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

POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 1

MODEL ANSWERS

The End of Bipolarity

Board-Style Answer Booklet · Answers as CBSE expects them

CBSE marking-scheme pattern | Word count on every answer | 54 model answers | Most-probable 2027 answers marked

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

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HOW TO USE IT

1. Write your own answer first, in the practice notebook.
2. Then open this booklet. Tick each numbered point you also wrote.
3. Give yourself 1 mark per matching point – that is how the examiner marks.
4. Copy any point you missed into My Mistakes (last page of the Chapter Booklet).
5. Rewrite the answer after 3 days, from memory.

USE WITH **Chapter Booklet, Political Science Ch 1**

M

READ THIS FIRST · BASED ON THE CBSE SAMPLE PAPER AND MARKING SCHEME 2026–27

How CBSE Marks Political Science

Every answer in this booklet follows the official marking-scheme pattern: numbered value points, keyword first, inside the word limit. Under each answer you will see its word count and how the marks are split.

The Political Science paper in 2027 (as in Sample Paper 2026–27)

Paper 028 · 80 marks · 30 questions · 3 hours

Item	Type	Marks	Words	What earns the marks
Q1–Q12	MCQs: statements, matching, chronology, assertion–reason	1 each	–	Letter + answer
Q13–Q18	Short answer	2 each	50–60	2 points × 1 mark
Q19–Q23	Short answer; two with (A) **or** (B)	4 each	100–120	4 points × 1 mark
Q24–Q26	Picture-, passage- and map-based: four 1-mark parts each	4 each	–	One line per part
Q27–Q30	Long answer, (A) **or** (B)	6 each	170–180	6 points × 1, or 3 + 3

This chapter usually gives a **4-mark** answer (Q19 in Sample Paper 2026–27 and the 2025 papers) and a **2-mark** one; the 2024–25 Sample Paper had a 4-mark choice on disintegration. Shock therapy can come for 6 marks.

How the marking scheme gives marks

SEVEN RULES

- **Marks come from value points.** Each correct, relevant point earns 1 mark: one value point per mark – 2 marks = 2 points, 4 marks = 4 points, 6 marks = 6 points (or 3 + 3). The scheme accepts “any other relevant point”, so a correct NCERT point that is not in our answer also scores.
- **Points are numbered and backed by evidence.** The examiner wants a fact in each point: a site, a find, a writer, a date, a place or an example. Our long answers add one opening and one closing line so the answer reads well; the marks come from the numbered points.
- **Keyword first.** Start each point with the key word and underline it – the examiner scans for it. Then give one fact: a name, a date, a number or an example.
- **MCQs:** write the letter and the answer text. Combination questions are answered like “(b) Only a, b and d”.
- **Case / source-based:** (i) and (ii) need one clear line each; the 2-mark part needs two separate points. Use the passage’s own clues, then add chapter facts.
- **Internal choice:** write “(A)” or “(B)” in the margin and attempt only one. Map questions: attach the map to the answer book.
- **Do not repeat** one idea in two points – it earns one mark only.

Answer frames – copy this shape

2-mark answer — 50–60 words

1. Keyword: point + fact.
2. Keyword: second point + fact.

Two clear points, no introduction.

4-mark answer — 100–120 words

1–4 Four numbered points, keyword first, each with a year, a country or a leader.

Analyse / justify questions need a reason in each point.

6-mark answer 170–180 words

→ Opening line that answers the question in short.
1–6 Six numbered points, keyword first, each with a fact, a year, a leader or an example.
→ Closing line: "Thus / Hence …".

If the question has two parts, answer under two sub-headings.

Passage / picture / map 4 × 1 · Q24–Q26

(i)–(iv) One clear line for each part, using the clue in the source.
Map Write the name next to the letter or dot, as asked.

Never copy the whole passage.

