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CLASS XII · POLITICAL SCIENCE (028) · CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 3

Contemporary South Asia

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only

12 note blocks + timeline | 7 countries at a glance | 54 practice questions | Model Answer Booklet

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STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

PRACTICE SCORE ____ / ____

1

READ THIS FIRST

Chapter Notes

The whole chapter in short-note form: what South Asia is, the experience of democracy in each country, the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, India's conflicts and cooperation with its neighbours, outside powers, and SAARC and SAFTA. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 What is South Asia?

- **South Asia** usually means seven countries: **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**. **Afghanistan** is often included (it joined SAARC in 2007); **Myanmar** is sometimes discussed. **China** is an important power next door but is **not** part of South Asia.
- The **Himalayas** in the north and the **Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal** in the south, west and east give the region a natural **insularity** – it is a distinct region.
- It is a region of great **diversity** – languages, religions, cultures – and stands for both **rivalry and goodwill**, hope and despair.
- Its countries have very different **political systems**.

2 Democracy in South Asia – an overview

- **India and Sri Lanka** have run a **democratic** system continuously since independence (Sri Lanka despite its ethnic conflict).
- **Pakistan and Bangladesh** have had both **civilian and military** rulers; Bangladesh has had democracy since the end of the Cold War.
- **Nepal** was a **constitutional monarchy** till 2006 and became a **democratic republic** in **2008**.
- **Bhutan** remains a monarchy, but its king began the shift to a **multi-party, constitutional monarchy** in **2008**.
- **Maldives** was a **sultanate** till **1968**, then a **republic** with a presidential system; a **multi-party** system came in **2005**.
- So the record is **mixed**, but democracy has become the accepted norm across the region.

3 Pakistan – military and democracy

- After Pakistan's first constitution, **General Ayub Khan** took over (1958) and later got himself elected. Popular anger forced him out; **General Yahya Khan** took over – and Pakistan lost its eastern wing in **1971**.
- An elected government under **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto** ruled from **1971 to 1977**; **General Zia-ul-Haq** removed him in **1977**.
- Zia faced a **pro-democracy movement** from **1982**; an elected government under **Benazir Bhutto** came in **1988**. Then came a period of competition between her party and the **Muslim League** (Nawaz Sharif).
- In **1999** the army returned: **General Pervez Musharraf** removed PM Nawaz Sharif and in **2001** got himself elected President. Army rule continued till elections in **2008**; elected governments have held office since.

Why democracy has not been stable:

- The social dominance of the **military, clergy and landowning aristocracy**.
- Conflict with **India** made pro-military groups stronger; they said political parties were selfish and harmed Pakistan's security.
- Lack of genuine **international support** for democracy – the USA and other Western countries backed military rulers for their own reasons (the fight against 'global Islamic terrorism', fear that nuclear weapons might fall into terrorists' hands).

4 Bangladesh – from East Pakistan to a nation

- From **1947 to 1971** Bangladesh was part of Pakistan (**East Pakistan**). Its people resented the domination of **West Pakistan** and the imposition of **Urdu**, and protested against unfair treatment of **Bengali culture and language**.
- **Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman** led the **Awami League** and demanded **autonomy** for the eastern region. In the **1970 elections** the Awami League won all seats in East Pakistan and a majority in the proposed constituent assembly, but the West-dominated government refused to convene it. Mujib was arrested.
- Under **General Yahya Khan** the army tried to crush the mass movement; thousands were killed and millions fled to **India** as refugees.
- India supported the demand for independence; the **1971 war** ended with the surrender of Pakistani forces and the birth of **Bangladesh**.
- Its **constitution** declared faith in **secularism, democracy and socialism**. But in **1975** Mujib shifted to a **presidential** system and banned all parties except the Awami League; in August 1975 he was **assassinated** in a military uprising.

