

# MATH LOVE INSTITUTE

Annual Examination 2025-26

Class: VII | Subject: Social Science (SET - 4)

Time: 3 Hours | Maximum Marks: 80

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<b>Student Name:</b>	_____
<b>Roll Number:</b>	_____
<b>Date:</b>	_____

## General Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper is divided into 5 sections: A, B, C, D, and E.
3. Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (1 mark each) - 15 marks
4. Section B: Fill in the Blanks / True-False (1 mark each) - 15 marks
5. Section C: Short Answer Questions (2 marks each) - 20 marks
6. Section D: Long Answer Questions (3 marks each) - 15 marks
7. Section E: Map Work / Case Based Questions (3 marks each) - 15 marks
8. Write neatly and legibly. Marks may be deducted for illegible handwriting.
9. Read each question carefully before attempting.

**SECTION A - MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (15 × 1 = 15 Marks)**

- Q1.** Who founded the state of Awadh? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah
  - (b) Murshid Quli Khan
  - (c) Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan
  - (d) Alivardi Khan
- Q2.** In which year was the state of Hyderabad founded? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) 1722
  - (b) 1724
  - (c) 1730
  - (d) 1740
- Q3.** The combined forces of Sikhs were known as: **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Jathas
  - (b) Misls
  - (c) Dal Khalsa
  - (d) Gurmatas
- Q4.** Who became the Peshwa (principal minister) after Shivaji? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Family of Rajput chiefs
  - (b) Family of Chitpavan Brahmanas
  - (c) Family of Maratha warriors
  - (d) Family of Mughal nobles
- Q5.** The tax levied by Marathas on the lands of other rulers was called: **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Chauth and Sardeshmukhi
  - (b) Zat and Sawar
  - (c) Jizya and Zakat
  - (d) Ijaradari and Jagirdari

- Q6.** Which state gradually broke away from Mughal control under Murshid Quli Khan? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Awadh
  - (b) Bengal
  - (c) Hyderabad
  - (d) Punjab
- Q7.** The Khalsa was instituted in which year? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) 1699
  - (b) 1708
  - (c) 1715
  - (d) 1799
- Q8.** The Rakhi system introduced by Sikhs involved collecting what percentage of produce as tax? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) 10%
  - (b) 15%
  - (c) 20%
  - (d) 25%
- Q9.** Which river creates a delta in Bangladesh along with the Brahmaputra? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Ganga
  - (b) Yamuna
  - (c) Godavari
  - (d) Narmada
- Q10.** The one-horned rhinoceros is mainly found in which wildlife sanctuary? **[1 Mark]**
- (a) Sundarbans
  - (b) Kaziranga
  - (c) Corbett
  - (d) Ranthambore

**Q11.** What percentage of Earth's water is fresh water? **[1 Mark]**

- (a) 1%
- (b) 2.5%
- (c) 5%
- (d) 10%

**Q12.** The practice of women being paid less than men for the same work is **[1 Mark]**  
an example of:

- (a) Gender equality
- (b) Gender discrimination
- (c) Gender stereotype
- (d) Gender balance

**Q13.** A person who buys goods from wholesalers and sells to consumers **[1 Mark]**  
is called:

- (a) Producer
- (b) Manufacturer
- (c) Retailer
- (d) Consumer

**Q14.** Which vegetation is found in the Sundarbans delta? **[1 Mark]**

- (a) Tropical deciduous forests
- (b) Mangrove forests
- (c) Tropical evergreen forests
- (d) Thorn forests

**Q15.** Who reunited the Sikh territories and established his capital at **[1 Mark]**  
Lahore in 1799?

- (a) Guru Gobind Singh
- (b) Banda Bahadur
- (c) Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- (d) Ahmad Shah Abdali

**SECTION B - FILL IN THE BLANKS / TRUE-FALSE (15 × 1 = 15 Marks)**

- Q16.** Aurangzeb fought a long war in the \_\_\_\_\_ region which [1 Mark]  
depleted the empire's resources.
- Q17.** The offices of Sa'adat Khan included subadari, diwani, and [1 Mark]  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Q18.** The peasant-pastoralists who formed the backbone of the Maratha [1 Mark]  
army were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q19.** The Sikh bands in the 18th century were called jathas and later [1 Mark]  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Q20.** \_\_\_\_\_ became the capital of the Maratha kingdom in the [1 Mark]  
18th century.
- Q21.** True or False: The Jats were prosperous agriculturists who [1 Mark]  
consolidated power under Churaman.
- Q22.** True or False: Watan jagirs were held by governors appointed by the [1 Mark]  
Mughals.
- Q23.** The system where revenue farmers agreed to pay a fixed sum to the [1 Mark]  
state was called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q24.** The world's largest mangrove forest is the \_\_\_\_\_ in West [1 Mark]  
Bengal and Bangladesh.
- Q25.** True or False: Ocean water contains high levels of salt and cannot be [1 Mark]  
used for drinking.
- Q26.** The highest point on Earth is Mount \_\_\_\_\_ [1 Mark]
- Q27.** Women in India got the right to vote in \_\_\_\_\_ year. [1 Mark]
- Q28.** True or False: Brand products in malls are usually more expensive [1 Mark]  
than goods in weekly markets.