Short of time? Learn these ten first

Most probable for 2027

C1	Analyse four reasons that led Gorbachev to start reforms in …	[4]	C2	Explain four reasons for the economic stagnation of the …	[4]
C3	Analyse the impact of the 1991 coup attempt by Communist …	[2]	C5	Explain any three effects of shock therapy on the former …	[6]
C7	Explain four consequences of the break-up of the Soviet Union.	[4]	D1	Case: Passage – December 1991	[4]
D2	Case: Picture – the garage sale (described)	[4]			

A

ANSWERS · PART A

Textbook Check – Answers

Model answers to every Textbook Check question. Underlined words are the keywords the examiner looks for.

The Soviet system

A1. What was the Berlin Wall a symbol of? What happened to it in 1989? [2]

1. **Symbol:** built in 1961, it divided communist East Berlin from capitalist West Berlin – the symbol of the Cold War divide.
2. **1989:** people broke it down on 9 November 1989; Germany was unified in 1990, starting the end of bipolarity.

39 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A2. Give four features of the Soviet system that made the USSR a superpower. [4]

1. **Developed economy:** more developed than any country except the USA; vast energy resources, steel and machinery.
2. **Transport and industry:** a network linking remote areas and a consumer industry making everything from pins to cars.
3. **Welfare:** a minimum standard of living, subsidised health, education and childcare, and no unemployment.
4. **Military and bloc:** an arsenal matching the USA and control over the East European 'Second World' through the Warsaw Pact.

68 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | MUST DO

A3. Explain any four weaknesses of the Soviet political and economic system. [4]

1. **No freedom:** a bureaucratic, authoritarian state with no democracy or freedom of speech.
2. **One-party control:** the Communist Party controlled everything and was not accountable to the people.
3. **Russian dominance:** other republics felt neglected and suppressed.
4. **Stagnation:** huge spending on arms, falling productivity and technology, and shortages of consumer goods and food.

51 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | MUST DO

Gorbachev and the break-up

A4. Why did Gorbachev start his reforms? Name the two policies. [2]

1. **Why:** to end economic stagnation and keep the USSR level with the West's information and technological revolution.
2. **Policies:** perestroika (restructuring the economy) and glasnost (openness in politics).

27 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A5. Describe the events of 1991 that led to the end of the Soviet Union. [4]

1. **Coup:** in August 1991 Communist Party hardliners attempted a coup, which failed as people resisted.
2. **Yeltsin:** Boris Yeltsin, elected President of Russia, led the resistance and became a national hero.
3. **Republics break away:** power moved from the centre to the republics, many of which declared sovereignty.
4. **December 1991:** Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared the USSR disbanded and formed the CIS; Gorbachev resigned on 25 December.

65 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | MUST DO

A6. Why is Russia called the 'successor state' of the Soviet Union? [2]

1. **UN seat:** Russia took over the Soviet Union's permanent seat in the UN Security Council.
2. **Treaties:** it accepted all the international treaties and commitments of the USSR.

27 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A7. "The disintegration of the Soviet Union was the result of many causes." Explain six of them. [6]

The Soviet Union collapsed from within.

1. **Weak institutions:** political and economic institutions failed to meet people's aspirations.
2. **Economic stagnation:** years of stagnation caused severe shortages of consumer goods.
3. **Wasted resources:** huge spending on nuclear and military arms and on satellite states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
4. **Awareness of the West:** people learnt how far the West had advanced and questioned their own system.
5. **Political stagnation:** an unaccountable party, corruption, centralisation and privileges for bureaucrats alienated people.
6. **Reforms and nationalism:** Gorbachev's reforms raised expectations, and nationalism in Russia, the Baltics, Ukraine and Georgia was the final, immediate cause.

Thus internal weakness, failed reforms and nationalism together ended the USSR.