- **Ziaur Rahman** formed the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** and won the 1979 election; he too was assassinated. **Lt Gen H. M. Ershad** took over; mass protests (led by students) forced him out in **1990**. Since **1991** Bangladesh has had **multi-party elections**.
- In **2024** student-led protests forced PM **Sheikh Hasina** to resign, and an interim government took charge.

5 Nepal – from monarchy to republic

- Nepal was a **Hindu kingdom** and, for long, a **constitutional monarchy** in which the king and the army kept real control.
- A strong **pro-democracy movement** made the king accept a new democratic **constitution in 1990**, but elected governments were short-lived and troubled.
- In the 1990s the **Maoists** spread their influence and waged an **armed insurrection** against the king and the ruling elite – a **triangular conflict** among monarchists, democrats and Maoists.
- In **2002** the king **abolished parliament** and dismissed the government.
- **April 2006:** massive, largely **non-violent** pro-democracy protests, led by the **Seven Party Alliance (SPA)**, the Maoists and social activists, forced the king to **restore the House of Representatives**.
- In **2008** Nepal became a **democratic republic** after abolishing the monarchy; a new **constitution** was adopted in **2015**.

6 Sri Lanka – democracy and ethnic conflict

- Sri Lanka has kept a **democratic** system since independence in **1948**. Its challenge came not from the army or a king but from **ethnic conflict**.
- Politics was dominated by the majority **Sinhala** community, hostile to the many **Tamils** (including those whose families had come from India). Sinhala nationalists felt no ‘concessions’ should be given to Tamils.
- Neglect of Tamil concerns led to **militant Tamil nationalism**. From **1983** the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) fought the army for **Tamil Eelam**, a separate country, and controlled parts of the **north-east**.
- **India:** under pressure from Tamils in India, India signed an **accord** with Sri Lanka in **1987** and sent the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)**. The IPKF ended up fighting the LTTE; many Sri Lankans saw it as **interference**. It was withdrawn in **1989** without achieving its aim.
- **Norway and Iceland** tried to bring the sides to talks. The armed conflict ended in **2009** when the **LTTE was defeated**.
- **Achievements:** despite the war, Sri Lanka had good **economic growth** and high **human development**; it was among the first developing countries to control **population growth** and to **liberalise** its economy, and it had the highest per capita GDP in the region for many years. A severe economic crisis in **2022** led to mass protests and a change of President.

7 The aspiration for democracy

- Despite a mixed record, people in all these countries **share the aspiration for democracy**.
- A large **survey** of people in five South Asian countries found **widespread support for democracy** among the rich and the poor and among people of different religions. They preferred democracy to any other form of government and thought it suitable for their country.
- This is significant because it **challenges the view** that democracy can flourish only in rich, developed countries.
- So the experience of South Asia has **expanded the global imagination of democracy**.
- Movements in **Nepal (2006)**, **Bangladesh (1990)** and **Pakistan (1980s)** show ordinary people fighting for democracy.

8 India and Pakistan

- After Partition the two fought over **Kashmir**. The wars of **1947–48** and **1965** did not settle it; the **Line of Control (LoC)** divides **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir** and the Indian territory. The **1971** war was decisive but did not resolve Kashmir.
- Other issues: control of the **Siachen glacier**, the **Sir Creek** boundary in the Rann of Kutch, and an **arms race**.
- **Nuclear tests:** India at **Pokhran (1998)**; Pakistan responded within days in the **Chagai Hills**.
- India accuses Pakistan of helping **militants and terrorists** with arms, training, money and shelter, and of helping Khalistani militants (1985–95); Pakistan blames India for trouble in **Sindh and Balochistan**.
- The **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**, signed with **World Bank** mediation, survived several wars; after the **Pahalgam** terror attack (April 2025) India put the treaty **in abeyance**.
- **Peace efforts:** confidence-building measures, bus and trade links, and talks, which have often broken down.