**Q29.** The large rivers in the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin are navigable and provide cheap \_\_\_\_\_ . **[1 Mark]**

**Q30.** True or False: Media independence means freedom from government and business control. **[1 Mark]**

**SECTION C - SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (10 × 2 = 20 Marks)**

**Q31.** What were the effects of Aurangzeb's long war in the Deccan on the Mughal Empire? **[2 Marks]**

**Q32.** How did the Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal try to reduce Mughal influence in their regions? **[2 Marks]**

**Q33.** What was the importance of peasant-pastoralists (Kunbis) for the Maratha kingdom? **[2 Marks]**

**Q34.** How were the Sikhs organized in the 18th century? **[2 Marks]**

**Q35.** Why did the Marathas want to expand beyond the Deccan? **[2 Marks]**

**Q36.** What is the significance of the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta? **[2 Marks]**

**Q37.** Mention two differences between hot and cold deserts. **[2 Marks]**

**Q38.** Why is women's literacy rate important for development? **[2 Marks]**

**Q39.** What is the difference between ijaradari and jagirdari systems? **[2 Marks]**

**Q40.** How does advertising influence our buying decisions? **[2 Marks]**

**SECTION D - LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 × 3 = 15 Marks)**

**Q41.** Explain how the three types of states emerged in the 18th century after the decline of the Mughal Empire. **[3 Marks]**

**Q42.** Describe how bankers and moneylenders gained influence in the state of Awadh. [3 Marks]

**Q43.** What is the importance of rivers in the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin? Explain with examples. [3 Marks]

**Q44.** Discuss the role of media in a democracy. What are the challenges to media independence? [3 Marks]

**Q45.** Explain how merchants and traders influenced the 18th century states. Are they as influential today? [3 Marks]

**SECTION E - MAP WORK / CASE BASED QUESTIONS (5 × 3 = 15 Marks)**

**Q46.** On the outline map of India, mark and label the following: [3 Marks]

1. Awadh (18th century state)
2. Hyderabad (18th century state)
3. Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary

**Q47. Case Study:** The State of Awadh [3 Marks]

Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan founded the state of Awadh. He held the offices of subadari, faujdari, and diwani. To reduce Mughal influence, he reduced the number of jagirdars and appointed his own loyal servants. He also checked the accounts of jagirdars to prevent cheating and had all district revenues reassessed.

Answer the following:

1. Who founded the state of Awadh? (1 mark)
2. What offices did he hold? (1 mark)
3. How did he reduce Mughal influence? (1 mark)

**Q48. Case Study: The Sikh Organization**

**[3 Marks]**

In the 18th century, the Sikhs organized themselves into bands called jathas and later misls. Their combined forces were known as dal khalsa (grand army). They would gather in Amritsar during Baisakhi and Diwali to make collective decisions called gurmata (resolutions of the Guru). They introduced the Rakhi system to protect cultivators.

Answer the following:

1. What were jathas and misls? (1 mark)
2. What were gurmata (resolutions of the Guru)? (1 mark)
3. What was the Rakhi system? (1 mark)

**Q49. Case Study: Maratha Expansion**

**[3 Marks]**

After Shivaji's death, the Peshwas (Chitpavan Brahmanas) became powerful. The Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan to decrease Mughal influence and control trade and agriculture. Between 1720-1761, they seized Malwa and Gujarat from the Mughals. By 1730s, the Maratha king was recognized as overlord of the entire Deccan.

Answer the following:

1. Who became powerful after Shivaji? (1 mark)
2. Why did Marathas want to expand? (1 mark)
3. Which areas did they seize from Mughals? (1 mark)

**Q50. Case Study: Water Scarcity and Conservation**

**[3 Marks]**

Ravi lives in a village where water is scarce. His family has to walk 2 km every day to fetch water from a well. During summer, even that well dries up. His school teaches about rainwater harvesting. The village panchayat decided to build a check dam and install rainwater harvesting systems in all houses.

Answer the following:

1. What problem does Ravi's village face? (1 mark)
2. What is rainwater harvesting? (1 mark)
3. How can a check dam help? (1 mark)

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## DETAILED ANSWER KEY

### Class 7 Social Science Annual Exam 2025-26 (Set 4)

*All answers with marking schemes for comprehensive preparation*

#### SECTION A - ANSWERS TO MCQs (15 × 1 = 15 Marks)

##### Q1. Answer: (c) Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan

**Explanation:** Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan founded the state of Awadh. He held the offices of subadari, faujdari, and diwani, giving him political, military, and financial control.

*1 mark for correct option*

##### Q2. Answer: (b) 1724

**Explanation:** Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah founded the state of Hyderabad in 1724 and ruled from 1724 to 1748.

