

# Maharashtra HSC Class 12 Political Science Question Paper 2026 with Solutions

## General Instructions

This question paper is divided into **four** sections.

1. **Section A** : Q.No. 1 contains **Ten** multiple choice type of questions carrying **One** mark each.  
Q.No. 2 contains **Eight** very short answer type of questions carrying **One** mark each.
2. **Section B** : Q.No. 3 to Q.No. 14 are **Twelve** short answer type of questions carrying **Two** marks each.(Attempt **any Eight**)
3. **Section C** : Q.No. 15 to Q.No. 26 are **Twelve** short answer type of questions carrying **Three** marks each.(Attempt **any Eight**)
4. **Section D** : Q.No. 27 to Q.No. 31 are **Five** long answer type of questions carrying **Four** marks each.(Attempt **any Three**)
5. Use of log table is allowed. Use of calculator is not allowed.

1. The right to information act came into force from \_\_\_\_\_ in India.

- (A) 1952
- (B) 1972
- (C) 2005
- (D) 2014

**Correct Answer:** (C) 2005

**Solution:**

### Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Right to Information (RTI) is a revolutionary act aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

It empowers citizens to seek information from the government, making democracy more participative.

### Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Right to Information Act was passed by the Indian Parliament on 15 June 2005.

The law came into full force on 12 October 2005.

This act replaced the earlier Freedom of Information Act, 2002.

Under this act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" (a body of Government or "instrumentality of State") which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.

### Step 4: Final Answer:

The Right to Information Act came into force in India in the year 2005.

 Quick Tip

Remember that the RTI Act is often associated with the 'Good Governance' movement in India, emphasizing the 'Right to Know' as a fundamental aspect of a healthy democracy.

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**2. In \_\_\_\_\_ GATT was replaced by WTO.**

- (A) 1948
- (B) 1984
- (C) 1992
- (D) 1995

**Correct Answer:** (D) 1995

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

International trade was governed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) after World War II to reduce trade barriers.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was created to establish a more permanent and legally binding institutional framework for global trade.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

GATT was established in 1948 and functioned for several decades through various rounds of negotiations.

The final round, known as the Uruguay Round (1986–1994), led to the Marrakesh Agreement. As per this agreement, the WTO officially replaced GATT on 1 January 1995.

While GATT mainly focused on trade in goods, the WTO expanded its scope to include services and intellectual property rights.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

GATT was replaced by the WTO in the year 1995.

 Quick Tip

The WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

**3. The concept of citizen charter is the activity of -----.**

- (A) Good governance
- (B) NGO activity
- (C) Development administration
- (D) POSDCORB

**Correct Answer:** (A) Good governance

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Citizen Charter is a document that outlines the commitment of a public service provider towards its citizens regarding standard of service, grievance redress, and transparency.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

The core objective of a Citizen's Charter is to bridge the gap between the administration and the citizens.

It makes the administration accountable to the people and ensures that services are delivered within a specific timeframe.

Since Good Governance involves accountability, transparency, and responsiveness, the Citizen Charter is considered a vital tool for achieving these goals.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The concept of the Citizen's Charter is an activity fundamentally linked to Good Governance.

**💡 Quick Tip**

Good Governance has eight major characteristics: participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus-oriented, equity, effectiveness, and accountability.

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**4. ----- is a sense of political identity.**

- (A) Freedom
- (B) State
- (C) Nation
- (D) Nationalism

**Correct Answer:** (C) Nation

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Political identity is a psychological and cultural sense of belonging to a community that aspires for political recognition or self-determination.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

A **Nation** is a group of people who share common characteristics such as language, culture, history, or ethnicity and possess a sense of political unity.

While a **State** is a legal entity with defined borders and sovereignty, a **Nation** is a psychological entity based on a sense of identity.

**Nationalism** is the ideology or feeling that promotes the interests of a particular nation, whereas the **Nation** itself is the focus of that political identity.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

A Nation is a sense of political identity.

**💡 Quick Tip**

A 'State' is a legal concept, whereas a 'Nation' is a socio-psychological concept. When both coincide, it is called a 'Nation-State'.

