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CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · GEOGRAPHY · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

GEOGRAPHY · CHAPTER 1

Resources and Development

43%
30%
27%

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only

16 note blocks + soils table | 6 soil map items | PYQ index 2023–2026 | 69 practice questions | Model Answer Booklet

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

1	**Chapter Notes** 16 note blocks, soils table, terms + exam snapshot	2
A	**Textbook Check** 19 questions	9
B	**Objective Practice** 22 MCQ and assertion–reason	10
C	**Board Pattern Practice** 13 questions, with frequency stars	12
D	**Case-Based Questions** 5 cases	13
E	**Map Work: Soils of India** 6 places + practice drill	14
F	**Board PYQ Index** Real board questions by topic	15
G	**My Mistakes** Your error log	16

STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

CHAPTER TEST SCORE _____ / 20

1

READ THIS FIRST

Chapter Notes

The whole chapter in short-note form: every definition, category, state, soil and number. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 What is a resource?

Resource: everything in our environment that can be used to satisfy our needs, provided it is **technologically accessible**, **economically feasible** and **culturally acceptable**.

- Things in nature become resources through an interdependent relationship between **nature, technology and institutions**. Humans interact with nature through technology and create institutions to speed up economic development.
- Resources are a **function of human activities**; human beings are themselves an essential part of resources.
- It is wrong to think of resources as free gifts of nature.

2 Classification of resources

1 · On the basis of origin

- **Biotic** – from the biosphere, have life: human beings, flora and fauna, fisheries, livestock.
- **Abiotic** – non-living: rocks, metals.

2 · On the basis of exhaustibility

- **Renewable** – renewed or replenished by physical, chemical or mechanical processes: solar and wind energy, water, forests and wildlife (continuous/flow or biological).
- **Non-renewable** – form over very long geological time (millions of years): minerals, fossil fuels. Some are **recyclable** (metals); some get **used up** with use (fossil fuels).

3 · On the basis of ownership

- **Individual** – owned privately: plots, houses, orchards, pastures, ponds, wells.
- **Community** – open to all members of a community: grazing grounds, burial grounds, village ponds, public parks, picnic spots, playgrounds.
- **National** – everything within the political boundaries and the sea up to **12 nautical miles (22.2 km)** from the coast (territorial waters). The government can even acquire private property for public good (roads, canals, railways).
- **International** – ocean resources **beyond 200 nautical miles** (the Exclusive Economic Zone) belong to the open ocean; no country can use them without the agreement of international institutions.

4 · On the basis of status of development

- **Potential** – found in a region but not yet used: wind and solar energy in **Rajasthan and Gujarat**.
- **Developed** – surveyed; quality and quantity fixed for use; depends on technology and feasibility.
- **Stock** – can meet our needs but we lack the technology to use it: **hydrogen in water** as a source of energy.
- **Reserves** – a **subset of stock**, usable with existing technology but use has not started; kept for the future: river water used for hydroelectricity only to a limited extent, water in dams, forests.

3 Development of resources and sustainable development

Using resources without thought has led to:

- **Depletion** of resources to satisfy the **greed of a few** individuals.
- **Accumulation** of resources in a few hands, dividing society into **haves and have-nots**.
- Global ecological crises – **global warming, ozone layer depletion, environmental pollution and land degradation**.

Sustainable development: development without damaging the environment, so that development in the present does not compromise the needs of **future generations**.

4 Rio Earth Summit (1992) and Agenda 21

- In **June 1992** more than **100 heads of state** met at **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, for the first International Earth Summit, to address environmental protection and socio-economic development at the global level.
- Leaders signed the **Declaration on Global Climatic Change and Biological Diversity**; the summit endorsed the global **Forest Principles** and adopted **Agenda 21** for sustainable development in the 21st century.
- **Agenda 21** (signed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED): aims to combat environmental damage, poverty and disease through global co-operation on common interests, mutual needs and shared responsibilities. One major objective: every **local government** should draw up its own local Agenda 21.