*1 mark for correct option*

##### Q3. Answer: (c) Dal Khalsa

**Explanation:** The combined forces of all Sikh misls (bands) were known as Dal Khalsa, meaning "grand army" or "army of the Khalsa."

1 mark for correct option

**Q4. Answer: (b) Family of Chitpavan Brahmanas**

**Explanation:** After Shivaji's death, effective power was wielded by a family of Chitpavan Brahmanas who served as Peshwas (principal ministers) to Shivaji's successors.

1 mark for correct option

**Q5. Answer: (a) Chauth and Sardeshmukhi**

**Explanation:** Chauth (25% of land revenue) and Sardeshmukhi (10% of land revenue) were taxes levied by Marathas on territories they did not directly control.

1 mark for correct option

**Q6. Answer: (b) Bengal**

**Explanation:** Bengal gradually broke away from Mughal control under Murshid Quli Khan, who seized all powers of the subadar without formally holding that title.

1 mark for correct option

**Q7. Answer: (a) 1699**

**Explanation:** Guru Gobind Singh instituted the Khalsa in 1699, creating a distinct Sikh identity and community prepared for military and political action.

1 mark for correct option

**Q8. Answer: (c) 20%**

**Explanation:** The Rakhi system involved Sikhs collecting 20% of the produce from peasants as tax in exchange for protecting them from external aggression.

1 mark for correct option

**Q9. Answer: (a) Ganga**

**Explanation:** The Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers create the world's largest delta in Bangladesh and West Bengal, known as the Sundarbans delta.

1 mark for correct option

**Q10. Answer: (b) Kaziranga**

**Explanation:** Kaziranga National Park in Assam is famous for the one-horned rhinoceros and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

1 mark for correct option

**Q11. Answer: (b) 2.5%**

**Explanation:** Only about 2.5% of Earth's water is fresh water, and most of it is locked in ice caps and glaciers, making usable fresh water very limited.

1 mark for correct option

**Q12. Answer: (b) Gender discrimination**

**Explanation:** Paying women less than men for the same work is wage discrimination, a form of gender discrimination that violates equality principles.

*1 mark for correct option*

**Q13. Answer: (c) Retailer**

**Explanation:** A retailer is someone who buys goods from wholesalers and sells them directly to final consumers in small quantities.

*1 mark for correct option*

**Q14. Answer: (b) Mangrove forests**

**Explanation:** The Sundarbans has the world's largest mangrove forest ecosystem, adapted to saline water and tidal conditions.

*1 mark for correct option*

**Q15. Answer: (c) Maharaja Ranjit Singh**

**Explanation:** Maharaja Ranjit Singh reunited the Sikh territories in the late 18th century and established his capital at Lahore in 1799.

*1 mark for correct option*

**SECTION B - ANSWERS TO FILL IN THE BLANKS / TRUE-FALSE (15 × 1 = 15 Marks)**

**Q16. Answer: Deccan**

**Explanation:** Aurangzeb fought prolonged wars in the Deccan region which depleted both the military and financial resources of the Mughal Empire.

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q17. Answer: faujdari**

**Explanation:** Sa'adat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk) held three offices: subadari (provincial governor), diwani (revenue administration), and faujdari (military administration).

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q18. Answer: Kunbis**

**Explanation:** The Kunbis were peasant-pastoralists who formed the backbone of the Maratha army and supported Shivaji in challenging the Mughals.

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q19. Answer: misls**

**Explanation:** In the 18th century, Sikhs organized themselves into bands called jathas, which later became known as misls.

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q20. Answer: Poona / Pune**

**Explanation:** Poona (Pune) became the capital of the Maratha kingdom under the Peshwas in the 18th century.

1 mark for correct answer

**Q21. Answer: True**

**Explanation:** The Jats were prosperous agriculturists who consolidated their power under the leadership of Churaman and acquired control over territories west of Delhi.

1 mark for correct answer

**Q22. Answer: False**

**Explanation:** Watan jagirs were ancestral territories held by Rajput princes who enjoyed considerable independence under the Mughals, not by governors.

1 mark for correct answer

**Q23. Answer: ijaradari**

**Explanation:** In the ijaradari system, revenue farmers (ijaradars) agreed to pay the state a fixed sum of money in exchange for the right to collect taxes.

1 mark for correct answer

**Q24. Answer: Sundarbans**

**Explanation:** The Sundarbans in West Bengal (India) and Bangladesh is the world's largest mangrove forest, home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.

1 mark for correct answer

**Q25. Answer: True**

**Explanation:** Ocean water contains about 3.5% salt (salinity) and requires desalination to make it suitable for drinking.

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q26. Answer: Everest**

**Explanation:** Mount Everest (8,848.86 meters) is the highest point on Earth, located in the Himalayas on the Nepal-Tibet border.

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q27. Answer: 1947 / 1950**

**Explanation:** Women in India got the right to vote in 1947 when India became independent, and it was enshrined in the Constitution in 1950.

