therefore, tyrants of the world!'

[3]

How did the spread of printed books in eighteenth-century Europe challenge the authority of rulers and the existing social order? Explain with two points.

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The spread of printed books in eighteenth-century Europe challenged rulers and the existing social order in the following ways:

1. **Spread of rebellious ideas:** Print allowed even those who disagreed with established authorities to circulate their ideas widely. Religious authorities and monarchs feared that if printed material went uncontrolled, rebellious and irreligious thoughts would spread, undermining their authority.
1. **Threat to despotism:** Many believed books could liberate society from tyranny. Louise-Sébastien Mercier declared, "The printing press is the most powerful engine of progress and public opinion is the force that will sweep despotism away," directly challenging the power of rulers.

Source: Ch. 5 — Sections 3.2 and 4.1

Explanation

- The question asks for **two points**, so structure your answer clearly with two distinct points — examiners look for this.
- Use evidence/examples from the chapter (e.g., Mercier's quote, fear of rebellious thoughts) to score full marks.
- Avoid writing a general essay; two focused, supported points are enough for 3 marks.
- Key terms like "despotism" and "rebellious thoughts" signal to the examiner that you've read the chapter carefully.

Q19. straightforward initial-understanding § 4.2 Print Culture and the French Revolution

[1]

Which of the following best describes how print culture contributed to the French Revolution?

- ((A)) It directly organised the revolutionary armies and planned attacks on the monarchy
- ((B)) It spread Enlightenment ideas, mocked the royalty, and eroded the prestige of the old order
- ((C)) It replaced the role of the Church in guiding the moral values of French society
- ((D)) It enabled the common people to vote out the king through printed ballots

A Print directly told people to overthrow the monarchy.

B Print spread Enlightenment ideas, created a culture of debate, and circulated literature that mocked the royalty and questioned the existing social order.

C Print helped the Church and monarchy spread their propaganda more widely.

D Print had no real impact; the Revolution was caused purely by economic hardship.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

(B) Print spread Enlightenment ideas, created a culture of debate, and circulated literature that mocked the royalty and questioned the existing social order.

Explanation

The passage from Section 4.2 gives three reasons: print popularised Enlightenment ideas (Voltaire, Rousseau) that attacked Church and state authority; it created a culture of dialogue and debate; and by the 1780s, underground literature mocked the monarchy and eroded its legitimacy. Option B captures all three. Options A and D are factually wrong; Option C contradicts the passage, which says print *attacked* Church authority.

Q20. straightforward initial-understanding § 4.2 Print Culture and the French Revolution

[1]

How did the writings of Voltaire and Rousseau contribute to the conditions that led to the French Revolution?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau popularised Enlightenment ideas, attacking Church authority and state despotism, encouraging people to think critically and rationally, thus eroding the legitimacy of the existing social order.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 4.2 – Print Culture and the French Revolution

Explanation

For 1 mark, examiners expect you to mention: (1) the writers' names (already given), (2) what their writings did – spread Enlightenment ideas / attacked Church and despotism / promoted reason. One crisp sentence covering these points is sufficient. Avoid writing a paragraph.

Q21. medium initial-understanding § 5.1 Children, Women and Workers

[3]

In nineteenth-century Europe, novels were often published in instalments in newspapers and magazines before appearing as complete books. How did this method of publication help make novels accessible to a wider reading public?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Nineteenth-century periodicals serialised important novels in instalments, which helped make them accessible to a wider reading public in several ways:

1. **Lower cost:** Readers could buy individual issues of newspapers or magazines cheaply rather than purchasing an entire book at once.
2. **Wider reach:** Periodicals already had large circulation, so novels reached readers who might not visit bookshops.
3. **New reading habits:** Serialisation gave birth to a particular way of writing novels, keeping readers engaged over time and building a regular reading habit among common people, including workers and lower-middle-class readers.

This strategy by printers and publishers helped expand the reading public significantly in the nineteenth century.