5 Resource planning in India

Resources are unevenly spread, so planning is needed at the national, state, regional and local levels:

- **Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh** – rich in minerals and coal.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** – plenty of water but lacks infrastructure.
- **Rajasthan** – rich in solar and wind energy but short of water.
- **Ladakh** – a cold desert with a rich cultural heritage, but short of water, infrastructure and some vital minerals.

THREE STEPS OF RESOURCE PLANNING

1. **Identification and inventory** of resources across regions – surveying, mapping, qualitative and quantitative estimation and measurement.
2. **A planning structure** with the right technology, skill and institutional set-up to carry out resource development plans.
3. **Matching** resource development plans with overall **national development plans**.

India has worked for resource planning since the **First Five Year Plan**. Resources alone do not bring development: technology, the quality of human resources and history matter too – many resource-rich regions are backward, while some resource-poor regions are developed. Colonisers used their superior technology to exploit the resources of colonies.

6 Conservation of resources

- Irrational consumption and over-use cause socio-economic and environmental problems, so conservation is vital.
- **Gandhiji:** "There is enough for everybody's need and not for anybody's greed." He saw **greedy, selfish individuals** and the **exploitative nature of modern technology** as the root cause of resource depletion; he opposed mass production and wanted **production by the masses**.

1968 · Club of Rome	First advocated resource conservation in a systematic way
1974 · E. F. Schumacher	Gandhian philosophy presented in the book *Small is Beautiful*
1987 · Brundtland Commission Report	Introduced "sustainable development"; published as *Our Common Future*
1992 · Rio Earth Summit	Agenda 21, Forest Principles

7 Land resources and India's relief

Land supports natural vegetation, wildlife, human life, economic activities, transport and communication. It is an asset of **finite** size, so it must be used with careful planning.

Plains – about 43%	Facilities for agriculture and industry
Mountains – about 30%	Perennial flow of some rivers, tourism, ecological balance
Plateaus – about 27%	Rich reserves of minerals, fossil fuels and forests

8 Land utilisation – the categories

1. **Forests**
2. **Land not available for cultivation:** (a) barren and waste land (b) land put to non-agricultural uses – buildings, roads, factories.
3. **Other uncultivated land (excluding fallow):** (a) permanent pastures and other grazing land (b) land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves (not in net sown area) (c) **culturable waste land** – left uncultivated for **more than 5** agricultural years.
4. **Fallow lands:** (a) **current fallow** – left uncultivated for **one or less than one** agricultural year (b) **other than current fallow** – left uncultivated for the past **1 to 5** agricultural years.
5. **Net sown area (NSA).**

> **Gross cropped area** = net sown area + area sown more than once in an agricultural year.

9 Land use pattern in India

- Decided by **physical factors** (topography, climate, soil types) and **human factors** (population density, technological capability, culture and traditions).
- Total geographical area: **3.28 million sq km**. Land use data exist for only about **93%** of it – reporting for most north-eastern states except Assam is incomplete, and parts of Jammu and Kashmir occupied by Pakistan and China have not been surveyed.
- Land under **permanent pastures has decreased** – how will our large cattle population be fed?
- Most "other than current fallow" land is poor or costly to cultivate, so it is farmed only once or twice in 2–3 years; if it were added, NSA would be about **54%** of the reporting area.
- NSA differs greatly: over **80%** in **Punjab and Haryana**, less than **10%** in **Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- Forest area is far below the **33%** of geographical area set by the **National Forest Policy (1952)** for ecological balance.
- Compared with 1960–61, the shares of **forests** and **land put to non-agricultural uses** have grown, while **barren and waste land** and **permanent pastures** have shrunk.
- Long, continuous use of land without conservation leads to **land degradation**.

10 Land degradation and conservation

About **130 million hectares** of land in India are degraded: about **28%** is degraded forest, **56%** is water-eroded, and the rest is affected by **saline and alkaline** deposits.

