

ICSE Board
Class X History & Civics
Specimen paper - 2020 (Solved)

Total time : 2hr

Max Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Answer to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time give at the head of the paper is the time allotted for writing the answers.

*Attempt all questions from **Part I** (Compulsory). A total of **five questions** are to be attempted from **Part II**, two out of **three questions** from Section A and **three** out of **five questions** from Section B.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

PART - I (30 Marks)

*(Attempt **all** questions from this Part)*

Question 1.

- a) Explain the term Quorum.
- b) Who summons and prorogues the sessions of the Lok Sabha?
- c) Under What circumstances can the President of India use his discretion any powers?
- d) What does the term 'Impeachment' mean ?
- e) What is the distinction between the electors of the President and the Vice-President ?
- f) What is meant by 'Collective Responsibility' of the Cabinet ?
- g) What is the term of office of the Prime Minister ?
- h) Which is the highest criminal court in a district ?
- i) Why should the Judiciary be separated from the Executive ?
- j) Where are the salaries of the Judges charged from ?

Answer 1.

- a) Quorum means the minimum number of members required to be present in the legislature Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to carry on day to day activities This is 10% of the total membership.
- b) The President of India summons and prorogues the sessions of the Lok Sabha on the recommendation of the Union Council of Ministers.

- c) When no single party gets a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, then the President exercises his discretion in the appointment of the Prime Minister.
- d) The President can be removed from office for grave misconduct by a special trial conducted by the Parliament. This process is known as impeachment.
- e) The distinction between the electors of the President and the Vice-President is that only the elected Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies vote for the President, but in case of the Vice-President, all the elected members of parliament vote.
- f) Under Article 75(3) of the Constitution, “The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People.”
The principle of collective responsibility implies that the decisions taken in the meetings of the cabinet are equally applicable to all the ministers even though they may differ among themselves on a particular policy.
- g) The term of office of the Prime Minister is 5 years. But, the Prime Minister is directly responsible to the Lok Sabha and can remain in office so long as he enjoys the majority support in the House of People, i.e., the Lok Sabha.
- h) Sessions Court is the highest criminal court in a district. .
- i) The Judiciary should be separated from the Executive because it should be free to impart impartial justice without any differentiation among people.
- j) The salaries of the judges are charged from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

Question 2.

- a) Mention any two repressive colonial policies of Lord Lytton.
- b) Why did the 'Doctrine of Lapse' become a political cause for the result of 1857 ?
- c) Name the two main associations that were the precursors of Indian National Congress.
- d) In what way did the economic backwardness foster communal feelings in India ?
- e) What were the results of Gandhi-Irwin pact ?
- f) Name the leaders who played an important role during the Quit India Movement ?
- g) Mention any two important reasons that made the Congress accept the Mountbatten plan.
- h) How is the dictatorship in Germany and Italy attributed to be the cause of the First World War ?
- i) What was the issue between Germany and Poland that was a cause of World War-II.
- j) Who are the permanent members of UNO ?

Answer 2.

- a) Two repressive colonial policies of Lord Lytton are :
- i. Lord Lytton organized a Grand Delhi Durbar in 1877 to proclaim Queen Victoria as the Empress of India. Lakhs of rupees were spent on the event but nothing was done for Indians who were in the grip of a famine.
 - ii. Lord Lytton introduced the Vernacular Press Act (1878) and Indian Arms Act (1879).
- b) According to the 'Doctrine of Lapse', if a king died without an heir to the throne, his adopted son could not succeed him. This caused a lot of discontentment amongst the Indians.
- c) Main associations that were the precursors of the Indian National Congress are East India Association, Indian Association (1876) and Indian National Conference (1883).
- d) During the British rule in India there was acute unemployment problem. There were many people trying to get few jobs. This tempted people to ask for reservation in jobs on the basis of caste, creed or religions. Thus, economic backwardness helped in a fostering communal feelings in India.
- e) As a result of Gandhi-Irwin pact, the British agreed to withdraw all ordinances and released all political prisoners. Gandhi agreed to participate in the Second Round Table Conference.
- f) Jayaprakash Narayan, Achyut Patwardhan, Kartik Prasad, Ram Manohar Lohia and Aruna Asaf Ali played a prominent role in the movement.
- g) The two important reasons that made the Congress accept the Mountbatten Plan were that the large scale communal riots that engulfed the whole country convinced all that the only solution to the communal problem lay in the partition of India and experience of working with the League had convinced the Congress that it could not have a joint administration with the League.
- h)
 - i. The Treaty of Versailles was signed after the end of the First World War.
 - ii. The war created economic and political instability in many European countries,
- i) Hitler was demanding Danzing corridor from Poland as it was inhabited mainly by the Germans. Realizing the danger, Britain and France pledged assistance to Poland against Germany. Germany accused Poland for committing atrocities against Germans living there and it became a cause of World War-II.