109 words · limit 180 | Marking: 6 points × 1 = 6 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

After 1991

A8. Give four consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union for world politics. [4]

1. **End of the Cold War:** the ideological contest and the arms race ended.
2. **Unipolar world:** the USA became the sole superpower.
3. **Capitalism dominant:** the World Bank and IMF became powerful advisers to many countries.
4. **New states:** 15 new countries emerged; the Baltic and East European states joined the EU and NATO.

51 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | MUST DO

A9. What was shock therapy? Give its main features. [4]

1. **Meaning:** the sudden shift of former Soviet-bloc countries from authoritarian socialism to democratic capitalism, guided by the World Bank and IMF.
2. **Privatisation:** private ownership of state assets became the main pattern; collective farms became private farms.
3. **Open economy:** free trade, foreign direct investment and currency convertibility.
4. **Broken links:** old Soviet-bloc trade alliances were broken; each country was linked directly to the West.

62 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | MUST DO

A10. Was shock therapy the best way to move from socialism to capitalism? Give your view with reasons. [6]

No – shock therapy caused more harm than good.

1. **Too fast:** it was imposed suddenly, without building the institutions a market economy needs.
2. **Industry sold cheap:** about 90% of Russian industries were sold at throwaway prices – the 'largest garage sale in history'.
3. **Savings lost:** the rouble crashed and inflation wiped out people's savings.
4. **Poverty and inequality:** subsidies ended, collective farms broke up, food had to be imported and the rich–poor gap widened.
5. **Weak democracy:** constitutions were drafted in a hurry; strong presidents and weak parliaments emerged.
6. **A better path:** a gradual change, keeping social security and building institutions first, would have caused less suffering.

So a slower, planned transition would have been wiser.

113 words · limit 180 | Marking: 6 points × 1 = 6 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark

A11. Give examples of conflicts that broke out in the former Soviet republics and the Balkans after 1991. [4]

1. **Chechnya and Dagestan:** violent secessionist movements in Russia, met with military bombing.
2. **Yugoslavia:** Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia–Herzegovina broke away; ethnic killings; NATO bombing in 1999.
3. **Tajikistan:** a civil war lasting about ten years, till 2001.
4. **Azerbaijan and Georgia:** Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenians want to join Armenia; two Georgian provinces demanded independence.

50 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4

A12. Explain how India and Russia benefit from their relationship. [4]

1. **India – security:** Russian support on Kashmir and shared information on terrorism.
2. **India – energy and access:** oil and gas supplies and access to Central Asia; balancing ties with China.
3. **Russia – arms market:** India is Russia's second-largest arms market.
4. **Both – science:** cooperation in nuclear energy, space (cryogenic rocket) and research; a shared vision of a multipolar world.

55 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | MUST DO

ANSWER KEY · PART B

B Objective – Answer Key

All 20 MCQ and assertion–reason answers, each with a one-line reason so you learn the fact, not only the letter.

Write the option letter **and** the answer, as the marking scheme does – e.g. "(b) ..." followed by the answer text.

Q	Answer	Why (one line)
B1	**(b) 1961**	Built 1961; broken down 9 November 1989.
B2	**(a) Russia, Ukraine and Belarus**	Led by Boris Yeltsin.
B3	**(d) I, III and IV**	The USSR was a one-party state.
B4	**(b) openness**	Perestroika = restructuring; glasnost = openness.
B5	**(c) Boris Yeltsin**	Yeltsin, elected President of the Russian Republic in June 1991.
B6	**(a) III, II, I, IV**	1985 → Nov 1989 → Mar 1990 → Dec 1991.
B7	**(c) Strengthening of collective farms**	Collective farms were replaced by private farming.
B8	**(b) the sale of Russian industries at throwaway prices**	About 90% of industries were sold.
B9	**(c) a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii**	Chechnya–Russia; Karabakh–Azerbaijan.
B10	**(b) the successor state of the USSR**	Russia inherited the Soviet seat and treaties.
B11	**(c) Baltic**	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.
B12	**(b) Bhilai**	Also Bokaro and Visakhapatnam.
B13	**(c) 2001**	Over 80 bilateral agreements.
B14	**(a) 1979**	It further weakened the Soviet system.
B15	**(d) a multipolar world**	Several powers, collective security, a democratised UN.
B16	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	Both sides turned against him.
B17	**(d) A is false, but R is true.**	A is false – they wanted to stay in the federation; R is true.
B18	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R explains A.
B19	**(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**	Both true but unrelated; the bases came after 9/11.
B20	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	Military spending starved the consumer economy.