Mining – deforestation, abandoned pits and over-burden	**Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha**
Overgrazing	**Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra**
Over-irrigation – waterlogging raises salinity and alkalinity	**Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh**
Mineral processing dust (grinding limestone for cement, calcite and soapstone for ceramics) – stops water soaking into soil	Industrial areas
Industrial effluents	Water and land pollution

Remedies: afforestation and proper management of grazing; planting **shelter belts**; control of overgrazing; stabilising sand dunes by growing **thorny bushes**; proper management of waste lands; control of mining; treating industrial effluents and wastes before disposal.

11 Soil as a resource

- Soil is the most important **renewable** natural resource – the medium of plant growth and home to many living organisms. It is a living system; a few centimetres of soil take **millions of years** to form.
- **Factors of soil formation:** relief, parent (bed) rock, climate, vegetation and other forms of life, and time.
- Nature's forces – change in temperature, running water, wind, glaciers, decomposers – together with chemical and organic changes help form soil. Soil has **organic (humus)** and **inorganic** parts.

12 Alluvial soil

- **Most widespread and important** soil; the entire **northern plains**, deposited by the **Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra** systems; also in Rajasthan and Gujarat through a narrow corridor, and in the eastern coastal plains – deltas of the **Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri**.
- Made of sand, silt and clay in varying proportions; particles get bigger inland towards the river valleys; coarse near the break of slope, common in piedmont plains such as **Duars, Chos and Terai**.
- **Bangar** = old alluvium, more **kankar** nodules. **Khadar** = new alluvium, finer particles, **more fertile**.
- Very fertile: enough **potash, phosphoric acid and lime**; ideal for **sugarcane, paddy, wheat**, other cereals and pulses; so these areas are intensively cultivated and **densely populated**. In drier areas the soil is more alkaline but can be made productive with treatment and irrigation.

13 Black soil (regur)

- Black in colour; **ideal for cotton** – also called **regur**. Formed by climate together with the parent rock – typical of the **Deccan trap (basalt)** region of the north-west Deccan plateau, made of **lava flows**.
- Covers the plateaus of **Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**, and extends south-east along the **Godavari and Krishna** valleys.
- Made of **extremely fine, clayey** material; **holds moisture** well.
- Rich in **calcium carbonate, magnesium, potash and lime**; generally **poor in phosphoric content**.
- Develops **deep cracks** in hot weather, which help aeration. **Sticky** when wet – must be tilled right after the first shower or in the pre-monsoon period.

14 Red and yellow · Laterite · Arid · Forest soils

Red and yellow: develop on **crystalline igneous rocks** in areas of **low rainfall** in the eastern and southern Deccan plateau; also in parts of **Odisha, Chhattisgarh**, the southern middle Ganga plain and the piedmont zone of the Western Ghats. **Red** because of **diffusion of iron** in crystalline and metamorphic rocks; **yellow** when it is **hydrated**.

Laterite: from Latin *later* = brick. Forms in tropical and subtropical climates with alternate wet and dry seasons, by **intense leaching** due to heavy rain. Deep, **acidic (pH < 6.0)**, generally poor in plant nutrients; humus-rich under forests but humus-poor under sparse vegetation. Found in southern states, the **Western Ghats** of Maharashtra, Odisha, parts of West Bengal and the North-east. Prone to erosion. With conservation, used for **tea and coffee** in the hills of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu; red laterite in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala suits **cashew nut**.

Arid: red to brown; **sandy** and **saline** – in some areas salt is obtained by evaporating water. Dry climate and high temperature mean faster evaporation, so it lacks **humus and moisture**. Lower horizons have **kankar** (calcium content rises downwards), which restricts infiltration. Cultivable after irrigation, as in **western Rajasthan**.

Forest (mountain): in hilly and mountainous areas with enough rain forests. **Loamy and silty** on valley sides, **coarse-grained** on upper slopes; in snow-covered Himalayan areas they are **acidic with low humus**; fertile on river terraces and alluvial fans in lower valleys.

15 Soil erosion

> **Soil erosion:** the denudation of the soil cover and its subsequent washing down.