- j) There are five permanent members of UNO -- Britain, France, China, Russia and the United States of America.

PART-II (50 Marks)

SECTION A

(Attempt *any two* questions from this Section)

Question 3.

With reference to the Parliament, answer the following :

- What is the composition of Lok Sabha ?
- How is the Speaker elected and what is his term of office ?
- What are the electoral powers of the Parliament ?

Answer 3.

- The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha, as provided by the Constitution is 552. Not more than 530 members shall represent the states; not more than 20 members shall represent the union territories; two members of the Anglo community may be nominated by the President to the Lok Sabha. The present strength of the Lok Sabha is 545. Among that 543 are elected and 2 are nominated.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is elected from among its own members soon after the newly elected house meets for the first time. When the house is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office. He remains in office till a new speaker is elected by the new Lok Sabha in its first meeting.
- The Parliament of India, along with the State Legislatures elects the President of India. The Vice-President of India is elected by both the houses of the Parliament. The Lok Sabha elects its own Speaker and Deputy Speaker amongst its own members, while Rajya Sabha elects its Deputy Chairman.

Question 4.

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet hold a pivotal position in the working of a parliamentary government. In this context, answer the following :

- State the distinction between the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers.
- How does the Parliament ensure collective responsibility ?
- Three financial powers of the Cabinet.

Answer 4.

- a) The distinctions between the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers are :
- i. The Cabinet is the small body within the Council, comprising of the most experienced and influential members, formed to discuss and decide policies of government. Council of Ministers is the body that advises the President on various matters and is formed to assist the Prime Minister in running the Government.
 - ii. The Cabinet Ministers are the most trusted colleagues of the Prime Minister. He always consults them before taking any major decisions. The Prime Minister may or may not consult the other ministers, below the rank of the Cabinet Ministers.
 - iii. The Cabinet is a small cohesive group which determines the policies and programmes of the government; so, they need to meet as frequently as possible. In the day to day working of the government, the Council of Ministers as a whole rarely meets.
 - iv. The President acts on the advice of the Cabinet, not the Council of Ministers.
- b) The principal of Collective Responsibility means that the Council of Ministers, as a single body, is responsible to the Lok Sabha for the general conduct of affairs of the government. Our Constitution, by providing for collective responsibility of the ministers to the Lok Sabha has established the principal that all ministers should work as a team. If a vote of no-confidence or a censure motion is passed against one minister, the whole ministerial team has to resign all together.
- The Parliament can exercise its control over the Union Ministers. Besides moving a vote no-confidence, the Members of Parliament can ask questions regarding administrative policies of the government.
- c) The financial powers of the Cabinet are :
- i. The budget is prepared by the Cabinet. It lays down the fiscal policies of the government. The Cabinet gets the budget passed from the Parliament. The Cabinet runs the financial administration in accordance with the provisions of the budget, as passed by the Parliament.
 - ii. All proposals for additional taxes come from the Cabinet.
 - iii. Money Bills can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and only by the Ministers.

iv. The Parliament can modify financial bills but only with the consent of the Cabinet.

Question 5.

With reference to the Jurisdiction and functions of the Supreme Court, answer the following :

- a) Its advisory jurisdiction.
- b) Qualification to become a Supreme Court Judge.
- c) Its powers of Judicial Review.

Answer 5.

- a) The Supreme Court has Advisory Jurisdiction on any question of law or fact of public importance as may be referred to it for consideration by the President. Any question of law may be referred to the Supreme Court, if the President considers that the question is of public importance and it is necessary. Such opinion of the Supreme Court is not binding on the President.
- b) Qualifications to become a supreme court judge are : To be a citizen of India, either a distinguished Jurist or a High Court Judge for at least five years or an advocate of the High Court for at least 10 years in succession.
- c) The Supreme Court has the power to review all national and state laws and executive orders and declare them null and void, if they go against the provisions of the Constitution. The minimum number of Judges to hear and decide a case involving interpretation of the Constitution shall be five.

SECTION B

(Attempt any three questions from this Section)

Question 6.

With reference to the First War of Independence, 1857 answer the following :

- a) Explain the political causes that led to the Uprising of 1857.
- b) "The First War of Independence of 1857 was the culmination of peoples dissatisfaction with the British rule. " In this context, discuss about the economic causes.
- c) Explain about the discontentment of Sepoys.

Answer 6.

a) Political Causes :

- i. Among the political causes of the revolt, the chief factor was the Doctrine of Lapse followed by Lord Dalhousie. This policy deprived many kings of their kingdoms because they had no natural heir of their own. Since right of adoption in such cases was denied by the British, the states automatically became a part of the British Empire.
- ii. Discourtesy of the Mughal Emperors as Bahadur Shah Zafar was removed from Delhi's throne.
- iii. Treatment meted out to Nana Saheb as he was the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II and was refused pension as he was sending emissaries to different parts of the country and travelling himself, to gather support for the rebellion.
- iv. Annexation of Oudh on grounds of lack of governance by Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.
- v. Unpopular language as the British officials were not easily approachable and the language needed was English Which was alien to the natives. Also, the British officials had great contempt for Indians.