Source: *The Print Culture and the Modern World*, Section 5.2 – Further Innovations

Explanation

The key phrase from the textbook is: "Nineteenth-century periodicals serialised important novels, which gave birth to a particular way of writing novels." Examiners expect you to connect serialisation to **affordability** (cheap periodic purchase vs. full book price) and **wider circulation** (periodicals already reached mass audiences). Also mention that this created new readers — workers, women, lower-middle-class. Avoid over-explaining; three crisp points with brief elaboration is ideal for 3 marks.

Q22. medium initial-understanding § 6 India and the World of Print

[3]

Why were handwritten manuscripts not suitable for everyday use or wide circulation, even in societies that produced them in large numbers?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Handwritten manuscripts were not suitable for everyday use or wide circulation for the following reasons:

1. **Expensive and fragile:** Manuscripts were costly to produce and had to be handled with great care to avoid damage.
2. **Difficult to read:** The script was written in different styles, making it hard for readers to decipher easily.
3. **Limited copies:** They could not be reproduced in large numbers quickly, restricting their reach.

As a result, even in pre-colonial Bengal where village schools existed, students did not read texts — teachers dictated from memory instead.

Source: *Chapter 5, Section 6.1 — Manuscripts Before the Age of Print*

Explanation

The examiner expects three distinct reasons, each clearly stated. The key points from the passage are: (1) manuscripts were **expensive and fragile**, (2) **scripts varied in style** making them hard to read, and (3) they could **not be produced in sufficient numbers**. The Bengal example is a useful supporting detail that shows the real-world consequence. Avoid vague statements like "they were old" — stick to the textbook's specific reasons. Three points at roughly 20 words each fit the 3-mark budget perfectly.

Q23. medium initial-understanding § 6.1 Manuscripts Before the Age of Print

[2]

Despite India having a rich tradition of handwritten manuscripts, they were not widely used in everyday life. Give two reasons why manuscripts had such limited practical use among ordinary people.

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Manuscripts had limited practical use because:

1. They were **highly expensive and fragile**, requiring very careful handling, making them inaccessible to ordinary people.
2. The **script was written in different styles**, making them difficult to read easily.

Source: *Manuscripts Before the Age of Print*, Chapter 5

Explanation

The passage directly states both reasons: cost/fragility and difficulty of reading due to varied scripts. Examiners expect you to quote or closely paraphrase the textbook. Avoid adding outside information — stick to what the passage says. One mark per reason.

Q24. straightforward initial-understanding § 6.2 Print Comes to India

[3]

Who introduced the printing press to India, and in which region was it first used? Briefly explain the purpose behind its early use.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:45 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The printing press was first introduced to India by **Portuguese missionaries in Goa** in the mid-sixteenth century. Jesuit priests learnt Konkani and used the press primarily to print **religious tracts** to spread Christianity. By 1674, about 50 books had been printed in Konkani and Kanara languages. Catholic priests also printed the first Tamil book in 1579 at Cochin and the first Malayalam book in 1713, all aimed at aiding missionary and religious work.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 6.2 – Print Comes to India

Explanation

- The examiner expects three clear points: **who** (Portuguese missionaries/Jesuit priests), **where** (Goa), and **purpose** (religious/missionary work – printing tracts, spreading Christianity).
- Mention of specific details like "50 books by 1674" or first Tamil/Malayalam books adds precision and scores full marks.
- Do not confuse this with the later English press (Hickey, 1780) – that is a separate development.

Q25. straightforward initial-understanding § 7 Religious Reform and Public Debates

[1]

[very_short_answer] Why did the ulama in north India begin using print technology in the nineteenth century? Give one reason.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 14:57 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The ulama used print technology to publish cheap religious tracts and newspapers to communicate their interpretations of Islam and to counter the influence of Christian missionaries and Hindu reform movements.

Explanation

For a 1-mark question, one clear reason is sufficient. The examiner expects a concise, specific point – such as reaching a wider Muslim audience, countering missionaries, or defending their religious authority. Note: the source passages provided do not directly cover this point, so the answer draws on standard NCERT Chapter 5 content about the ulama and print.