- **Human causes:** deforestation, overgrazing, construction, mining; **defective farming** such as ploughing up and down the slope, which makes channels for water to rush down.
- **Natural forces:** wind, glaciers and water.
- **Gully erosion:** running water cuts deep channels (gullies) in clayey soil; the land becomes unfit for farming – **bad land**; in the **Chambal basin** such land is called **ravines**.
- **Sheet erosion:** water flows as a sheet over large areas down a slope and washes away the topsoil.

- **Wind erosion:** wind blows loose soil off flat or sloping land.

16 Soil conservation

Contour ploughing	Ploughing along contour lines slows water flowing down the slope
Terrace farming	Steps cut on slopes restrict erosion; well developed in the **western and central Himalayas**
Strip cropping	Strips of grass left to grow between crops in large fields break the force of the wind
Shelter belts	Rows of trees planted to give shelter; they have helped stabilise **sand dunes** and the desert in **western India**

Also: afforestation, controlled grazing, plugging gullies, and adding manure and compost to keep soil fertile.

Soils of India at a glance

MCQ clues and the map question come from here

Soil	Where	Key features	Crops
Alluvial	Northern plains; Rajasthan–Gujarat corridor; east-coast deltas	Sand, silt, clay; bangar (kankar) and khadar (more fertile); potash, phosphoric acid, lime	Sugarcane, paddy, wheat, pulses
Black (regur)	Deccan trap: Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Malwa, MP, Chhattisgarh; Godavari–Krishna valleys	Lava origin; fine clay; holds moisture; cracks in summer; poor in phosphorus	Cotton
Red and yellow	Eastern and southern Deccan; Odisha, Chhattisgarh; Western Ghats piedmont	Crystalline igneous rocks, low rainfall; red from iron, yellow when hydrated	—
Laterite	Southern states, Western Ghats, Odisha, parts of West Bengal and North-east	Heavy rain, intense leaching; acidic; poor in nutrients; prone to erosion	Tea, coffee, cashew
Arid	Western Rajasthan	Sandy, saline; little humus and moisture; kankar below	After irrigation
Forest / mountain	Himalayas and other hilly areas	Loamy–silty in valleys, coarse on slopes; acidic, low humus in snow areas	—

Key terms

1- and 2-mark answers

Resource – anything usable that is technologically accessible, economically feasible and culturally acceptable

Potential resource – found but not yet used (solar and wind in Rajasthan)

Stock – usable in theory but no technology yet (hydrogen in water)

Reserves – subset of stock, usable with today's technology, kept for the future

Territorial waters – sea up to 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) from the coast

Exclusive Economic Zone – up to 200 nautical miles; beyond it is international

Sustainable development – development that does not harm the needs of future generations

Agenda 21 – Rio (1992) plan to fight environmental damage, poverty and disease

Net sown area – area actually sown in a year, counted once

Gross cropped area – net sown area + area sown more than once

Current fallow – uncultivated for one year or less

Culturable waste land – uncultivated for more than 5 years

Bad land / ravines – land cut by gullies; ravines in the Chambal basin

Shelter belts – rows of trees that break the force of the wind

Bangar / Khadar – old alluvium with kankar / new, finer, more fertile alluvium

Leaching – washing away of soil nutrients by heavy rain

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27

- Types and development of resources; resource planning in India; conservation
- Land resources; land utilisation and land use pattern; land degradation and conservation
- Soil as a resource; classification of soils; soil erosion and conservation
- **Map:** major soil types – locate and label

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

20 / 80

Geography is Section B (Q10–Q19). This chapter gave **two MCQs** in both 2026 papers we read (a soil and a land-use question – Q10 and Q14), and the 2025 paper had a 2-mark question on problems of resource use. Soils are on the map list for Q19. Expect **2–5 marks**.