9 India and Bangladesh, Nepal

India–Bangladesh

- **Differences:** sharing of **Ganga and Brahmaputra** waters; India is unhappy about **illegal migration**, support for anti-India groups, refusal of **transit** for Indian troops to the north-east, and refusal to export **natural gas**. Bangladesh accuses India of acting like a **regional bully** on water, encouraging rebellion in the **Chittagong Hill Tracts**, and being unfair in trade.
- **Cooperation:** economic ties have improved; Bangladesh is part of India's **Look East / Act East** link to South-East Asia via Myanmar; cooperation on **disaster management** and the environment; the **Land Boundary Agreement (2015)** settled the enclaves.

India–Nepal

- A special relationship: a **treaty** lets citizens of both countries **travel and work** in the other without visas or passports.
- **Irritants:** trade disputes; India's displeasure at Nepal's close ties with **China** and inaction against anti-India elements; Nepalese complaints that India **interferes** in internal affairs, eyes its **river waters and hydroelectricity**, and blocks a landlocked Nepal's access to the sea.
- **Ties:** trade, scientific cooperation, shared natural resources, electricity and water projects hold them together.

10 India and Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives

- **Sri Lanka:** the ethnic conflict and the IPKF strained ties. Since then India has followed **non-interference**; it signed a **Free Trade Agreement** with Sri Lanka (in force from 2000) and helped with **post-tsunami** (2004) reconstruction.
- **Bhutan:** a **very special relationship** with no major conflict. Bhutan's king helped drive out **militants** from north-east India operating from its territory. India builds big **hydroelectric** projects there and is Bhutan's biggest source of **development aid**.
- **Maldives:** warm relations. In **November 1988**, when mercenaries from Sri Lanka attacked the Maldives, India's air force and navy acted quickly, at the Maldives' request, to stop the attack. India also helps its economy, **tourism and fisheries**.
- **Why tensions?** India is the **biggest country**; its size and power make smaller neighbours **suspicious**, while India feels its neighbours are unfair to it. Political instability inside neighbours also spills over.

11 Outside powers – China and the USA

- **China:** relations with India have improved since the late 1980s, but China's **strategic partnership with Pakistan** and its growing presence in the region worry India.
- **USA:** after the Cold War it built good relations with **both India and Pakistan** and often acts as a **moderator** between them.
- Economic reforms and liberal policies in South Asia have deepened **American** involvement; a large **South Asian diaspora** lives in the USA.
- The region's **size**, population and markets make it important to outside powers, which also try to influence it.

12 Peace and cooperation – SAARC and SAFTA

- **SAARC** (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) was set up in **1985** (Dhaka) by seven South Asian states to build cooperation through **multilateral** means. **Afghanistan** joined in **2007** (eight members). Its secretariat is in **Kathmandu**.
- Because of persistent **political differences**, especially between India and Pakistan, SAARC has **not had much success**; summits have not been held since 2014.
- **SAFTA** (South Asian Free Trade Area): signed in **2004**, in force from **1 January 2006**. It aimed to **lower trade tariffs** and create a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia.
- **Fears:** some neighbours fear SAFTA lets India **'invade' their markets** and influence their societies and politics.
- **India's view:** there are real economic **benefits for all**, and a region that trades freely will **cooperate better** on political issues. Some in India feel SAFTA is not worth it, since India already has **bilateral** agreements with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Seven countries at a glance

Statement MCQs and map questions come from here

Country	Political journey	Remember
India	democracy since independence	largest country; Pokhran 1998
Pakistan	military and civilian rule alternate	Ayub, Yahya, Zia, Musharraf; Bhuttos; elections 2008
Bangladesh	independent 1971; military rule; democracy from 1991	Mujib; Ziaur Rahman; Ershad out 1990; 2024 protests
Nepal	monarchy → 1990 constitution → 2006 movement → republic 2008	Maoists; SPA; constitution 2015
Sri Lanka	democracy since 1948	LTTE from 1983; IPKF 1987–89; LTTE defeated 2009
Bhutan	monarchy → constitutional monarchy 2008	special ties with India; hydro projects
Maldives	sultanate → republic 1968 → multi-party 2005	India's help in 1988

