

**Meghalaya Board**  
**Class IX**  
**Social Studies**  
**Sample Paper 2 – Solution**

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**SECTION A**

**History**

1. (a) Dhangars were an important pastoralist community of Maharashtra.  
(b) In shifting agriculture, parts of the forests are cut and burnt in rotation.  
(c) In France, the state extracted direct taxes from the people known as taille.
  
2. (a) The Kalangs of Java were a community of skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators.  
(b) In April, 1917, the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from his exile  
(c) In 1946, the women in France won the right to vote.
  
3. (a) Two problems faced by the Maasai pastoralists during the colonial rule were:
  - **Shrinking of grazing land:** European imperial powers divided Massailand between England and Germany. The grazing lands were taken over by the colonists. Thus, the Maasai lost more than half of their grazing lands.
  - **Expansion of agricultural field:** The British government encouraged local farming communities to expand cultivation. Thus, the pastoral lands were converted into agricultural fields.
  
- (b) Conservatives' ideologies were different from those of radicals and liberals. They were against the idea of change. However, by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they acknowledged that some changes were necessary but that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.
  
- (c) When King Louis XVI refused to summon a joint session of the three Estates of the French society, the representatives of the Third Estate staged a walkout from the Parliament. They convened on a tennis court near the royal palace and proclaimed themselves to be the National Assembly, representing the whole of the French nation. They took an oath to stay united in their fight for the achievement of sovereignty for the French people.

Sample Paper 2 – Solution

- (d) The three demands made by Vladimir Lenin (Bolshevik leader) after he returned to Russia from his exile were known as 'April Thesis'. The demands were:
- End to the war,
  - Transfer of Land to the peasants,
  - Nationalisation of Banks
- (e) Land in 16<sup>th</sup> century England was enclosed with an aim to improve sheep breeding as the prices of wool had increased. But by the 18<sup>th</sup> century, land in England was enclosed with a view to promote grain production in the country.
- (f) Shifting cultivation is a primitive cultivation in which a part of the forest land is cleared, trees are burnt and their ashes are sprinkled on the field. Seeds are then sown and crops are grown. After cultivating the land for about two to three years, it is left fallow for few years for the forests to grow back. Another patch of forests was then cleared for the purpose of cultivation.
4. (a) Main causes which led to the February Revolution were:
- **The First World War:** Russia participated in the First World War on the side of the Allies. During the course of the war, Russian armies suffered heavy losses which were demoralising for the people.
  - **Grim Economic Conditions:** The First World War had disastrous impact on the economy of Russia. While retreating from various battle fields, the Russian army destroyed crops and buildings in the country to prevent the enemy from using them as resources. Destruction of crops and buildings added over 3 million refugees in Russia. People in Russia began to question the participation of Russia into the war.
  - **Scarcity of Essential Goods:** As the war was fought on, essential supply of grains and bread were diverted to war fronts to feed the soldiers. This led to the scarcity of essential goods in the market leading to riots among the people.
  - **Industrial Shortage:** Industrial production declined in Russia as able bodied men were sent to war front to fight in the First World War. Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia.

All the above conditions led to the anger and unrest in Petrograd. Famines in the cities further led to the deterioration of the condition in Russia. When the peasants protested against the Tsarist regime, they were supported by the soldiers. This finally led to the downfall of the Tsarist regime.

(b) The outbreak of the French revolution took place due to culmination of social, political, intellectual and economic factors.

- **Political** - The Bourbon King of France, Louis XVI was an extremely autocratic and weak willed king who led a life of obscene luxury. This led to a lot of disenchantment among the masses who then were leading life of extreme poverty and widespread hunger.

- **Social** - The social conditions in France in late 18th century were extremely unequal and exploitative. The clergy and nobility formed the first two Estates and were the most privileged classes in the French society. They were exempted from payment of taxes to the State. On the other hand, the Third Estate that consisted of peasants and workers formed the majority of the population. They were burdened with excessive taxes with no political and social rights. As a result, they were extremely discontent.
- **Economic** - As a result of the numerous wars waged by Louis XVI, the State treasury was getting depleted. The situation was made even more complex by France's involvement in the American War of Independence and the faulty system of taxation. While
- **Intellectual** - The 18th century was marked by conscious refusal by French thinkers of the 'Divine Rights Theory'. Philosophers like Rousseau rejected the idea of absolute monarchy and advocated the doctrine of equality of man and sovereignty of people.