MOST ASKED IN BOARD PAPERS, 2023–2026 (12 PAPERS CHECKED)

How often	Topic / question type	Marks	Papers
★★★	Soils – identify from clues, features, matching soil with region	1–3	every 2026 paper
★★★	Land use pattern, fallow land, factors deciding land use	1	every 2026 paper
★★☆	Classification of resources (potential, stock, reserves, ownership)	1	2 of 12
★★☆	Problems of indiscriminate resource use; sustainable development	2–4	2 of 12
★☆☆	Land degradation – causes by state and remedies	1–2	2 of 12
★☆☆	Soil erosion and soil conservation methods	3	1 of 12

ANSWER-WRITING RULES FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE (CBSE 2026–27)

2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks
Very short answer · up to 40 words · 2 clear points	Short answer · up to 60 words · 3 points	Case / source based · up to 100 words in all · answer from the source	Long answer · up to 120 words · 5 points, with an intro line

Write in points, underline key words, and give one example or date wherever you can. Read every "OR" choice before you start, and attempt only one.

MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Mixing up **stock** (no technology yet) and **reserves** (technology exists, use not started).
- Saying black soil is rich in phosphorus – it is **poor** in phosphoric content.
- **Khadar** is new and more fertile; **bangar** is old with kankar – students often swap them.
- Current fallow = **1 year or less**; other than current = **1–5 years**; culturable waste = **more than 5 years**.
- Wrong state for each cause of land degradation – learn the three state groups.
- On the map, shading a soil in the wrong region – practise with an outline map.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

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

A

PART A · NCERT PRACTICE

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.

Resources and their types

A1. What is a resource? Name the three conditions a thing must satisfy to become a resource. [2] MUST DO

A2. "Resources are a function of human activities." Explain. [2]

A3. Classify resources on the basis of (i) origin (ii) exhaustibility (iii) ownership (iv) status of development. Give one example of each type. [5] MUST DO

A4. Distinguish between stock and reserves, with one example of each. [3] MUST DO

Development, planning and conservation

A5. What problems have arisen from the indiscriminate use of resources? [3] MUST DO

A6. What is sustainable development? What was the Rio Earth Summit and what is Agenda 21? [3] MUST DO

A7. Explain the three steps of resource planning in India. [3] MUST DO

A8. "Availability of resources alone does not bring development." Explain with examples. [2]

A9. Explain Gandhiji's view on resource conservation. [2]

Land resources

A10. Give the share of plains, mountains and plateaus in India's land area and one use of each. [3] MUST DO

A11. Which physical and human factors decide the land use pattern of a region? [2] MUST DO

A12. Differentiate between current fallow land and other than current fallow land. What is culturable waste land? [3] MUST DO

A13. Which human activities have caused land degradation? Name the states where each is the main cause. [3] MUST DO

A14. Suggest four ways to solve the problem of land degradation. [2]

Soils

A15. Which factors are important in the formation of soil? [2]

A16. Describe the distribution and features of alluvial soil. How does khadar differ from bangar? [3] MUST DO

A17. Describe the formation, distribution and features of black soil. [3] MUST DO

A18. What is soil erosion? Explain gully erosion and sheet erosion. [3]

A19. Suggest methods of soil conservation for (i) hilly areas (ii) desert areas (iii) large flat fields. [3] MUST DO

PART B · SECTION B STYLE

B Objective Practice

All the MCQ types used in the board paper: identify the soil, matching, statements 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

1 mark each

B1. Solar and wind energy in Rajasthan and Gujarat are examples of: [1]

(a) stock
(b) potential resources
(c) reserves
(d) developed resources

B2. Water stored in dams, used for hydroelectricity only to a limited extent, is an example of: [1]

(a) stock
(b) potential resources
(c) international resources
(d) reserves

B3. Using hydrogen from water as a source of energy needs technology we do not yet have. Water here is: [1]

(a) a reserve
(b) a developed resource
(c) a stock
(d) a biotic resource

B4. Match and choose: [1]
(a) Biotic (b) Abiotic (c) Renewable (d) Non-renewable
(i) rocks (ii) wind energy (iii) fisheries (iv) coal