Key terms

1- and 2-mark answers

South Asia – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (+ Afghanistan)

Constitutional monarchy – a king whose powers are limited by a constitution

Military rule – government run by the army, not elected leaders

Awami League – party of Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman in Bangladesh

Seven Party Alliance – alliance that led Nepal's 2006 movement

LTTE – Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam – fought for a Tamil state

Tamil Eelam – the separate Tamil country the LTTE demanded

IPKF – Indian Peace Keeping Force sent to Sri Lanka, 1987–89

LoC – Line of Control dividing Kashmir

Indus Waters Treaty – 1960 India–Pakistan river treaty, World Bank-mediated

SAARC – regional cooperation body of South Asia, 1985

SAFTA – South Asian Free Trade Area, signed 2004, in force 2006

Bilateral – between two countries

Multilateral – among several countries

Timeline to memorise

Chronology MCQs come from here

Year	Event
1947–48	India–Pakistan war over Kashmir
1948	Sri Lanka independent
1958	Ayub Khan takes over in Pakistan
1960	Indus Waters Treaty
1965	India–Pakistan war
1968	Maldives becomes a republic
1971	Bangladesh born; Bhutto in power
1975	Sheikh Mujib assassinated
1977	Zia-ul-Haq removes Bhutto
1983	LTTE's armed struggle begins
1985	SAARC set up

Year	Event
1987–89	IPKF in Sri Lanka
1988	Benazir Bhutto elected; India helps Maldives
1990	Nepal's new constitution; Ershad steps down
1998	Nuclear tests – Pokhran and Chagai
1999	Musharraf's coup
2004 / 2006	SAFTA signed / in force
2005	Multi-party system in the Maldives
2006	Nepal's pro-democracy movement
2007	Afghanistan joins SAARC
2008	Nepal republic; Bhutan constitutional monarchy; Pakistan elections
2009	LTTE defeated in Sri Lanka

Who's who

Match-the-following MCQs come from here

Person	Remember for
Ayub Khan / Yahya Khan	military rulers of Pakistan (1958–71)
Zulfikar Ali Bhutto	elected leader of Pakistan, 1971–77
Zia-ul-Haq	military ruler, removed Bhutto in 1977
Benazir Bhutto	elected PM of Pakistan, 1988

Person	Remember for
Pervez Musharraf	1999 coup; President 2001
Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman	Awami League; founder of Bangladesh
Ziaur Rahman	formed the BNP; won 1979 election
H. M. Ershad	military ruler; stepped down 1990

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27

- What is South Asia?
- The military and democracy in Pakistan and Bangladesh
- Monarchy and democracy in Nepal
- Ethnic conflict and democracy in Sri Lanka
- India–Pakistan conflicts; India and its other neighbours
- Peace and cooperation: SAARC and SAFTA

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

4–6 / 80

Political Science is 80 marks. This chapter came in **every paper checked**: almost always a **1-mark** statement MCQ on a neighbour (Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan), and usually a **4-mark** answer (democracy in South Asia, SAARC) or a **passage** on SAARC and SAFTA – **4 to 6 marks**.

MOST ASKED – BOARD 2025 PAPERS AND SAMPLE PAPERS (6 PAPERS CHECKED)

How often	Topic / question type	Marks	Papers
★★★	Democracy in South Asian countries; the aspiration for democracy	1 / 2 / 4	5 of 6
★★☆	SAARC and SAFTA	4	2 of 6
★★☆	Which countries form South Asia	1	2 of 6
★☆☆	Outside powers – USA and China	2	1 of 6
★☆☆	India's conflicts and cooperation with neighbours	2 / 4	0 of 6

ANSWER-WRITING RULES FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE (CBSE SAMPLE PAPER 2026–27)

2 marks
50–60 words · 2 points

4 marks
100–120 words · 4 points; passage, picture and map parts 1 mark each

6 marks
170–180 words · 6 points

Always
a year, a country, a leader or an organisation in each point

Write in points and underline key words. For "analyse" and "justify" questions, give the reason, not only the fact.

MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Including **China** or **Myanmar** among the seven South Asian countries – China is not part of South Asia.
- Writing that Bangladesh's constitution declared it an Islamic state – it declared faith in **secularism, democracy and socialism**.
- Mixing the dates: Nepal's movement **2006**, republic **2008**; Bhutan constitutional monarchy **2008**; Maldives multi-party **2005**.
- Writing that the IPKF was a UN force – it was **India's** force, sent under the **1987** accord and withdrawn in **1989**.
- Mixing Pakistani rulers – order: **Ayub → Yahya → Z. A. Bhutto → Zia → Benazir → Musharraf**.
- Writing that SAARC is a great success – it has had **limited success** because of political differences.
- Mixing **SAARC** (1985, organisation) and **SAFTA** (2004/2006, free trade agreement).

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. **Day 1:** Read the Chapter Notes twice; learn the key terms and the timeline.
2. **Next day:** Parts A and B. **Then:** Parts C and D – MUST DO questions first.
3. Check every answer against the **Model Answer Booklet**: same points, same keywords, within the word limit.
4. Write every mistake on the My Mistakes page and redo it after 3 days.

PART A · NCERT PRACTICE

A Textbook Check

Every section of the chapter and every NCERT exercise idea, asked in new words. Model answers for all of these are in the Model Answer Booklet.

South Asia and democracy

A1. Name the countries of South Asia. What gives the region its distinct identity? [2]

A2. Describe the experience of democracy in the different countries of South Asia. MUST DO [4]

A3. Trace the swings between military and civilian rule in Pakistan. MUST DO [4]

A4. Why has democracy not been stable in Pakistan? MUST DO [4]

A5. Describe the events that led to the creation of Bangladesh. MUST DO [6]

A6. Trace the course of democracy in Bangladesh after 1971. [4]

A7. Describe the struggle for democracy in Nepal. MUST DO [4]

A8. Explain the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and India's role in it. MUST DO [6]

India and its neighbours; SAARC

A9. Explain the main issues of conflict between India and Pakistan. MUST DO [4]

A10. Describe the areas of cooperation and conflict in India–Bangladesh relations. [4]

A11. Why are India's relations with Bhutan and the Maldives described as special? [2]

A12. What is SAARC? Why has it had limited success? MUST DO [4]

A13. What is SAFTA? Why do some neighbours fear it, and what is India's view? MUST DO [4]

PART B · PAPER 028 STYLE

B Objective Practice

The MCQ types of Section A: statements, matching, chronology and assertion–reason.

ASSERTION–REASON: HOW TO ANSWER

(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Multiple choice, matching and chronology

1 mark each

B1. Which of the following is NOT a South Asian country? [1]

(a) Bhutan **(b)** Maldives **(c)** Sri Lanka **(d)** China

B2. Read the statements about the Maldives: [1]
I. It was a sultanate till 1968. II. It became a republic with a presidential form of government.
III. A multi-party system was introduced in 2005. IV. It is still an absolute monarchy.
Which statements are correct?

(a) I, II and III **(b)** II, III and IV **(c)** I, III and IV **(d)** I, II and IV

B3. Arrange the rulers of Pakistan in chronological order: [1]
I. Zia-ul-Haq II. Ayub Khan III. Pervez Musharraf IV. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto
(a) II, IV, I, III **(b)** IV, II, I, III **(c)** II, I, IV, III **(d)** II, IV, III, I

B4. The leader of the Awami League who led the movement for Bangladesh was: [1]
(a) Ziaur Rahman **(b)** H. M. Ershad
(c) Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman **(d)** Yahya Khan

B5. Bangladesh's first constitution declared faith in: [1]
(a) Islam, democracy and socialism **(b)** secularism, democracy and socialism
(c) monarchy and democracy **(d)** socialism and one-party rule