*1 mark for correct answer (accept either 1947 or 1950)*

**Q28. Answer: True**

**Explanation:** Branded products in shopping malls are usually more expensive than goods in weekly markets due to overhead costs, branding, and permanent infrastructure.

*1 mark for correct answer*

**Q29. Answer: transportation / transport**

**Explanation:** The large navigable rivers like Ganga and Brahmaputra provide cheap waterway transportation for goods and people.

*1 mark for correct answer*

### Q30. Answer: True

**Explanation:** Media independence means freedom from government control and business influence, allowing unbiased reporting and watchdog functions.

*1 mark for correct answer*

## SECTION C - ANSWERS TO SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (10 × 2 = 20 Marks)

### Q31. Answer: Effects of Aurangzeb's Deccan Wars

Aurangzeb's long war in the Deccan had the following effects on the Mughal Empire:

1. **Financial exhaustion:** The prolonged military campaigns emptied the imperial treasury, leading to financial crisis
2. **Military weakening:** The empire's military strength was stretched thin, making it difficult to maintain control over vast territories
3. **Administrative breakdown:** The emperor's absence from the capital for extended periods weakened central administration
4. **Growth of regional powers:** The empire's weakening allowed regional governors and nobles to consolidate their own power

*1 mark for mentioning financial/military depletion, 1 mark for explaining administrative or political consequences*

### Q32. Answer: Reducing Mughal Influence

The Nawabs of Awadh and Bengal tried to reduce Mughal influence through the following measures:

1. **Reducing jagirdars:** They reduced the number of office holders (jagirdars) appointed by the Mughals
2. **Reducing jagir size:** The size of jagirs (revenue assignments) was decreased
3. **Appointing loyal servants:** They appointed their own loyal servants to vacant positions instead of Mughal nominees
4. **Checking accounts:** The accounts of jagirdars were checked to prevent cheating and embezzlement
5. **Revenue reassessment:** All district revenues were reassessed by officials appointed by the Nawab's court

*1 mark for mentioning reduction of jagirdars, 1 mark for explaining appointment of own officials or revenue control*

### Q33. Answer: Importance of Kunbis for Marathas

The peasant-pastoralists (Kunbis) were important for the Maratha kingdom because:

1. **Military backbone:** The Kunbis formed the backbone of the Maratha army, providing the majority of soldiers
2. **Local support:** As they were local people with knowledge of the terrain, they could effectively use guerrilla warfare tactics
3. **Agricultural base:** They provided the agricultural and economic foundation for the Maratha state
4. **Challenge to Mughals:** Shivaji relied heavily on their support to challenge the powerful Mughal Empire in the Deccan peninsula

1 mark for explaining military role, 1 mark for explaining local support or agricultural importance

### Q34. Answer: Sikh Organization in 18th Century

The Sikhs were organized in the 18th century as follows:

1. **Bands called jathas and misls:** Under able leaders, Sikhs organized themselves into bands called jathas, and later these became known as misls
2. **Dal Khalsa (Grand Army):** The combined forces of all misls were known as dal khalsa, forming a powerful military organization
3. **Collective decision-making:** The entire body would gather in Amritsar during Baisakhi and Diwali to make collective decisions called gurmata (resolutions of the Guru)
4. **Rakhi system:** They introduced a system where they protected cultivators in exchange for 20% of the produce as tax

1 mark for mentioning jathas/misls, 1 mark for explaining dal khalsa or gurmata

### Q35. Answer: Maratha Expansion Beyond Deccan

The Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan for the following reasons:

1. **Decrease Mughal influence:** They wanted to reduce and eventually eliminate Mughal dominance in northern and western India
2. **Control over trade:** Expansion would give them control over important trade routes and commercial centers, increasing their wealth
3. **Control over agriculture:** Capturing fertile agricultural regions would strengthen their economic base and revenue collection
4. **Political power:** Territorial expansion would establish them as the dominant power in India

1 mark for mentioning decrease in Mughal influence, 1 mark for explaining economic/political reasons

### Q36. Answer: Significance of Ganga-Brahmaputra Delta

The Ganga-Brahmaputra delta is significant because:

1. **Largest delta:** It is the world's largest delta, formed by the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers
2. **Fertile land:** The delta has extremely fertile alluvial soil, making it one of the most productive agricultural regions
3. **Sundarbans mangroves:** It contains the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger
4. **High population:** Due to fertile land and adequate water, the delta region supports a very high population density
5. **Biodiversity:** The region has rich biodiversity with unique flora and fauna adapted to delta ecosystems

1 mark for mentioning it is the world's largest delta, 1 mark for explaining fertility or ecological significance

### Q37. Answer: Differences Between Hot and Cold Deserts

Hot Deserts (e.g., Sahara)	Cold Deserts (e.g., Ladakh)
Very high temperatures in summer (above 50°C)	Very low temperatures, especially in winter (below -40°C)
Sandy terrain with sand dunes	Rocky or snow-covered terrain
People wear loose, light-colored robes	People wear thick woolen clothes and animal skins
Animals: Camels, goats, sheep	Animals: Yaks, sheep, pashmina goats