**(c)** Yes, the British framed Forest laws for their own benefit. Some examples are

- The British introduced the principle of scientific forestry to systematically exploit the forests of India. Timber which was, thus, produced was exported to Britain.
- While on one hand, the forest acts denied the tribal and village communities their customary rights to use the forest produce for earning their basic livelihood, on the other hand, vast chunks of forests were destroyed by the government to expand railways in India. Railways were used to further exploit resources of the country.
- Many Indian tribal communities in India lived by hunting animals. Hunting by villagers was banned by the government. However, the government officials themselves participated in various hunting activities to such an extent that many species of animals became extinct in the country. Thus, while the tribals who hunted only to support themselves were penalised, the British officials made hunting a sport and killed thousands of tigers, lion, deer and other animals for their own pleasure.

**(d)** Many people from Europe came to America in the early eighteenth century as the land provided them with immense opportunities of growth and development. After the American War of Independence, the white settlers began to move westwards in search of suitable lands for cultivation. By 1780, the white settlers were confined to only a small strip of coastal land in the east. By the beginning of the eighteenth century, the white settlers began to move westwards. They displaced the native communities and brought many pieces of agricultural lands under cultivation. At this time, the white settlers began cultivating lands around the Appalachian plateau. After 1800, the American government further pushed the Native Americans westwards beyond the river Mississippi. The land in the Mississippi Valley was occupied by the white Americans and large lands were cleared for cultivating crops such as wheat and corn.

**(e)** Restrictions imposed by the Dutch on the forest communities of Java were

- (i) The Dutch, by enacting several laws, restricted the use of forest produce by the villagers.

(ii) Wood can be cut by the villagers under close supervision only for purposes such as building houses or river boats.

(iii) Villagers could not transport wood without the permission of the government or graze their cattle in young stands of forests. The Dutch required labour to cut trees to make railway sleepers.

(iv) To discourage farmers from farming in forests, they levied rents on cultivated land in the forest but exempted them if farmers collectively agreed to provide their labour and buffaloes for free for cutting and transporting timber. This came to be known as blandongdiensten system.

**(f)** Liberals were one of the groups which wanted to bring about a change in the society.

The objectives set by liberals to change the society were that:

- They wanted a society which tolerated all religions.
- They opposed the unrestrained power of monarch.
- They wanted to protect individual's rights against the governments.
- They argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well-trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials.
- They wanted the right to vote to be given to only to men.

## SECTION II CIVICS

5. (a) In 1991, Soviet Union disintegrated into fifteen countries.

**(b)** In India elections are conducted and supervised by the Chief Election Commissioner.

**(c)** The Right to Property is a constitutional right.

6. (a) India is a republic because its head is an elected person and not hereditary.

(b) The President of the World Bank has always been a citizen of America.

(c) The Supreme Court is at the apex of judicial administration in the country.

7. **(a)** PIL is the Public Litigation Interest which can be filed by any citizen or a group of citizens in social or public interest against any law or order of the government.

**(b)** Two arguments against democracy are:

- It leads to corruption as it is based on electoral competition
- Decision making process is delayed in a democracy because the consent of people is required to make a decision in any democratic country.