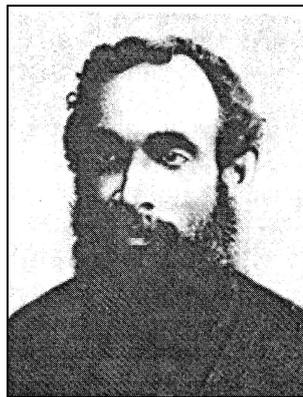
b) Economic Causes :

- i. The British crippled Indian trade by imposing a high tariff on all Indian goods and encouraging the imports of British goods to India.
- ii. They purchased raw materials from India, manufactured the goods which were then were sent back to the Indian market, making enormous profit.
- iii. The demand for Indian goods was reduced and handloom industry was adversely affected. Thousands of craftsmen and artisans were thrown out of employment.
- iv. The manufacturing units of Dacca, Murshidabad and Surat became desolate, even the Indian iron and smelting industry was practically stamped out by cheap imported iron and steel for railways.
- v. A new plantation system introduced in 1833 brought incalculable misery for the peasants. The hardest hit were the peasants of Indigo plantation in Bengal and Bihar. The new changes in the agrarian system and exorbitant land revenue impoverished the peasants.
- vi. Unemployment among the people was widely prevalent.

- vii. Government took away tax free lands.
 - viii. Monopolization of jute, tea and coffee industry took place.
 - ix. Zamindars and Taluqdars were displaced.
- c) The Indian soldiers were unhappy because of their low salary and poor prospects of promotion and working conditions. All the high ranks in the army were reserved for the British only. The British officers maintained a social distance from the Indian soldiers. They held a derogatory opinion about the soldiers and treated them like menial servants. Also, the Hindu sepoy of Bengal Army had to cross the Sindhu river during the Anglo Afghan War (1839-42) which was forbidden by their religion. The immediate cause of discontentment among sepoys was the introduction of Enfield Rifle with cartridges which were greased with the fat of cows and pigs. The cows are regarded to be sacred among Hindu and Muslim regard pigs as unclean. The above factors together led to the feeling of discontentment among sepoys which proved instrumental in the Sepoys, Mutiny of 1857.

Question 7.

Study the picture given below and answer the following questions:



- a) Identify the leader given in the picture. When did he pass the Indian Civil Service examination and at what post was he appointed ?
- b) What was his role as a journalist ?
- c) What were his most notable contributions to India's freedom struggle ?

Answer 7.

- a) The leader in the given picture is Surendra Nath Banerjee. In 1869, he passed the

Indian Civil Service examination and was appointed Assistant Magistrate of Sylhet.

- b) As a journalist, Surendranath Banerjee edited the newspaper, the Bengali, which was used as a medium to raise awareness and mobilize public opinion.
- c) His most notable contributions to India's freedom struggle were :
 - i. To fight against the repressive colonial policies of the British rule like Vernacular Press Act, the Arms Act and lowering the age from 21 years to 19 years to appear in the ICS examination through his Indian Association.
 - ii. Founding the pre-Congress association called the Indian National Conference in 1883. This organization was the first political organization formed to solve all sorts of political issues and later merged with the Indian National Congress.

Question 8.

With reference to the factors which were responsible for the formation of the Muslim League answer the following :

- a) Discuss the British policy of 'Divide and Rule' in encouraging separatist trend in Indian politics.
- b) How did educational and economic backwardness of the Muslims lead to the growth of communalism ? .
- c) Discuss the role of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in the formation of Muslim League.

Answer 8.

- a) After the revolt of 1857, British followed the policy of 'Divide and Rule' with the purpose of creating a wedge between the unity of Hindus and Muslims. After the revolt, the Muslims were hated and treated with suspicion. However, as the Congress movement gained momentum, British government's hatred towards Hindus also grew. British encouraged Muslim leaders like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to convince Muslims that Congress was a Hindu organisation and they should keep themselves away from it. As a result of the policy more and more Muslims looked to the British for protection of their interests against the Hindu majority.
- b) The Muslims were not attracted by the Western Science, Democracy or Nationalism. The Hindus, in those days were more educated in the Western Sciences and Culture than the Muslims. Even Christians and Parsees were comparatively more highly educated than the Muslims. The result of this backwardness was that they were not offered Government jobs whereas, the Hindus were getting government jobs in a much

greater number. It was natural that the Muslim masses were easily led by communal feelings. Jawaharlal Nehru rightly said that this difference continued to show itself in many directions, both political and economic and that produced a fear among the Muslims.