1 mark for each correctly explained difference (any two)

### Q38. Answer: Importance of Women's Literacy

Women's literacy rate is important for development because:

1. **Economic empowerment:** Educated women can get better jobs and contribute to family income and national economy
2. **Better health and nutrition:** Literate women have better knowledge about health, hygiene, and nutrition, leading to healthier families and lower infant mortality
3. **Education of children:** Educated mothers ensure better education and development of their children, creating a positive cycle
4. **Decision-making:** Literacy empowers women to participate in decision-making at family and community levels
5. **Social development:** Women's education is linked to delayed marriage, smaller families, and overall social progress

1 mark for each valid reason explained (any two reasons)

### Q39. Answer: Difference Between Ijaradari and Jagirdari

Ijaradari System	Jagirdari System
Revenue farmers (ijaradars) paid a fixed sum to the state	Jagirdars were assigned territories from which they collected revenue as salary
They had freedom in tax assessment and collection	They had to follow state regulations and could be transferred
Bankers guaranteed the payment	No such guarantee system existed

Used by Awadh and Bengal nawabs	Traditional Mughal system
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*1 mark for explaining ijaradari, 1 mark for explaining jagirdari*

#### Q40. Answer: Influence of Advertising

Advertising influences our buying decisions in the following ways:

1. **Creates desires:** Advertisements create wants and desires for products we may not actually need
2. **Brand association:** Ads associate products with desirable lifestyles, celebrities, or emotions, making us want to buy them
3. **Repeated exposure:** Seeing ads repeatedly makes products familiar and trustworthy in our minds
4. **Highlighting benefits:** Ads emphasize benefits and features while downplaying disadvantages
5. **Social pressure:** Ads often suggest that everyone is using a product, creating peer pressure to buy

*1 mark for each valid way explained (any two ways)*

### SECTION D - ANSWERS TO LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 × 3 = 15 Marks)

#### Q41. Answer: Three Types of 18th Century States

After the decline of the Mughal Empire in the 18th century, three overlapping groups of states emerged:

##### 1. States Carved Out of Old Mughal Provinces:

- **Examples:** Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad
- **How they emerged:**

- These were originally Mughal provinces governed by subadars appointed by the emperor
- Under later Mughal emperors, it became difficult to keep a check on powerful mansabdars and governors
- Governors (subadars) often controlled revenue (diwani) and military (faujdari) administration as well
- This gave them extraordinary political, economic, and military powers
- They gradually stopped sending revenue to the capital and became virtually independent
- **Characteristics:**
  - They initially acknowledged Mughal authority nominally but were independent in practice
  - Founders like Sa'adat Khan (Awadh), Asaf Jah (Hyderabad), and Murshid Quli Khan (Bengal) established hereditary rule
  - They reduced Mughal influence by appointing their own officials and controlling revenues

## 2. Watan Jagirs - Rajput Principalities:

- **Examples:** Amber (Jaipur), Jodhpur, and other Rajput states
- **How they emerged:**
  - Many Rajput kings had served under the Mughals with distinction
  - In exchange, they were permitted to enjoy considerable autonomy in their watan jagirs (ancestral territories)
  - These were hereditary territories that gave Rajputs considerable independence
- **Characteristics:**
  - In the 18th century, these rulers attempted to extend their control over adjacent regions
  - They maintained nominal loyalty to the Mughals while building their own power
  - Some Rajput rulers were involved in factional politics at the Mughal court

### 3. New States Under Marathas, Sikhs, and Jats:

- **Examples:** Maratha Empire, Sikh territories, Jat kingdom
- **How they emerged:**
  - These groups had successfully rebelled against Mughal authority
  - They established their own independent kingdoms through military strength
  - The Marathas under Shivaji and later Peshwas expanded from the Deccan
  - The Sikhs organized themselves into misls and established control over Punjab
  - The Jats consolidated power under leaders like Churaman
- **Characteristics:**
  - These were completely new political formations, not former Mughal provinces
  - They had their own distinct administrative systems and military organizations
  - They actively challenged and reduced Mughal influence in their regions

**Common Factor:** All three types of states emerged due to the weakening of central Mughal authority and the inability of later Mughal emperors to control their vast empire effectively.