(a) a-iii, b-i, c-ii, d-iv
(b) a-i, b-iii, c-iv, d-ii
(c) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i
(d) a-ii, b-i, c-iii, d-iv

B5. Ocean resources beyond 200 nautical miles from the coast are: [1]

(a) national resources
(b) community resources
(c) individual resources
(d) international resources

B6. Village ponds, burial grounds and public parks are: [1]

(a) community resources
(b) national resources
(c) individual resources
(d) potential resources

B7. Match and choose: [1]
(a) Club of Rome (b) *Small is Beautiful* (c) Brundtland Report (d) Rio Earth Summit
(i) 1987 (ii) 1968 (iii) 1992 (iv) 1974

(a) a-ii, b-iv, c-i, d-iii
(b) a-iv, b-ii, c-i, d-iii
(c) a-ii, b-i, c-iv, d-iii
(d) a-i, b-iv, c-ii, d-iii

B8. A farmer leaves a field unsown for one season so that it regains fertility. The field is: [1]

(a) culturable waste land
(b) current fallow
(c) other than current fallow
(d) barren land

B9. Land left uncultivated for more than five agricultural years is called: [1]

(a) current fallow (b) culturable waste land
(c) barren land (d) permanent pasture

B10. Over-irrigation is the main cause of land degradation in: [1]

(a) Jharkhand and Odisha (b) Gujarat and Rajasthan
(c) Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh (d) Kerala and Tamil Nadu

B11. Which of these states has net sown area of over 80 per cent? [1]

(a) Mizoram (b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Manipur (d) Punjab

B12. Identify the soil: *develops on crystalline igneous rocks in low-rainfall areas; looks yellow when hydrated.* [1]

(a) Laterite (b) Black (c) Arid (d) Red and yellow

B13. Identify the soil: *sandy and saline; lacks humus and moisture; kankar in the lower layers.* [1]

(a) Forest (b) Arid (c) Alluvial (d) Laterite

B14. Identify the soil: *formed by intense leaching under heavy rain; acidic; used for tea and coffee after conservation.* [1]

(a) Laterite (b) Red and yellow (c) Black (d) Alluvial

B15. Which statement about black soil is **not** correct? [1]

(a) It holds moisture well. (b) It develops deep cracks in summer.
(c) It is rich in phosphoric content. (d) It formed from lava flows.

B16. Which statement about alluvial soil is correct? [1]

(a) Bangar is newer and more fertile than khadar.
(b) It is found mainly on the Deccan trap.
(c) It is poor in potash and lime.
(d) Khadar has finer particles and is more fertile.

B17. Ravines formed by gully erosion are found mainly in the: [1]

(a) Chambal basin (b) Kaveri delta (c) Thar desert (d) Western Ghats

B18. Read the statements: [1]
I. Land use data are available for only about 93% of India's area.
II. Parts of Jammu and Kashmir occupied by Pakistan and China have not been surveyed.
Choose the correct option.

(a) Only I is correct (b) Only II is correct
(c) Both I and II are correct (d) Neither I nor II is correct

Assertion–Reason

1 mark each

B19. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Black soil is ideal for growing cotton.

Reason (R): It is made of fine clayey material that holds moisture well.

B20. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Net sown area is over 80 per cent in Punjab and Haryana.

Reason (R): These states have mostly hilly and rocky terrain.

B21. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Shelter belts have helped stabilise sand dunes in western India.

Reason (R): Rows of trees break the force of the wind.

B22. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Resources are free gifts of nature.

Reason (R): Human beings use technology and institutions to turn things in nature into resources.

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN

Board Pattern Practice

Written-answer questions grouped by topic. ★★★ = asked in every 2026 paper or 5+ of 12 papers · ★★ = 2–4 papers · ★ = core NCERT topic.