**(c)** Two powers of the Prime Minister are:

Sample Paper 2 – Solution

- He presides over the meetings of the cabinet ministers and coordinates the workings of various departments.
  - He supervises the work of various ministries and his decisions are final. He can ask for the resignation of any ministers if they are not able to discharge their duties efficiently.
- (d)** The Supreme Court is considered to be the guardian of the Constitution because it has been given the power to protect, safeguard and uphold the Constitution. It can declare a law passed by the Legislature as null and void if it is found to be inconsistent with the Constitution.
- (e)** The Right to Constitutional Remedies is considered to be the most important fundamental right because it ensures the protection of our fundamental rights. It helps the citizens in moving to the court in case of violation of their fundamental rights. It also sees that the government does not violate or disrespect the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.
- (f)** Universal suffrage is a system which grants everyone the right to vote above a certain age irrespective of the caste, creed, colour, status, gender, religion etc. It is also known as universal adult franchise and is one of the main characteristic of a democracy.
- 8. (a)** Most of the global institutions fail to pass the test of democracy. This statement can be justified on the following grounds:
- All member countries of the UNO are the members of the General Assembly. But the General Assembly cannot take important decisions in matters relating to peace and security. Decision is taken only by the five permanent members of the Security Council.
  - All 185 members of the International Monetary Fund do not have equal voting rights. Voting rights of the country depends upon the monetary contributions made by them to the IMF. Hence, IMF is under the control of few rich countries like the US, UK, China, France, Saudi Arabia.
  - The World Bank is also undemocratic as far as the voting rights of its members are concerned. It is mainly dominated by the rich countries of the world especially the US. It can be seen from the fact that a President of the World Bank has always been the citizen of the United States. He is traditionally nominated by the Finance Minister of the United States.
- (b)** Various conditions required for democratic elections to take place in a country are:

Sample Paper 2 – Solution

- Everyone should have a right to vote and the vote should be of equal value.
- Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and there should be ample choice for the voters to choose from.
- Elections must be held regularly after every few years.
- The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose their representatives without any fear.

**(c)** The fundamental rights bring equality among the people of the country in the following manner:

- They guarantee that no kind of discrimination will take place on the basis of caste, creed colour and sex and that all the citizens would be treated equally.
- It ensures that every individual has equal rights to access public places such as public wells, bathing ghats, museums, temples etc. However, the state can make some special arrangements for women and children or for the development of any socially or educationally backward class or scheduled castes or scheduled tribes.
- It guarantees that every individual should be treated equally in the matters of opportunity relating to education and employment or appointment to an office under the state. However, the state can reserve some seats for the scheduled castes and tribes.
- The fundamental rights have abolished the practice of untouchability in India. This practise has been declared as a crime and is punishable under the law.

**SECTION III**  
**Economics**

- 9. (a)** After land, labour is the next necessary factor of production.  
**(b)** The health of a person helps him to realise his potential and the ability of fight illness.  
**(c)** There has been a significance decline in poverty of Kerala.
- 10. (a)** The introduction of rationing in India dates back to the 1940s against the backdrop of the Bengal famine.  
**(b)** While the rural areas have disguised unemployment, urban areas have educated unemployment.  
**(c)** In the village of Palampur, farmers are able to grow three crops in a year because of the well developed system of irrigation.
- 11. (a)** FCI is the Food Corporation of India. It distributes of food grains throughout the country through the Public Distribution System.

**(b)** The two types of rural unemployment in India are seasonal unemployment and disguised unemployment.

- Seasonal unemployment is a situation where a number of persons are not able to find a job in a particular season as in the case of agriculture, factories such as woollens, ice-cream, etc.
- Disguised unemployment refers to a situation where marginal physical productivity of labour is zero or it may become negative.

**(c)** Human poverty is a much wider concept as compared to poverty. Poverty is a term used for an individual who is considered poor if his/her income falls below a given 'minimum level'. However, human poverty cannot be confined to economic factors only. Therefore, there is a need to broaden the concept of human poverty which includes various other social indicators such as the level of illiteracy, lack of resistance because of mal-nutrition, safe drinking water, job opportunities and sanitation.

**(d)** Two methods that should be implemented to make India secure in terms of food grains are:

- To practice sustainable farming as it does not exploit the environmental resources of soil, water and trees and has a strong emphasis on social welfare which effectively means increasing income and food supply to poor farmers.
- Governments should regulate the entire food cycle i.e. inputs and outputs, domestic sales, exports, public procurement, storage, distribution, price controls, subsidies and also imposing various land use regulations such as acreage and crop variety.

**(e)** Two differences between fixed capital and working capital are:

| <b>Fixed capital</b>                                                                              | <b>Working capital</b>                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tools, machines (generator, computer etc.) and buildings are known as fixed capital.              | Liquidity (money in hand) and raw materials are known as working capital.       |
| These tools of production do not get exhausted easily and can be used over a long period of time. | These factors of production do not last for long and are used up in production. |

**12. (a)** Poverty and employment are the twin problems existing in India. Poverty can be eradicated effectively only when the poor participate in the growth process. Therefore, various employment programmes are launched to achieve this target. Employment generation reduces poverty as follows:

- **Relationship between unemployment and poverty:** If employment opportunities are generated, then more people will be employed which leads to increase in income level. Thus, it reduces the level of poverty.