C

ANSWERS · PART C

Board Pattern – Answers

Model answers in the marking-scheme pattern. Orange tags show where a similar question came in a board or sample paper.

Reforms and the causes of disintegration

★★★ 4 of 6 papers · 2 and 4 marks

C1. Analyse four reasons that led Gorbachev to start reforms in the Soviet Union. [4]

1. **Stagnation:** the economy had stagnated since the late 1970s; productivity and technology lagged behind the West.
2. **Shortages:** people faced shortages of consumer goods and food imports rose every year.
3. **Technology gap:** the USSR had to keep pace with the West's information and technological revolution.
4. **Relations and freedom:** to normalise relations with the West and democratise an unaccountable, authoritarian system.

59 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | SQP 2026–27 Q19 | MUST DO

C2. Explain four reasons for the economic stagnation of the Soviet Union. [4]

1. **Arms race:** huge resources went into nuclear and military arms.
2. **Satellite states:** money was spent supporting Eastern Europe and the Central Asian republics.
3. **Low productivity:** wages rose but productivity and technology fell behind the West.
4. **Rigid control:** a centralised, bureaucratic economy without incentives could not correct its mistakes.

48 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | Board 2025 (59/1/1) Q19 | MUST DO

C3. Analyse the impact of the 1991 coup attempt by Communist hardliners on the Soviet Union. [2]

1. **Resistance:** people who had tasted freedom resisted; Yeltsin became a national hero.
2. **Collapse:** power shifted to the republics, and in December 1991 the USSR was disbanded.

26 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | SQP 2026–27 Q14 | MUST DO

C4. "Nationalism and the desire for sovereignty were the most immediate cause of the break-up of the USSR." Justify. [4]

1. **Republics assert:** Russia, the Baltic republics, Ukraine and Georgia demanded sovereignty.
2. **Baltic lead:** Lithuania declared independence in March 1990, followed by others.
3. **Russia itself:** the Russian parliament declared sovereignty and Yeltsin's Russia shook off central control.
4. **Final act:** Russia, Ukraine and Belarus disbanded the USSR in December 1991.

48 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | SQP 2024–25 Q21(A)

Shock therapy

★★★ 3 of 6 papers · 1, 2 and 6 marks

C5. Explain any three effects of shock therapy on the former Soviet republics. [6]

Shock therapy brought ruin to the economies and hardship to the people.

1. **Industrial collapse:** about 90% of Russian industries were sold to private owners at throwaway prices.
2. **Inflation:** the rouble crashed and inflation destroyed people's savings.
3. **Food insecurity:** collective farms broke up and Russia began importing food; GDP in 1999 was below 1989.
4. **Poverty:** welfare systems and subsidies were withdrawn, pushing many into poverty; scholars migrated.
5. **Inequality and mafia:** a new rich class and the mafia controlled economic activity; the rich–poor gap widened.
6. **Weak democracy:** hurried constitutions; strong presidents and weak parliaments; authoritarian rulers in Central Asia.

Recovery came only after 2000 with oil and gas exports.

108 words · limit 180 | Marking: 6 points × 1 = 6 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | Board 59/1/1 Q27(b) | MUST DO

C6. "Shock therapy was not the best way to move from communism to capitalism." Give two arguments. [2]

1. **Sudden and total:** it rooted out all Soviet structures at once without building new institutions.
2. **Human cost:** it caused inflation, loss of savings, poverty and inequality.