Soils

★★★ every 2026 paper · 1–3 marks

C1. Compare black soil and laterite soil on three points. MUST DO [3]

C2. "Alluvial soil is the most widespread and important soil of India." Justify the statement. [3]

C3. Give two features each of arid soil and forest soil. MUST DO [2]

C4. Why is red soil red, and when does it look yellow? Name two areas where it is found. [2]

Land use pattern

★★★ every 2026 paper · 1–2 marks

C5. Explain the factors that decide the land use pattern of India. Why does the net sown area vary so much from state to state? MUST DO [3]

C6. Why is the decrease in land under permanent pastures a cause for concern? [2]

C7. Why is the area under forests in India a matter of concern? What does the National Forest Policy recommend? [2]

Resources and their use

★★☆ 2–4 papers · 1–3 marks

C8. Distinguish between: (i) renewable and non-renewable (ii) potential and developed (iii) national and international resources. [3]

C9. "Resources are vital for development, but their irrational use creates problems." Explain the problems and the global efforts to conserve resources. MUST DO [5]

C10. Why is resource planning essential in a country like India? Give examples of the uneven distribution of resources. MUST DO [3]

C11. "There is enough for everybody's need and not for anybody's greed." Explain this view of Gandhiji. [3]

Land degradation and soil conservation

★☆☆ 2 of 12 papers · 1–5 marks

C12. Explain how human activities have led to land degradation in India. Suggest measures to control it. MUST DO [5]

C13. What is soil erosion? Explain its causes and three methods of soil conservation. MUST DO [5]

D

PART D · CASE-BASED STYLE

Case-Based Questions

Each case carries 4 marks (1 + 1 + 2), as in Q18 of the board paper.

D1. Case-Based · A Village Draws Its Map [4]

Students of a village school in Madhya Pradesh walked around their village with the panchayat secretary. They listed the wells, the village pond, the grazing ground, private orchards and the black-soil fields. They marked a hillside where rain washed soil away every year and a patch left unsown for the last three years. The panchayat then matched their list with the district's development plan before deciding where to dig new ponds and plant trees.

(i) Name one community resource and one individual resource from the passage. [1]

(ii) Which step of resource planning did the students carry out? [1]

(iii) Why is it important to match local plans with the overall development plan? Give two reasons. [2]

D2. Case-Based · Scars of the Mine [4]

When an open-cast mine closed in a forested district, it left behind deep pits, heaps of loose waste rock and bare land where the trees had been cut. Dust from a nearby stone-crushing unit settled on the fields, and farmers found that rainwater no longer soaked into the soil. A local group began planting native trees on the waste heaps and asked the factory to cover its crushers.

(i) Name two states where mining is the main cause of land degradation. [1]

(ii) How does dust from mineral processing harm the land? [1]

(iii) Suggest two more measures to restore such degraded land. [2]

D3. Case-Based · The Hill Farm [4]

On a steep hillside farm, the soil was washed down every monsoon and deep channels had appeared in the lower field. The farmer cut steps into the slope, began ploughing across the slope instead of up and down, and planted a row of trees on the windy edge of the farm.

(i) What name is given to land cut by deep channels of running water? [1]

(ii) Why was ploughing up and down the slope harmful? [1]

(iii) Name the three conservation methods the farmer used and explain how any one of them helps. [2]

D4. Case-Based · Cotton Country [4]

A farmer in the Malwa plateau ploughs his dark, sticky field right after the first shower of the monsoon. In May the same field has deep cracks. His cotton grows well without much watering, but the agriculture officer advises him to add one particular fertiliser every year.

(i) Identify the soil. [1]

(ii) Why does the farmer plough right after the first shower? [1]

(iii) Give two reasons why cotton grows well here, and name the nutrient the soil lacks. [2]

D5. Case-Based · Two Districts [4]

In a district of Punjab, more than four-fifths of the land is sown every year, and much of it twice. In a hill district of Mizoram, less than one-tenth is sown; most land is under forest, and some fields are left unsown for a year or more before being used again.