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**5. India needs capital investment in \_\_\_\_\_ for its development.**

- (A) Defence
- (B) Agriculture
- (C) Infrastructure
- (D) Health

**Correct Answer:** (C) Infrastructure

**Solution:****Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

For a developing economy like India to grow in the age of globalization, it requires physical and digital structures that support production and trade.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

Infrastructure includes sectors like transport (roads, railways, airports), energy (power plants), and communications.

Large-scale capital investment in infrastructure is necessary to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and to improve the ease of doing business.

While health and agriculture are important, "Infrastructure" is traditionally the sector that requires the most massive "capital investment" to drive overall economic development.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

India needs capital investment specifically in Infrastructure for its comprehensive development.

**💡 Quick Tip**

Infrastructure is often called the 'backbone' of an economy. Without it, growth in other sectors like industry or services remains stagnant.

**6. Identify the incorrect group or factor.**

- (A) Panchayati Raj - 73rd Amendment
- (B) Azadi Movement - West Bengal
- (C) IAS - All India Services
- (D) Civil Disobedience Movement - Salt March

**Correct Answer:** (B) Azadi Movement - West Bengal

**Solution:****Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This question requires matching specific movements, services, or constitutional provisions with their correct contexts or categories.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

(A) **Panchayati Raj - 73rd Amendment:** This is correct. The 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions.

(B) **Azadi Movement - West Bengal:** This is incorrect. The "Azadi Movement" is generally associated with separatist demands in Jammu and Kashmir. West Bengal is historically associated with movements like the Naxalite movement or the Bhasha Andolan (in East Bengal/Bangladesh context).

(C) **IAS - All India Services:** This is correct. The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is one of the three All India Services (along with IPS and IFoS).

(D) **Civil Disobedience Movement - Salt March:** This is correct. Mahatma Gandhi started the Civil Disobedience Movement with the Dandi Salt March in 1930.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The incorrect group is (B) Azadi Movement - West Bengal.

**💡 Quick Tip**

In "Identify the incorrect pair" questions, look for geographical mismatches as they are very common in such objective tests.

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**7. State the appropriate concept for the given statement: Terrorist organisation in Sri Lanka.**

**Correct Answer:** LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Conflict in Sri Lanka was largely between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, leading to the rise of militant groups.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was a militant organization based in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Founded in 1976 by Velupillai Prabhakaran, its ultimate goal was the creation of an independent state (Tamil Eelam) for the Tamil people.

The group engaged in a long civil war with the Sri Lankan government until its military defeat in May 2009.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The terrorist organization in Sri Lanka referred to is the LTTE.

 **Quick Tip**

India's involvement in this issue included the deployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in 1987.

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**8. State the appropriate concept for the given statement: International order that emerged with the decline of the dominance of the USA.**

**Correct Answer:** Multipolarity (or Multipolar World)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

World order is categorized by the number of power centers (poles) that dominate global politics.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

During the Cold War, the world was 'Bipolar' (USA and USSR).

After the collapse of the USSR, it became 'Unipolar' with the USA as the sole superpower.

Currently, with the rise of China, India, Russia, and the European Union, the absolute dominance of the USA is declining.

This distribution of power among several states is known as **Multipolarity**.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The international order described is Multipolarity.

 Quick Tip

A 'Pole' in international relations signifies a state that possesses significant military, economic, and cultural influence globally.

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**9. State the appropriate concept for the given statement: Disintegration of Yugoslavia and the emergence of new nations.**

**Correct Answer:** Ethnic Nationalism (or Balkanization)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Nations can fragment when different groups within a country demand separate states based on their unique ethnic or cultural identity.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

Yugoslavia was a multi-ethnic state in the Balkans.

After the end of the Cold War and the death of leader Josip Broz Tito, ethnic tensions rose. Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia declared independence based on their ethnic identities.

This process where ethnic identity leads to the creation of new states is called **Ethnic Nationalism**.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The emergence of new nations from Yugoslavia is a result of Ethnic Nationalism.

 Quick Tip

Yugoslavia disintegrated into seven independent countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo (partially recognized).

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**10. State the appropriate concept for the given statement: Modernisation of Indian economy.**

**Correct Answer:** Economic Liberalisation (or LPG Reforms)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Modernisation in the economic sense refers to moving away from restrictive state-controlled policies towards a market-friendly environment.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

In 1991, India faced a severe balance of payments crisis.

To modernize the economy, the government introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP).