Q26. medium initial-understanding § 7 Religious Reform and Public Debates

[3]

How did print change the nature of religious and social debates in early nineteenth-century India? Give two specific ways.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Print transformed religious and social debates in early nineteenth-century India in the following ways:

- 1. Wider public participation:** Printed tracts and newspapers spread new ideas to a larger audience. Ideas were printed in everyday spoken languages, so ordinary people could participate in debates on issues like widow immolation, idolatry, and monotheism. For example, Rammohun Roy published *Sambad Kaumudi* and the orthodox Hindus countered with *Samachar Chandrika*.
- 1. Multiple viewpoints and counter-arguments:** Different groups could now publicly oppose each other through print. Muslim ulama used cheap lithographic presses to publish Persian and Urdu translations of scriptures and fatwas to counter colonial influence. New ideas emerged through these clashes of printed opinions.

Source: Chapter 5, Section — Religious Reform and Public Debates

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two clearly labelled, specific points** backed by examples from the text — this is a 3-mark question, so two points with brief examples is ideal.
- Key phrases to use: "*wider public participation*," "*clash of opinions*," "*printed tracts and newspapers*," "*vernacular languages*."
- Always name a specific newspaper or publication (*Sambad Kaumudi*, fatwas, etc.) — examiners reward concrete examples.
- Avoid vague statements like "print helped people" without saying *how*.

Q27. straightforward initial-understanding § 7 Religious Reform and Public Debates

[1]

[mcq] Why did many writers and reformers in nineteenth-century India prefer to publish their ideas in everyday spoken languages rather than in classical or literary languages?

Options:

- (A) Classical languages were banned by the colonial government
- (B) Printing presses could not reproduce classical scripts
- (C) To reach a wider audience including ordinary, less-educated people
- (D) Spoken languages were considered more prestigious by scholars

A Classical languages were banned by the colonial government.

B They wanted to reach the widest possible audience, including common people who did not know classical languages.

C Printers in India were only trained to set type in vernacular scripts.

D Vernacular printing was cheaper than printing in classical languages.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

(B) To reach a wider audience, including common people who did not know classical languages.

Source: *Religious Reform and Public Debates, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "To reach a wider audience, the ideas were printed in the everyday, spoken language of ordinary people." Option B directly reflects this. The other options are not supported by the source — classical languages were never banned, and the passage makes no mention of printing costs or script limitations.

Q28. medium initial-understanding § 8 New Forms of Publication

[3]

Who was Rashsundari Debi, and why is her autobiography *Amar Jiban* considered significant in the history of print culture in India? What challenges did she overcome to write it?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Rashsundari Debi was a young married woman in an orthodox household in early nineteenth-century East Bengal. She secretly taught herself to read in the privacy of her kitchen, defying the conservative norms of her household.

Her autobiography **Amar Jiban** (published 1876) is significant because it was the **first full-length autobiography published in the Bengali language**, marking a landmark in Indian print culture and women's writing.

Challenges she overcame: She lived in a very orthodox household where women's education was discouraged. She had to learn to read entirely in **secrecy**, using her kitchen as her only private space.

Source: *Chapter 5, Section 8.1 – Women and Print*

Explanation

- Examiners expect **three clear points** for 3 marks: (1) who she was, (2) why the autobiography is significant, (3) what challenges she faced.
- The key fact to remember is "**first full-length autobiography in Bengali**" — this is the most likely point examiners will specifically mark for.
- Avoid padding; state the challenge concisely: orthodox household + secrecy in kitchen. Don't invent extra details not in the passage.

Q29. straightforward initial-understanding § 8.1 Women and Print

[1]

Who wrote the first full-length autobiography published in the Bengali language, and what was it called?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Rashsundari Debi wrote the first full-length autobiography published in the Bengali language. It was called **Amar Jiban**, published in 1876.

Source: *Women and Print, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The passage directly states this fact. Name the author (Rashsundari Debi), the title (*Amar Jiban*), and the year (1876). All three details together make a complete 1-mark answer. Do not confuse her with other women writers like Kailashbashini Debi mentioned nearby.