26 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | Board 2025 (59/1/1) Q13

Consequences and conflicts

★★☆ 2 of 6 papers · 4 marks

C7. Explain four consequences of the break-up of the Soviet Union. [4]

1. **Cold War ends:** the ideological contest and the arms race came to an end.
2. **US dominance:** the USA became the sole superpower in a unipolar world.
3. **Capitalism:** capitalism became dominant; the World Bank and IMF advised many countries.
4. **New states:** 15 countries emerged; the Baltic states joined the EU and NATO; Central Asia kept ties with Russia, the West and China.

61 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | Board 2025 (59/1/3) Q19 | MUST DO

C8. "Many former Soviet republics are prone to tensions and conflicts." Explain with examples. [4]

1. **Secession in Russia:** Chechnya and Dagestan saw violent separatist movements.
2. **Civil war:** Tajikistan suffered a civil war until 2001.
3. **Ethnic claims:** Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan; two provinces in Georgia.
4. **Great-power rivalry:** Central Asia's oil and gas drew outside powers; the USA set up bases after 9/11.

45 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | SQP 2024–25 Q21(B)

The Soviet system and India

★☆☆ 1 of 6 papers · 4 and 6 marks

C9. Describe four conditions that made the Soviet Union a superpower after the Second World War. [4]

1. **Economy:** a developed economy with energy resources, steel, machinery and transport.
2. **Bloc:** control over the East European Second World through the Warsaw Pact.
3. **Military:** an arsenal that matched the USA.
4. **Welfare:** a guaranteed minimum standard of living and no unemployment.

40 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | Board 2025 (59/1/2) Q19

C10. Explain the relations between India and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and between India and Russia after it. [6]

India's relationship with the USSR, and later Russia, has been one of its closest.

1. **Economic help:** Bhilai, Bokaro and Visakhapatnam steel plants, BHEL; trade in Indian currency.
2. **Political support:** on Kashmir in the UN and in the 1971 war; the 1971 friendship treaty.
3. **Military:** most Indian hardware from the USSR, with joint production.
4. **Culture:** Hindi films and Indian culture were popular there.
5. **After 1991:** a shared vision of a multipolar world; the 2001 Strategic Agreement with over 80 agreements.
6. **Mutual gains:** energy, Central Asia and Kashmir for India; India as Russia's second-largest arms buyer.

Thus the friendship has continued even after the Soviet Union ended.

105 words · limit 180 | Marking: 6 points × 1 = 6 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark

D

ANSWERS · PART D

Case-Based – Answers

One line each for the 1-mark parts; separate points for the 2-mark parts. The whole answer stays within the word limit.

D1. Case-Based · Passage – December 1991 (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Name the three republics that signed the paper. [1]
Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

(ii) Name the 'looser commonwealth'. [1]
The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

(iii) Who was the leader who resigned? [1]
Mikhail Gorbachev (25 December 1991).

(iv) Which country took the union's seat in the UN Security Council? [1]
Russia, as the successor state.

20 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4 | SQP pattern: passage, four 1-mark parts

D2. **Case-Based · Picture – the garage sale (described)** (printed in the booklet) **[4]**

(i) **Which country does the bear stand for?** [1]
Russia.

(ii) **Which policy does the cartoon show?** [1]
Shock therapy – privatisation of state assets.

(iii) **What does the 'tiny price tag' suggest?** [1]
Industries were sold at throwaway prices – the 'largest garage sale in history'.

(iv) **What does the bread queue show?** [1]
Poverty and food shortages after subsidies ended.

26 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4

D3. **Case-Based · Map clues – the new states** (printed in the booklet) **[4]**

(i) **Identify A.** [1]
Lithuania.

(ii) **Identify B.** [1]
Russia.

(iii) **Identify C.** [1]
Tajikistan.

(iv) **Identify D.** [1]
Azerbaijan.

4 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4 | Map items carry 1 mark each