This involved **Liberalisation** (reducing government restrictions), **Privatisation** (moving from public to private ownership), and **Globalisation** (integrating with the world economy).

These steps are collectively known as Economic Liberalisation or LPG reforms.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The modernisation of the Indian economy is characterized by Economic Liberalisation.

 **Quick Tip**

P.V. Narasimha Rao (Prime Minister) and Dr. Manmohan Singh (Finance Minister) are considered the architects of these 1991 reforms.

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**11. Explain the co-relationship between the following: Economic interest and formation of Trade blocs.**

**Correct Answer:** Economic Regionalism

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Nations often collaborate to achieve mutual economic benefits that they cannot achieve individually.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

1. **Mutual Benefit:** Countries in a geographical region often have similar economic interests. By forming a 'Trade Bloc', they can trade with each other more easily.

2. **Removal of Barriers:** Trade blocs aim to reduce or eliminate tariffs (taxes) and quotas on trade between member nations. This is driven by the economic interest of expanding markets for local goods.

3. **Collective Bargaining:** Small nations form blocs to increase their bargaining power in global organizations like the WTO.

4. **Example:** The European Union (EU) or ASEAN were formed primarily to protect the



regional economic interests of member states against global competition.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

Economic interests act as the foundation for regional cooperation, leading to the formal structure of Trade Blocs.

 **Quick Tip**

A trade bloc is essentially a 'Free Trade Area' or 'Customs Union' where countries agree to specific trade rules to help each other's economies.

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**12. Explain the co-relation between the following: Empowerment of women and Sustainable Development.**

**Correct Answer:** Inclusive and Sustainable Development

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Sustainable development focuses on the long-term well-being of the planet and people. It cannot be achieved if half of the population is marginalized.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

1. **Human Rights:** Empowerment of women is a prerequisite for a just and sustainable society.
2. **Economic Growth:** When women are empowered and educated, they contribute significantly to the workforce, leading to higher GDP and poverty reduction, which are goals of sustainable development.
3. **Resource Management:** In many cultures, women are the primary managers of natural resources (water, fuel). Their empowerment leads to better environmental conservation.
4. **Social Impact:** Empowered women make better decisions regarding health and education for the next generation, ensuring social sustainability.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

Empowerment of women and Sustainable Development are interdependent; progress in one directly accelerates the other.

 **Quick Tip**

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 specifically deals with Gender Equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

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**13. Express your opinion: India's role in the Indian Ocean.**

**Correct Answer:** Strategic Leadership in IOR

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Geopolitics deals with how a country's location influences its foreign policy and security strategy.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

In my opinion, India's role in the Indian Ocean is crucial for the following reasons:

1. **Geographical Centrality:** India sits at the heart of the Indian Ocean, making it a natural leader in the region.
2. **Security Provider:** India acts as a 'Net Security Provider', helping island nations like Mauritius and Seychelles with disaster relief and anti-piracy operations.
3. **SAGAR Initiative:** Through the 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' (SAGAR) policy, India promotes a collaborative and safe maritime environment.
4. **Economic Interest:** Most of India's trade and energy requirements pass through the Indian Ocean; hence, its active role is vital for its own economic stability.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

India's role is not just about dominance but about maintaining a peaceful and inclusive Indian Ocean Region for global trade and security.

 **Quick Tip**

Keywords to use in this answer: Net Security Provider, SAGAR, Blue Economy, and Maritime Security.

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**14. Express your opinion: Elaborate the concept of environment.**

**Correct Answer:** Holistic Ecological View

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The environment is no longer just a biological term; it has become a central theme in global politics and ethics.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:**

In my opinion, the concept of environment can be understood through these points:

1. **Totality of Surroundings:** It consists of all living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) factors that influence life.
2. **Global Commons:** Things like the atmosphere and oceans are 'Global Commons' which belong to everyone and are the responsibility of all nations.
3. **Threat of Degradation:** Human activities like industrialization and deforestation have led to climate change and loss of biodiversity, making 'Environment' a security issue.
4. **Political Will:** Protecting the environment requires international cooperation (e.g., the Paris Agreement) because environmental problems do not recognize national boundaries.

**Step 4: Final Answer:**

The environment should be seen as a finite and fragile resource that requires urgent collective global action for survival.

 Quick Tip

Remember the 'Stockholm Conference' of 1972, which was the first major international meeting to focus on the human environment.