B6. Read the statements about Nepal: [1]
I. A democratic constitution came in 1990. II. The king abolished parliament in 2002.
III. The 2006 movement was led by the SPA, Maoists and activists. IV. Nepal is still a constitutional monarchy.
Which statements are correct?
(a) I, II and IV **(b)** II, III and IV **(c)** I, II and III **(d)** I, III and IV

B7. The LTTE demanded: [1]
(a) autonomy for Sinhala areas **(b)** a separate Tamil Eelam
(c) merger with India **(d)** a monarchy in Sri Lanka

B8. The Indian Peace Keeping Force was sent to Sri Lanka in: [1]
(a) 1983 **(b)** 1985 **(c)** 1986 **(d)** 1987

B9. Match the country with the event: [1]
(a) Bhutan (b) Maldives (c) Nepal (d) Bangladesh
(i) Ershad steps down after protests, 1990 (ii) became a constitutional monarchy, 2008 (iii) India stops a mercenary attack, 1988 (iv) monarchy abolished, 2008
(a) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i **(b)** a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i
(c) a-ii, b-i, c-iv, d-iii **(d)** a-iii, b-ii, c-iv, d-i

B10. India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in 1998 at: [1]
(a) Siachen and Kargil **(b)** Pokhran and Sir Creek
(c) Pokhran and Chagai Hills **(d)** Tarapur and Chagai Hills

B11. The Indus Waters Treaty (1960) was signed with the mediation of the: [1]
(a) United Nations **(b)** World Bank **(c)** SAARC **(d)** USA

B12. SAARC was set up in: [1]
(a) 1980 **(b)** 1982 **(c)** 1984 **(d)** 1985

B13. SAFTA came into force on: [1]
(a) 1 January 2004 **(b)** 1 January 2006 **(c)** 1 January 2007 **(d)** 1 January 1985

B14. Which country has a treaty with India allowing its citizens to travel and work in India without visas or passports? [1]
(a) Bangladesh **(b)** Sri Lanka **(c)** Pakistan **(d)** Nepal

Assertion–Reason

1 mark each

B15. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): The aspiration for democracy is shared by people across South Asia.

Reason (R): Surveys show widespread support for democracy among rich and poor and different religions.

B16. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): The IPKF achieved its goals in Sri Lanka.

Reason (R): Many Sri Lankans saw the presence of Indian troops as interference.

B17. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): SAARC has not had much success.

Reason (R): Its members have persistent political differences.

B18. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Some neighbours fear SAFTA.

Reason (R): India already has bilateral trade agreements with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN

Board Pattern Practice

Written-answer questions grouped by topic. ★★★ = asked in 3 or more of the 6 papers checked · ★★ = 2 papers · ★ = 0–1 paper.

Democracy in South Asia

★★★ 5 of 6 papers · 1, 2 and 4 marks

C1. "The experience of democracy in South Asia has expanded the global imagination of democracy." Analyse. [4] MUST DO

C2. Explain any two reasons for the failure of democracy in Pakistan. MUST DO [2]

C3. What were the main features of Bangladesh's constitution? How was it changed in 1975? [2]

C4. Describe the political changes in Nepal and the Maldives. [4]

C5. Describe the role of the military in the politics of Pakistan and Bangladesh. [4]

SAARC and SAFTA

★★☆ 2 of 6 papers · 4 marks

C6. Assess the role of SAARC in promoting cooperation in South Asia. MUST DO [4]

C7. Why do some of India's neighbours fear SAFTA? What is India's view? [4]

South Asia as a region; outside powers

★★☆ 2 + 1 of 6 papers · 1 and 2 marks

C8. Name the countries of South Asia and state two features of the region. [2]

C9. Explain the role of the USA in South Asia after the Cold War. [2]

India and its neighbours

★☆☆ not asked in the 6 papers · 2, 4 and 6 marks

C10. Analyse India's relations with any three of its South Asian neighbours. [6]

C11. "India's size is a source of tension with its neighbours." Explain. [2]

D

PART D · PASSAGE / PICTURE / MAP (Q24–Q26 STYLE)

Case-Based Questions

Each item carries 4 marks (four 1-mark parts), as in Q24–Q26 of the board paper – passage-, picture- and map-based. The passages are written for this booklet; pictures and maps are described in words.