*1 mark for explaining each type of state (3 marks total)*

### Q42. Answer: Bankers and Moneylenders in Awadh

Bankers and moneylenders gained significant influence in the state of Awadh through the following developments:

#### 1. The Ijaradari System:

- The state of Awadh depended heavily on local bankers and mahajans (moneylenders) for loans

- The state introduced the ijaradari system where it sold the right to collect taxes to the highest bidders
- These "revenue farmers" (ijaradars) agreed to pay the state a fixed sum of money in advance
- However, revenue farmers often didn't have enough cash to pay this contracted amount immediately

## **2. Role of Bankers as Guarantors:**

- Local bankers came in as guarantors who ensured that the revenue farmers would pay the contracted amount to the state
- Bankers would provide loans to revenue farmers so they could pay the state
- In return, bankers charged high interest rates and gained significant profits
- This made the state dependent on bankers for its revenue collection system to function

## **3. Control Over Revenue Collection:**

- Revenue farmers were given considerable freedom in the assessment and collection of taxes
- Since bankers financed these revenue farmers, they indirectly influenced how taxes were collected
- If revenue farmers couldn't repay loans, bankers could take over their revenue collection rights
- This gave bankers direct access to state revenues

## **4. Influence on State Management:**

- These developments allowed new social groups like moneylenders and bankers to influence the management of the state's revenue system
- This was something which had not occurred in the past under traditional Mughal administration
- Bankers became powerful stakeholders in state finances
- The state became increasingly dependent on their financial support

## 5. Lending to Zamindars:

- Revenue was collected in cash with great strictness from all zamindars
- Many zamindars couldn't pay immediately and had to borrow money from bankers and moneylenders
- This further increased the bankers' influence over both revenue farmers and zamindars

**Consequence:** By financing both the state and revenue farmers, bankers became indispensable to Awadh's economy, gaining unprecedented political and economic influence.

*1 mark for explaining ijaradari system, 1 mark for explaining bankers as guarantors, 1 mark for explaining their influence on state management*

## Q43. Answer: Importance of Rivers in Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin

Rivers play a crucial role in the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin in multiple ways:

### 1. Agriculture and Irrigation:

- **Fertile alluvial soil:** Rivers deposit fertile alluvial soil during floods, making the plains extremely productive for agriculture
- **Irrigation:** Rivers provide water for irrigation, essential for growing crops like rice, wheat, sugarcane, and jute
- **Multiple cropping:** Abundant water allows farmers to grow multiple crops in a year
- **Example:** The Ganga plains are among the most agriculturally productive regions in the world, supporting intensive cultivation of rice and wheat

### 2. Transportation and Trade:

- **Waterways:** Large rivers like the Ganga and Brahmaputra are navigable and provide cheap water transport
- **Connectivity:** Rivers connect different regions, facilitating trade and commerce

- **Historical importance:** Rivers have been important trade routes since ancient times
- **Example:** Kolkata port on the Hooghly (distributary of Ganga) is a major trading hub

### 3. Water Supply:

- **Drinking water:** Rivers are the primary source of drinking water for millions of people
- **Industrial use:** Industries along rivers use water for various processes
- **Hydroelectric power:** Rivers, especially in the hilly regions, are used to generate hydroelectricity
- **Example:** Cities like Varanasi, Patna, and Guwahati depend on rivers for water supply

### 4. Fisheries:

- **Livelihood:** Rivers and their tributaries provide livelihood to thousands of fishermen
- **Food source:** Fish from rivers is an important source of protein for the population
- **Example:** The Brahmaputra and its tributaries in Assam are rich in fish varieties

### 5. Cultural and Religious Significance:

- **Holy rivers:** The Ganga is considered sacred by Hindus
- **Pilgrimage centers:** Cities like Varanasi, Haridwar, and Allahabad are important pilgrimage centers on river banks
- **Festivals:** Many festivals and rituals are associated with rivers

### 6. Delta and Ecosystem:

- **Sundarbans:** The Ganga-Brahmaputra delta contains the world's largest mangrove forest
- **Biodiversity:** Rivers support rich aquatic and riparian ecosystems

- **Example:** The Gangetic dolphin, a rare species, is found in the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers

**Conclusion:** Rivers are the lifeline of the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin, supporting agriculture, industry, transportation, and sustaining millions of people.

*1 mark for agriculture/irrigation importance, 1 mark for transportation/water supply, 1 mark for any other valid importance with example*



#### **Q44. Answer: Role of Media and Challenges to Independence**

##### **ROLE OF MEDIA IN A DEMOCRACY:**

###### **1. Providing Information:**

- Media informs citizens about government policies, laws, and actions
- It helps people understand complex issues and form opinions
- Citizens need information to make informed decisions in a democracy

###### **2. Watchdog Function:**

- Independent media acts as a watchdog, monitoring government actions
- It questions government decisions and exposes corruption, inefficiency, and wrongdoing
- This accountability is essential in a democracy
- Example: Media investigations have exposed many corruption scandals

###### **3. Platform for Debate:**

- Media provides a platform for different viewpoints and opinions
- It facilitates public debate on important issues
- This helps in forming public opinion and consensus

###### **4. Voice of the People:**

- Media highlights problems faced by common people
- It brings issues from local communities to national attention

- This helps in addressing public grievances

## 5. Setting Agenda:

- Media helps set the public agenda by focusing on certain issues
- Issues highlighted by media often become priorities for government action

## CHALLENGES TO MEDIA INDEPENDENCE:

### 1. Government Control and Censorship:

- **Direct control:** In some countries, government owns and controls media
- **Indirect pressure:** Government can pressure media through licensing, regulations, or tax policies
- **Censorship:** Government may censor content that criticizes it
- **Impact:** This prevents media from acting as a watchdog and providing unbiased information