## Sample Paper 2 – Solution

- **Availability of basic facilities:** Due to an increase in the employment opportunities, there will be a rise in income and poor people will be able to access education, basic health facilities, sanitation, etc.
- **Assets creation:** Employment generates schemes which aim to create assets such as irrigation facilities, water harvesting, construction of dams etc. These assets help to develop socio-economic conditions of the rural poor and thus, eradicate poverty.

**(b)** Education plays a significant role in economic development as follows:

- Education increases the accessibility of people to modern and scientific ideas.
- It increases the efficiency and ability of people to absorb new technology.
- It creates awareness of the available opportunities and mobility of labour.
- Education helps individuals to gain knowledge, skills and attitude which would enable them to understand changes in society and scientific advancements.
- Investment in education is one of the main sources of human capital which facilitates inventions and innovations.
- Available educated labour force facilitates adaptation of advanced technology in a country.

**(c)** Four schemes which have been launched by the government to ensure food security to the poorer section of society are

- **Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS)** was introduced in 1992 in 1700 blocks in the country. The scheme aimed at the provision of food grains in the remote and backward areas of the country.
- **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)** was launched in 1997 which targeted the policy of providing food grains to all poor sections of people in different areas. Under this system, a different price policy was adopted for poor and non-poor people.
- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** was introduced in 2000. About ten million of the poorest people were identified, and highly subsidised food grains were provided to them at highly subsidised prices.
- **Annapurna Scheme (APS)** was introduced in 2000 for the poorest of poor and destitute senior citizens. Through this scheme, it was decided to provide 10 kg of food grains to poor families per month free of cost.

**SECTION IV**  
**Geography**

**13. Map Work**



- 14. (a)** The state of Rajasthan gets scanty rainfall from South west Monsoon winds.
- (b)** The outermost layer of the Himalayas is known as Shiwaliks.
- (c)** Typhoons are the cyclones of Philippines.
- (d)** The Aravallis are geologically old mountains.
- (e)** India's total area accounts for about 2.4 percent of the total geographic area.
- (f)** The river Mahanadi rises in the highlands of Chhattisgarh.
- 15. (a)** The climate of India is strongly influenced by the South West Monsoon winds .

- (b) Yangtze is the largest river in Asia.
- (c) A very large ecosystem on land having distinct types of vegetation and animal life is called a biome.
- (d) One horned rhinos are found in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam.
- (e) Most of the lakes in the Himalayas are of glacial origin.
- (f) The youngest deposits of alluvium on flood plains of the Northern Indian Plains are known as khadar.

**16. (a)** A strait is a narrow channel of water which connects two large water bodies. The Palk Strait separates India and Sri Lanka.

(b) The Deccan plateau in India has been formed as a result of the accumulation of lava due to the volcanic eruption. The igneous rocks, then formed, got denuded over time resulting in the formation of black soil. Cotton grows best on black soil and also require warm climate. Because of these reasons, the Deccan Plateau is considered suitable for the production of cotton.

(c) Two causes of the river water pollution are

- **Increase in population and urban settlements** have polluted the rivers. Large amount of domestic, municipal and agricultural wastes are disposed off in the rivers.
- **Huge quantities of untreated sewage and industrial effluents** are disposed in rivers which not only diminishes the quality of water but also the self-cleansing capacity of the river.

(d) The Aravalli Hills run parallel to the Arabian Sea branch of South West Monsoon winds and thus do not form any barrier to the winds. Thus, annual rainfall in Rajasthan is less than 25cm annually.

(e) Two characteristics of tropical evergreen forests are:

- The forest always appears green as all the trees do not shed their leaves at the same time.
- The forests are dense and the trees can reach up to the height of 60m.

(f) Coral islands are tropical islands which are formed from various organic materials derived from skeletons of corals and numerous other animals and plants associated with corals. These are situated only few meters above the sea level and may extend upto dozens of kilometers. Example: Lakshadweep Islands.