D1. Passage-Based · Passage – trading without walls [4]

In 2004 the leaders of the region signed an agreement promising to cut the taxes on goods crossing their borders, so that one day the whole region might trade as freely as a single country. It came into force two years later. The biggest member said that freer trade would make everyone richer and would also make it easier to settle political quarrels. Some of the smaller members were not so sure: they worried that their markets would be flooded by goods from the big neighbour and that their politics would follow.

(i) Name the agreement described. [1]

(ii) Under which regional organisation was it signed? [1]

(iii) Who is the ‘biggest member’? [1]

(iv) Give one fear of the smaller members. [1]

D2. Passage-Based · Picture – the crowded square (described) [4]

Picture described: a photograph shows a huge crowd filling the streets of a mountain capital in April. People carry the flags of seven political parties and banners demanding that the dissolved parliament be restored. Ex-rebels in caps march beside students and lawyers. A palace can be seen in the distance, its gates closed.

(i) Which country is shown? [1]

(ii) In which year did this movement take place? [1]

(iii) Which alliance led the movement along with the Maoists? [1]

(iv) What was the final result of this movement by 2008? [1]

D3. Passage-Based · Map clues – South Asia [4]

Map task described: on an outline map of South Asia, four countries are marked A, B, C and D. Identify each from the clue. A – an island chain in the Indian Ocean that was a sultanate till 1968. B – a Himalayan kingdom that became a constitutional monarchy in 2008. C – an island nation where the LTTE fought from 1983 to 2009. D – a country born in 1971 after a war.

(i) Identify A. [1]

(ii) Identify B. [1]

(iii) Identify C. [1]

(iv) Identify D. [1]

PART E · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

E Board PYQ Index

Real questions from recent board papers and CBSE sample papers, by topic. Open the paper and attempt the listed questions.

Frequency	Topic	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★★	**Democracy in South Asian countries**	1–4	**SQP 2026–27:** Q1 (Maldives), Q20 (democracy expands the idea) · **2025:** 59/1/1 Q1 (Nepal), Q20(B); 59/1/2 Q1 (Bhutto); 59/1/3 Q1 (Maldives) · **59/1/1 (year not printed):** Q4 (Pakistani leaders), Q13 (Pakistan), Q14 (Bangladesh constitution)	A2–A8, B2–B9, B15–B16, C1–C5, D2–D3
★★☆	**SAARC and SAFTA**	4	**2025:** 59/1/1 Q20(A) · **SQP 2024–25:** Q26 (passage on SAARC and SAFTA)	A12–A13, B12–B13, B17–B18, C6–C7, D1
★★☆	**Which countries form South Asia**	1	**SQP 2026–27:** Q3 · **59/1/1 (year not printed):** Q3	A1, B1, C8, D3
★☆☆	**Outside powers**	2	**SQP 2024–25:** Q14 (USA in South Asia)	C9
★☆☆	**India and its neighbours**	2–6	Not asked in the 6 papers checked.	A9–A11, B10–B11, B14, C10–C11

Papers checked (6): Board 2025 – 59/1/1, 59/1/2, 59/1/3 · a 59/1/1 paper whose year is not printed on the copy · CBSE Sample Papers 2026–27 and 2024–25. Sets of one code family share most questions. Download official papers from cbse.gov.in → Previous Year Question Papers, and sample papers from cbseacademic.nic.in.

PART F · YOUR RECORD

F My Mistakes

Write down each mistake from this chapter, including your school tests and pre-board papers.

Every wrong answer is a free lesson. Write it here, find the point you missed, and redo the question after three days.

Date	Part & Q No.	What went wrong	Correct point or fact	Redone ✓