### 2. Business and Advertising Influence:

- **Dependence on ads:** Media organizations depend heavily on advertising revenue for survival
- **Avoiding criticism:** Media may avoid reporting negatively about companies that advertise with them
- **Corporate ownership:** Big business houses owning media can influence content to suit their interests
- **Impact:** This leads to biased reporting that favors business interests over public interest

### 3. Political Pressure:

- Political parties and leaders may pressure media to favor them
- Journalists may face threats or legal action for critical reporting
- This creates self-censorship where media avoids controversial topics

### 4. Concentration of Ownership:

- When few individuals or companies own many media outlets, diversity of opinions decreases
- This reduces the range of viewpoints available to the public

### **5. Sensationalism for Profit:**

- To increase viewership and profits, media may focus on sensational or entertainment news
- Important but less exciting issues may be ignored
- This affects the quality of information available to citizens

**Conclusion:** While media plays a vital role in democracy, its independence is constantly threatened by government control, business interests, and the pressure to maximize profits. Protecting media independence is essential for a healthy democracy.

*1.5 marks for explaining role of media, 1.5 marks for explaining challenges to independence*



### **Q45. Answer: Influence of Merchants and Traders**

#### **INFLUENCE IN 18TH CENTURY STATES:**

##### **1. Financial Power:**

- Merchants and traders were extremely wealthy and influential in 18th century states
- They controlled trade routes and commercial activities
- Many states depended on them for loans and financial support
- Example: Jagat Seth family in Bengal were immensely powerful bankers and traders

##### **2. Revenue Collection:**

- In states like Awadh and Bengal, merchants and bankers were involved in revenue collection through the ijaradari system

- They acted as guarantors for revenue farmers
- This gave them direct influence over state finances and administration

### **3. Political Influence:**

- Wealthy merchants could influence political decisions through their financial power
- They could make or break alliances by providing or withholding financial support
- Some merchants held positions in state administration

### **4. Control Over Trade:**

- Merchants controlled both domestic and foreign trade
- They had monopolies over certain goods and trade routes
- States needed their cooperation for customs revenue and trade taxes

### **5. Interest Rates:**

- Merchants and moneylenders could charge very high interest rates (sometimes exploitative)
- Borrowers, including zamindars and even rulers, were often at their mercy

## **ARE THEY AS INFLUENTIAL TODAY?**

**No, they are not as influential today. Here's why:**

### **1. Modern Banking System:**

- Today, formal banking institutions provide loans and financial services
- Banks are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and government regulations
- Interest rates are controlled and much lower than in the past
- People prefer banks over individual moneylenders due to lower rates and better terms

### **2. Government Revenue System:**

- Government has its own tax collection machinery

- Revenue is not dependent on private merchants or revenue farmers
- Direct taxation and systematic collection have reduced dependence on private financiers

### **3. Spread of Education:**

- With widespread education, people are more aware of banking and financial systems
- They understand interest rates, loans, and can make informed decisions
- This reduces exploitation by moneylenders

### **4. Legal Framework:**

- Laws protect borrowers from exploitation
- There are regulations on interest rates and lending practices
- Courts provide legal recourse against unfair practices

### **5. Different Forms of Influence:**

- Today, influence comes from large corporations, industrialists, and businesses rather than individual merchants
- They influence through lobbying, campaign financing, and media ownership rather than direct lending to the state

### **However, some similarities remain:**

- Wealthy business people still have significant economic and political influence
- In rural areas, local moneylenders still exploit poor farmers who can't access formal banking
- Big businesses can influence government policies through various means

**Conclusion:** While merchants and traders were extremely powerful in the 18th century due to their control over finance and lack of formal banking, today's formal financial institutions, government regulations, and education have significantly reduced their direct influence. However, economic power still translates to political influence, though in different forms.

1 mark for explaining 18th century influence, 1 mark for explaining current scenario with banking, 1 mark for comparison/conclusion

**SECTION E - ANSWERS TO MAP WORK / CASE BASED QUESTIONS (5 × 3 = 15 Marks)**

**Q46. Answer: Map Work - India**

**Instructions for Map Marking:**

1. **Awadh:** Mark and label the Awadh region in present-day Uttar Pradesh (capital: Lucknow)
2. **Hyderabad:** Mark and label Hyderabad in present-day Telangana/Deccan region
3. **Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary:** Mark and label Kaziranga in Assam (along the Brahmaputra river)

**Map Drawing Tips:**

- Use pencil for initial marking, then use pen for final marking
- Label clearly with capital letters
- For states, shade the approximate region lightly
- For wildlife sanctuary, use a specific symbol (like a triangle or tree symbol)

1 mark for each correctly marked and labeled location (Total 3 marks)

**Q47. Answer: Case Study - The State of Awadh**

**(i) Who founded the state of Awadh? (1 mark)**

Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan founded the state of Awadh.