Q30. straightforward initial-understanding § 8.1 Women and Print

[2]

How did the support of male family members help promote reading habits among middle-class women in nineteenth-century India? Give two examples or ways this support was shown.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Liberal husbands and fathers supported women's education in two ways:

1. They educated women at home and sent them to schools when women's schools were established in cities after the mid-nineteenth century.
2. Many journals carried syllabi and suitable reading material specifically designed for home-based schooling of women.

Explanation

The question asks for **two specific ways** male support was shown — stick to the textbook examples: home education/school enrolment, and journals providing home-schooling material. Don't confuse this with rebel women who defied conservative families — the question is about *supportive* male members. Both points must be clear and distinct for full marks.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 8.1 — Women and Print

Q31. medium initial-understanding § 8.1 Women and Print

[3]

Women's journals in early twentieth-century India covered a wide range of topics. Mention any three themes these journals addressed, and briefly explain why such journals were considered important for women readers at the time.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Women's journals in early twentieth-century India addressed the following themes:

1. **Women's education** – journals discussed why women should be educated and provided syllabi for home-based learning.
2. **Widowhood and widow remarriage** – they highlighted the miserable lives of widows and advocated reform.
3. **The national movement** – journals connected women to broader political developments.
4. **Household tips, fashion, and entertainment** – short stories and serialised novels were also featured.

These journals were important because they gave women a voice, raised awareness about their social oppression, and provided access to knowledge at a time when many women were confined to their homes.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 8.1 — Women and Print

Explanation

The question asks for **three themes** (1 mark each, or 1 mark for themes + 1 mark for importance — adjust accordingly). Stick to themes directly mentioned in the passage: education, widowhood/widow remarriage, national movement, and household/entertainment content. For "importance," focus on empowerment, awareness of oppression, and access to knowledge. Examiners look for textbook-specific points — avoid generic statements.

Q32. deep initial-understanding § 8.1 Women and Print

[3]

Writers like Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai, and Kailashbashini Debi used print to write about the lives of women in India. What common concern united their writing, and why was the printed word a more effective tool than oral communication for spreading their ideas?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:47 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai, and Kailashbashini Debi shared a common concern: exposing the miserable, unjust lives of women in Indian society — their confinement at home, forced ignorance, hard domestic labour, and the suffering of upper-caste widows.

Print was more effective than oral communication because it could reach a large audience simultaneously, bypassing social restrictions that silenced women in public. Printed texts were permanent and could be read privately at home, allowing even women in conservative households to access these ideas without direct confrontation. Oral words were fleeting and limited to those physically present; print spread ideas widely and persistently.

Source: Chapter 5, Section 8.1 — Women and Print

Explanation

The examiner expects two things clearly addressed:

- 1. The common concern** — oppression/suffering of women (confinement, ignorance, widow hardship).
Name the specific issues mentioned in the passage.
- 2. Why print was more effective** — reach/scale, permanence, private reading, overcoming social barriers.
Contrast briefly with oral communication's limitations.

Avoid vague generalisations. Anchoring points to the passage (e.g., "imprisoned at home, kept in ignorance") shows textual understanding and scores well.

Q33. medium initial-understanding § 8.2 Print and the Poor People

[3]

How did print culture help marginalised or oppressed groups in Indian society raise their voices against social inequalities? Give two specific ways.

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

Print culture helped marginalised groups raise their voices in two specific ways:

- 1. Writings by reformers and oppressed communities:** Social reformers used print to challenge caste discrimination and inequality. For example, Jyotiba Phule wrote about the injustices of the caste system, and B.R. Ambedkar published writings criticising untouchability, reaching a wide audience through print.
- 1. Newspapers and journals for the poor and women:** Cheap printed material, newspapers, and journals allowed oppressed groups to express their grievances publicly. Workers' movements used print to spread awareness, and reformers published material in vernacular languages to reach ordinary people and build support for social change.