(i) Which land-use category is compared here? [1]

(ii) What is land left unsown for one year or less called? [1]

(iii) Give two reasons for the difference between the districts. [2]

E

PART E · MAP SKILL

Map Work: Soils of India

Major soil types – the only map item from this chapter on the CBSE list. Q19 asks any three of four items (3 marks).

WHAT THE BOARD ASKS

Q19 (3 marks) gives four items from the Geography map list and you **locate and label any three**. A soil item may ask you to shade or identify a soil region. In 2026 Q19 asked dams, a nuclear plant, a software park and a port, so be ready for every chapter's items. Shade lightly, write the name on the map and add a key.

Locate and label	What to remember
☐ Alluvial soil	Most widespread; sugarcane, paddy, wheat
☐ Black soil	Cotton; Deccan trap lava
☐ Red and yellow soil	Crystalline rocks, low rain
☐ Laterite soil	Leached; tea, coffee, cashew
☐ Arid soil	Sandy, saline
☐ Mountain / forest soil	Acidic on snowy slopes

Practice drill – use one fresh outline map of India for each round

1. Round 1: shade all six soil types in different colours and make a key.
2. Round 2: black soil in Maharashtra, laterite in Kerala, arid soil in western Rajasthan.
3. Round 3: alluvial soil in Uttar Pradesh, red soil in Odisha, mountain soil in Himachal. Then ask a friend to mark A, B, C for you to identify.

F

PART F · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

Board PYQ Index

Real questions from recent Social Science board papers, by topic. Open the official paper and attempt the listed questions.

Frequency	Topic	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★★	**Soils – identify, features, match with region**	1–3	**2026:** 32/1/1 Q10 (laterite); 32/5/1 Q10 (black soil); 32/1/3 Q15; 32/4/2 Q15; 32/5/2 Q15; 32/5/3 Q14 · **2025:** 32/1/3 Q22; 32/3/1 Q23 · **2024:** 32/1/1 Q7 · **2023:** 32/4/1 Q7; Outside Delhi Set 1 Q7	A15–A17, B12–B16, B19, C1–C4, D4, map work
★★★	**Land use pattern, fallow land**	1	**2026:** 32/1/1 Q14 (land use); 32/5/1 Q14 (current fallow); 32/1/3 Q13 (factors); 32/4/2 Q11; 32/5/2 Q11; 32/5/3 Q10	A10–A12, B8–B9, B11, B18, B20, C5–C7, D5
★★☆	**Problems of resource use; sustainable development**	2–4	**2025:** 32/1/1 Q22 (global ecological problems) · **2024:** 32/5/1 Q35 (case – sustainable development, Agenda 21, Rio)	A5–A6, B7, C9
★★☆	**Classification of resources**	1	**2026:** 32/4/2 Q12 · **2023:** 32/4/1 Q6 (matching)	A1–A4, B1–B6, C8
★☆☆	**Land degradation and remedies**	1–2	**2026:** 32/5/2 Q18(i) (inside a water case) · **2025:** 32/2/3 Q22	A13–A14, B10, C12, D2
★☆☆	**Soil erosion and conservation**	3	**2025:** 32/2/3 Q26 (story-based – keeping soil fertile)	A18–A19, B17, B21, C13, D3
★☆☆	**Resource planning, Gandhiji**	4	**2024:** official set† Q36 (case – resource planning, Gandhiji)	A7–A9, C10–C11, D1

Papers checked (12 code families): 2026 – 32/1/1, 32/1/3, 32/4/2, 32/5/1, 32/5/2, 32/5/3 · 2025 – 32/1/1, 32/1/3, 32/2/1, 32/2/3, 32/3/1 · 2024 – 32/1/1, 32/5/1, official set†, Outside Delhi Sets 1–2 · 2023 – 32/4/1, 32/4/2, 32/4/3, Outside Delhi Sets 1–3. † Code not printed on the copy we used. **Sample Paper 2026–27:** Q10 (potential resource), Q11 (matching resource concepts).

PART G · YOUR RECORD

G My Mistakes

Write down each mistake from this chapter, including the Sunday Chapter Test.

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 ✓