**(ii) What offices did he hold? (1 mark)**

He held three important offices:

- Subadari (provincial governorship)
- Diwani (revenue administration)
- Faujdari (military administration)

This meant he controlled all political, financial, and military affairs of the province.

**(iii) How did he reduce Mughal influence? (1 mark)**

Burhan-ul-Mulk reduced Mughal influence through several measures:

- He reduced the number of jagirdars (office holders) appointed by the Mughals
- He reduced the size of jagirs (revenue assignments)
- He appointed his own loyal servants to vacant positions instead of Mughal nominees
- He checked the accounts of jagirdars to prevent cheating
- He had all district revenues reassessed by officials appointed by his own court, not by the Mughal court

*1 mark for each correctly answered sub-question*

**Q48. Answer: Case Study - The Sikh Organization**

**(i) What were jathas and misls? (1 mark)**

Jathas and misls were bands or groups into which the Sikhs organized themselves in the 18th century under able leaders. Jathas were smaller bands that later became larger groups called misls. Each misl was a military and political unit with its own territory and leadership.

**(ii) What were gurmatas? (1 mark)**

Gurmatas were "resolutions of the Guru" or collective decisions made by the entire Sikh community. The Sikhs would gather in Amritsar during the festivals of

Baisakhi and Diwali to discuss important matters and make these collective decisions democratically.

**(iii) What was the Rakhi system? (1 mark)**

The Rakhi system was a protection system introduced by the Sikhs in the 18th century. Under this system:

- Sikhs collected 20% of the agricultural produce from peasants as tax
- In return, they provided protection to the cultivators against external aggression and attacks
- It was like an insurance system where cultivators paid for security

*1 mark for each correctly answered sub-question*

**Q49. Answer: Case Study - Maratha Expansion**

**(i) Who became powerful after Shivaji? (1 mark)**

After Shivaji's death, a family of Chitpavan Brahmanas became powerful. They served as Peshwas (principal ministers) to Shivaji's successors and wielded effective power in the Maratha state. Poona (Pune) became the new capital under the Peshwas.

**(ii) Why did Marathas want to expand? (1 mark)**

The Marathas wanted to expand beyond the Deccan for several reasons:

- To decrease Mughal influence in northern and western India
- To gain control over important trade routes and commercial centers
- To control fertile agricultural regions and increase their revenue base
- To establish themselves as the dominant power in India

**(iii) Which areas did they seize from Mughals? (1 mark)**

Between 1720 and 1761, the Marathas seized the following areas from the Mughals:

- Malwa (in central India)
- Gujarat (in western India)
- By the 1730s, the Maratha king was recognized as the overlord of the entire Deccan peninsula

*1 mark for each correctly answered sub-question*

#### **Q50. Answer: Case Study - Water Scarcity and Conservation**

##### **(i) What problem does Ravi's village face? (1 mark)**

Ravi's village faces acute water scarcity. People have to walk long distances (2 km) every day to fetch water from a well, and during summer even that well dries up, creating severe water shortage for drinking and other daily needs.

##### **(ii) What is rainwater harvesting? (1 mark)**

Rainwater harvesting is the technique of collecting and storing rainwater for future use. It involves:

- Capturing rainwater from rooftops, land surfaces, or rock catchments
- Directing it to recharge underground aquifers or storing it in tanks
- The stored water can be used for drinking, irrigation, or domestic purposes
- It helps conserve water and reduces dependence on distant water sources

##### **(iii) How can a check dam help? (1 mark)**

A check dam can help in the following ways:

- **Slows water flow:** It slows down the flow of rainwater in streams or small rivers
- **Groundwater recharge:** By holding water longer, it allows water to seep into the ground, recharging underground aquifers
- **Water availability:** This raises the groundwater level, ensuring water availability in wells even during dry seasons

- **Prevents soil erosion:** It also prevents soil erosion and helps retain moisture in the soil

*1 mark for each correctly answered sub-question*

## Marking Summary

Section	Question Type	Total Marks
Section A	Multiple Choice Questions (15 × 1)	15 marks
Section B	Fill in the Blanks / True-False (15 × 1)	15 marks
Section C	Short Answer Questions (10 × 2)	20 marks
Section D	Long Answer Questions (5 × 3)	15 marks
Section E	Map Work / Case Based Questions (5 × 3)	15 marks
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>80 marks</b>

## END OF ANSWER KEY - SET 4

**Total Marks: 80**

This is a comprehensive solved practice paper for Class 7 Social Science Annual Examination (Set 4).

Special focus on 18th Century Political Formations along with complete syllabus

coverage.

Study thoroughly and understand all concepts.

For doubts and queries, contact: **Math Love Institute**

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This paper (Set 4) covers: History (18th Century Political Formations - Awadh, Bengal, Hyderabad, Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Rajput Principalities) | Geography (Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin, Water Resources, Deserts) | Political Science (Media Democracy, Women's Rights, Markets) | Combined Syllabus: PT-II + Annual Examination 2025-26

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