**17. (a)** Summer season in India begins in the month of March. Three main characteristics of the summer season in India are:

- The hot weather season in India begins from March and continues till May. In May, the temperature rises to 45°C in the north western parts of the country.

Sample Paper 2 – Solution

- Because of high temperature, low air pressure is created in the northern parts of the country.
- One of the striking features of the hot weather season in India is the blowing of local winds known as 'loo'. It is a hot wind which may blow even during the evenings. Direct exposure to these winds may cause fever and anxieties.

**(b)** Himalayas play an important role in economic and cultural development of India in the following ways:

- The Himalayas act as a barrier to the South West monsoon winds. When they strike the Himalayas, they shed their moisture bringing much needed rainfall in the northern parts of the country. Indian agriculture is immensely benefited by the Monsoons. (Economic impact)
- Many hill stations have been developed in the Himalayan region like Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala, Nainital etc. Himalayas are known for their scenic beauty and are visited by tourists all over the world bringing much needed foreign currency into the country. (Economic impact).
- The Himalayas are spread over vast regions running across various countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Pakistan etc. This makes cultural exchanges among the people of various countries possible. The Himalayas have profoundly shaped the cultures of South Asia. Many Himalayan peaks are sacred to Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. (Cultural impact).

**(c)** Many species of plants and animals are endangered in our country. To protect the flora and fauna of the country, the government has taken the following steps:

- Fourteen biosphere reserves have been set up by the government to protect the flora and fauna. Biosphere reserves are the areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems which promote the conservation of plants and wild life. Four biosphere reserves, the Sundarbans (West Bengal), Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand), the Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu) and Nilgiris (Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) are notable.
- Many developmental programmes such as Project Rhino, Project Tiger etc. have been introduced.
- India has 490 wild life sanctuaries and zoological gardens and 89 national parks to protect its flora and fauna.
- Many awareness programmes have been launched by the government to make people aware of our fast depleting plant and animal resources. Poaching and hunting have been declared as crimes punishable by law.

**(d)** The river Ganga originates in the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas. At Devprayag, it is joined by the Alaknanda river. In Haridwar, the Ganga emerges from the mountains in the plains. The Ganga is joined by many tributaries like Yamuna, Gandak, Kosi and Son. The river Yamuna meets Ganga at Allahabad.

The river Ganga then flows to the east till Farakka in West Bengal. At this juncture, the river Bhagirathi- Hooghly - a distributary of Ganga emerges which flows southwards to the Bay of Bengal. The Ganga flows into Bangladesh where it is joined by the river Brahmaputra. The river then drains into the Bay of Bengal. The delta formed by the river Ganga and Brahmaputra is known as the Sundarban delta which is the largest delta in the world. It is also the home of the royal tigers of Bengal.

(e) India has a long coastline which runs across the Arabian Sea in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east. The Indian coastal plains are divided into the western coastal plains and the eastern coastal plains.

The western coast is a narrow strip of land which is located between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. It consists of three sections. The northern part of the coast is known as the **Konkan** (Mumbai-Goa). The central part is called the **Kannad** plain and the southern stretch is known as the **Malabar** coast.

The eastern coastal plains are located between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. These plains are wider than the western coastal plains. Many rivers such as the Krishna and Godavari have formed deltas in this region. The eastern coastal plains are known as the **Northern Circars** in the northern part and as the **Coromandel Coast** in the southern part. **Lake Chilika**, the largest salt water lake in India, lies in the eastern coast.

(f) The following are the four major drainage patterns:

- **Dendritic:** This drainage system is formed when the river channel follows the slope of the terrain. Because many tributaries join the main river, this drainage system appears like the branches of trees.
- **Trellis:** The trellis pattern is developed when many tributaries join the main river at right angles and the hard and the soft rock exist parallel to each other.
- **Rectangular:** It develops on the strongly jointed rocky terrain which are resistant to erosion. Such rocks have joints at right angles which can be eroded. The joints are cracked opened by erosion, and hence, the streams of rivers develop along these joints.
- **Radial:** When the streams of rivers flow in different directions from a central peak or a dome-like structure, the radial drainage pattern is developed.