- c) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the first to advise the Muslims to receive western education as they had remained aloof from it, which led to their political, social and economical backwardness. Initially, he was a man with liberal views and was a brave nationalist. He even founded the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College in 1875 at Aligarh to spread education. He started instigating communal sentiments among the Muslims under the influence of Mr. Beck, the Principal of the M.A.O. He even started advising the Muslim stay away from the Hindus and support the British Rule in India. This paved the way for the formation of the Muslim League.

Question 9.

With reference to President Wilson's 'The League Of Nations', answer the following:

- a) Describe any four aims of the peace programme of Woodrow Wilson.
- b) What were the objectives of the League of Nations ? Name the organisation formed in October, 1945 with objectives similar to those of the League of Nations.
- c) Describe the reasons of the failure of the League of Nations.

Answer 9.

- a) President Woodrow Wilson of America was a very peace loving man. In January, 1918, he put forward a peace programme consisting of fourteen points to end the First World War,

These points included :

- i. Discard of secret treaties,
- ii. Freedom in the use of seas by all nations,
- iii. Reduction in armaments,
- iv. Conduct of negotiations between different States openly,
- v. Evacuation of Belgium by Germany,
- vi. Restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France,
- vii. Creation of independent States in Europe, and
- viii. Establishment of a world organisation to guarantee political independence

and territorial integrity of different States.

Many of the above points were covered by the different treaties that were signed after the First World War. For instance, Belgium was evacuated by Germany : Alsace and Lorraine was returned to France, many small States like Poland, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Latvia etc., were created on the principle of nationality, and an international organisation with the name of 'The League of Nations' was created to maintain the world peace.

- b) **Objectives of the League** : After the First World War, a world organisation, popularly known as the League of Nations, was created in 1920. The chief aims or purposes of this new world organisation, i.e., the League of Nations, were the following :
- i. To preserve peace and security in the world.
 - ii. To settle international conflicts in a peaceful manner.
 - iii. To promote just and honourable relations among the nations of the world.
 - iv. To force its members not to resort to war.
 - v. To formulate plans for the reduction of armaments.
 - vi. To take economic and military action against any country.
 - vii. To improve labour and social conditions in different countries.
 - viii. To achieve this aim, the International Labour Organization was set up which is even now one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- c) Following were the main reasons of the failure of the League of Nations :
- i. **United States of America not being a member of the League of Nations** : The most powerful nation of the world did not take the membership of the League of Nations. This considerably reduced the effectiveness of the League of Nations from the beginning.
 - ii. **Selfishness of big nations** : Big nations of the League of Nations, who were the Super Powers in the world, were very self-seeking: this narrow attitude hindered the generation of the feelings of cooperation and cordiality among the member nations.
 - iii. **Powerlessness of the League of Nations** : The League of Nations had no such powers as to get its edicts enforced.

- iv. **Aggressive Policies of Hitler** : Hitler, the dictator of Germany, did not care for the objectives of the League of Nations and conquered Czechoslovakia, Austria and Maimal. The League of Nations could not save these nations and finally, with the fall of Poland, the League of Nations collapsed.
- v. **Absence of Sovereignty** : The By-Laws mentioned in the Charter of the League of Nations were so slack that any member could abandon its membership at any time and engage in war. Thus, in the absence of any sovereign power, the League of Nations was unable to take any effective action against the aggressor, and this became the main reason behind the failure of the League of Nations.
- vi. **Absence of Armed Forces** : The League of Nations did not have its own Army and hence, its success was doubtful since the beginning. In the absence of Armed Forces, it could not trove to be effective.

Question 10.

With reference to the United Nations and its agencies, answer the following :

- a) When and why was United Nations Organization established?
- b) What are the main principles of UNO ? .
- c) What are the functions of WHO ?

Answer 10.

- a) The United Nations formally came into existence on October 24th, 1945. It was established to maintain world peace and stop further wars.
- b) The main principles of UNO are :
 - i. To respect the sovereign equality of all its members.
 - ii. All members should fulfill, in good faith, the obligations assumed by them.
 - iii. They would refrain from the threat or use of force against any state.
 - iv. They should give United Nations every assistance in any action it takes.
- c) The functions of WHO are :
 - i. It helps countries to improve their health system by building up infrastructure, especially manpower.
 - ii. It gives important drugs needed for medical care.
 - iii. It promotes research to cure and prevent diseases.
 - iv. It works towards providing safe drinking water and adequate waste disposal.

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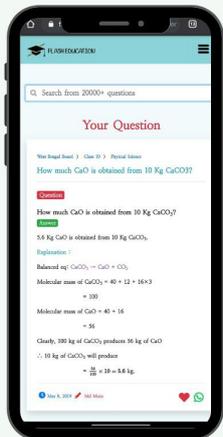
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