Source: *New Forms of Publication / India and the World of Print, Chapter 5*

Explanation

- The question asks for **two specific ways** — examiners expect two distinct, clearly labelled points.
- The source passages focus on print enabling new voices (social/political essays, caricatures, reformers' writings). Bring in contextual knowledge about Phule and Ambedkar, as CBSE expects this for such questions.
- Avoid vague statements — name a group, name an effect. That's what earns marks.
- At 3 marks, two well-developed points (not just one-liners) with brief explanation each is ideal.

Q34. straightforward initial-understanding § 9 Print and Censorship

[1]

[very_short_answer] What was the main purpose of the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, and against whom was it primarily directed?

◆ **Print Culture and the Modern World**

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was passed to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular press, primarily directed against assertively nationalist Indian newspapers that criticised colonial rule.

Source: Print and Censorship, Chapter 5

Explanation

This is a 1-mark question, so one crisp sentence is enough. Examiners look for two elements: **purpose** (censor seditious/nationalist content) and **target** (vernacular/Indian nationalist press). Avoid writing more than one line.

Q35. medium initial-understanding § 9 Print and Censorship

[2]

Why did the colonial East India Company initially direct its censorship measures against Englishmen in India rather than against Indian journalists or writers?

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:46 · grounding rag

Model Answer

The East India Company feared that criticisms written by Englishmen in India against Company misrule and the actions of particular Company officers would reach England. Critics there could use such reports to attack the Company's **trade monopoly** in India. To protect its commercial interests, the Company directed censorship against these English critics first.

Source: *Print and Censorship, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The key points examiners look for are: (1) the target was **English critics, not Indian writers**, (2) the reason was **protection of trade monopoly**, and (3) the criticism threatened the Company's **image back in England**. Avoid general statements about censorship — be specific to the Company's commercial motive as stated in the passage.

Q36. deep initial-understanding § 9 Print and Censorship

[5]

[long_answer] How did the relationship between the colonial government and the nationalist press change after the Revolt of 1857? Explain the measures the government took to control the press and how the nationalist press responded to these measures.

◆ Print Culture and the Modern World

Generated by claude-sonnet-4-6 · 2026-06-26 13:47 · grounding rag

Model Answer

After the Revolt of 1857 — Changing Attitude:

The colonial government's attitude towards the press hardened after 1857. Enraged Englishmen demanded a clampdown on the 'native' press. As vernacular newspapers grew increasingly nationalist, the government debated stringent controls.

Government Measures:

- In 1878, the **Vernacular Press Act** was passed, modelled on Irish Press Laws.
- It gave the government extensive rights to **cancel reports and editorials** in the vernacular press.
- Newspapers were regularly tracked; if a report was judged seditious, the paper was **warned**, and repeated violations led to **seizure of the press and confiscation of printing machinery**.
- During World War I, under the **Defence of India Rules**, 22 newspapers had to furnish securities; 18 shut down rather than comply.

Nationalist Press Response:

- Despite repression, nationalist newspapers **grew in numbers** across India, reporting on colonial misrule and encouraging nationalist activities.
- Attempts to suppress them provoked **militant protest**, creating a cycle of persecution and protest.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak wrote sympathetically about Punjab revolutionaries in *Kesari* (1907), leading to his **imprisonment in 1908** and widespread protests.

Source: *Print Culture and the Modern World*, Chapter 5 — Section 9

Explanation

- Examiners look for **three parts**: pre/post-1857 shift, specific government measures (name the Vernacular Press Act and its provisions), and the nationalist response with examples.
- Always name the **Vernacular Press Act (1878)** — it is the key legislation and earns a definite mark.
- The **Tilak/Kesari example** is the textbook's own illustration — use it to show the cycle of repression and protest.
- Do not confuse this with the Rowlatt Act (different chapter/context), but you may briefly mention WWI Defence of India Rules if time permits, as it is in the source.

Available for free from:

<https://cbsegrade10studyguide.com>

<https://github.com/orgs/cbse-free-resources/repositories>

Available for free from:

<https://cbsegrade10studyguide.com>

<https://github.com/orgs/cbse-free-resources/repositories>