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

HISTORY · CHAPTER 5

Print Culture and the Modern World

594
1448
1878

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only

18 note blocks + timeline | 24 keyword cards + link chain | 87 practice questions | 2024–2026 board question index | Model Answer Booklet

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

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STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

CHAPTER TEST SCORE _____ / 20

READ THIS FIRST

1 Chapter Notes

The whole chapter in short-note form: every event, person, book and idea, with the pictures described in words. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 Print begins in China

- The earliest printing was done in **China, Japan and Korea** – by hand, not by machine.
- From **AD 594** Chinese books were printed by rubbing paper on the inked surface of a carved **woodblock**. The thin, porous paper could take ink on one side only, so the sheets were folded and stitched at the side – the **accordion book**.
- Skilled craftsmen could copy the beauty of **calligraphy** (artistic handwriting) very accurately.
- For a long time the **imperial state** was the biggest printer. China's huge bureaucracy was recruited through **civil service examinations**, and the state printed textbooks for them in vast numbers. From the 16th century more candidates sat the exams, so more was printed.
- **17th century – uses of print spread** as town life grew: **merchants** used print for trade information; reading became a **leisure activity** (fiction, poetry, autobiographies, romantic plays); **rich women** read, and some published poetry and plays; wives of scholar-officials and even courtesans wrote about their lives.
- **Late 19th century:** Western powers set up outposts and brought **mechanical presses**. **Shanghai** became the centre of the new print culture, serving Western-style schools. Hand printing slowly gave way to machine printing.

2 Print in Japan and Korea

- **Buddhist missionaries** from China brought hand-printing to **Japan around AD 768–770**.
- The oldest Japanese printed book is the Buddhist **Diamond Sutra (AD 868)** – six sheets of text with woodcut pictures.
- Pictures were printed on **textiles, playing cards and paper money**. In medieval Japan poets and prose writers were regularly printed; books were **cheap and plentiful**.
- **Edo (later Tokyo), late 18th century:** illustrated collections showed elegant town life – artists, courtesans, tea-house gatherings. Libraries and bookshops were full of hand-printed books on women, music, arithmetic, the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, manners, cooking and famous places.
- **Kitagawa Utamaro** (born Edo, 1753) was famous for **ukiyo** – "pictures of the floating world", i.e. ordinary, mostly urban life. His prints reached Europe and the USA and influenced **Manet, Monet and Van Gogh**. A publisher such as **Tsutaya Juzaburo** chose the subject; the artist drew an outline; a carver pasted it on a woodblock and cut it – so the **original drawing was destroyed** and only the prints survived.
- **Korea** has a long woodblock tradition. The **Tripitaka Koreana**, a set of Buddhist scriptures, was carved on about **80,000 woodblocks** in the 13th century (UNESCO Memory of the World Register, 2007).
- **Jikji (1377)** – a Korean book on Zen Buddhism, among the world's **oldest surviving books printed with movable metal type**. It names about 150 monks of India, China and Korea. Its second volume is in the **National Library of France, Paris**; it joined the UNESCO register in **2001**.

3 Print comes to Europe

- Silk and spices came from China to Europe along the **silk route**; in the **11th century Chinese paper** came the same way. Paper allowed **manuscripts** to be written by scribes.
- **1295:** the explorer **Marco Polo** returned to Italy after years in China and brought the knowledge of **woodblock printing**. Italians began printing with woodblocks; the method spread across Europe.
- Luxury books were still hand-written on costly **vellum** for aristocrats and rich monastery libraries, who looked down on printed books as cheap and vulgar. **Merchants and university students** bought the cheaper printed copies.

- Demand kept rising: books were exported, **book fairs** were held, and booksellers (not only rich patrons) now employed scribes – often **more than 50 scribes** worked for one bookseller.
- **Why manuscripts could not meet demand:** copying was **expensive, laborious and slow**; manuscripts were **fragile**, awkward to handle and hard to carry or read – so they circulated only a little.
- By the early 15th century woodblocks printed **textiles, playing cards and religious pictures** with short texts. Europe needed a still quicker, cheaper way to copy texts → a **new technology**.

Vellum: parchment made from animal skin. **Calligraphy:** the art of beautiful, stylised writing.

4 Gutenberg and the printing press

- **Johann Gutenberg**, a merchant's son, grew up on a large farm estate where he saw **wine and olive presses**. He learnt to polish stones, became a **master goldsmith** and learnt to make **lead moulds** for trinkets.
- He used this knowledge: the **olive press** became the model for the printing press, and **moulds** were used to cast **metal types** for the letters of the alphabet. He worked at **Strasbourg** (1430s) and perfected the system by **1448**.
- His first book was the **Bible** – about **180 copies in three years**, which was fast for that time.
- Early printed books **looked like manuscripts**: metal letters copied ornamental handwriting, borders were decorated by hand and pictures painted; for rich buyers, space was left blank so each could choose the decoration.
- **1450–1550:** presses were set up in most European countries; German printers travelled to start new presses. About **20 million** books were printed in the second half of the 15th century and about **200 million** in the 16th century.
- This shift from **hand printing to mechanical printing** is called the **print revolution**.

Platen: the board pressed on the back of the paper to take the impression from the type (first wood, later steel). **Compositor:** the person who sets the text. **Galley:** the metal frame in which types are arranged.

5 The print revolution: a new reading public

The print revolution was more than a new way of making books – it changed people's **relationship with information, knowledge, institutions and authority**.

- Printing **cut the cost** of books and the time and labour per copy; many copies could be made easily, so books reached an ever-growing readership.
- Earlier, reading was for the **elite**; ordinary people lived in an **oral culture** – they **heard** sacred texts, ballads and folk tales together. Now a **reading public** replaced the **hearing public**.
- But **literacy was low** in most of Europe till the 20th century. So printers published popular **ballads and folk tales with many pictures**; these were sung and recited in village gatherings and town **taverns**.
- Result: oral culture entered print and printed matter was passed on orally – the line between **oral and reading cultures blurred**; the hearing and reading publics **mixed**.

Ballad: a folk tale or historical story in verse, sung or recited. **Tavern:** a place where people met to drink, eat and exchange news.

6 Religious debates and the fear of print

- Print allowed **wide circulation of ideas** and a new world of **debate**. Even those who disagreed with authority could print their views and persuade people to act.
- **Fear of print:** religious authorities, monarchs and many writers worried that without control, **rebellious and irreligious ideas** would spread and the authority of "valuable" literature would be destroyed.
- **Erasmus** – a Latin scholar and **Catholic reformer** who criticised Church excesses but **kept away from Luther** – wrote in *Adages* (1508) that swarms of new books were creating a **glut**; printers filled the world with foolish, scandalous, irreligious and **seditious** books, so that even valuable books lost their value.
- **Martin Luther** wrote the **Ninety-Five Theses (1517)** criticising practices of the Roman Catholic Church; a printed copy was fixed on a church door in **Wittenberg**, challenging the Church to debate. His writings were printed in vast numbers → a split in the Church and the start of the **Protestant Reformation**.

- Luther's **New Testament** translation sold **5,000 copies in a few weeks**; a second edition came within three months. He called printing God's **ultimate and greatest gift**. Many scholars say print created the new intellectual climate that spread Reformation ideas.

> **Protestant Reformation:** 16th-century movement to reform the Catholic Church dominated by Rome; Luther was a leading reformer. **Seditious:** speech or writing seen as opposing the government.

7 Print and dissent: Menocchio and the Index

- Cheap religious books led even **little-educated working people** to form their own interpretations of faith.
- **Menocchio**, a 16th-century **miller in Italy**, read books available locally, re-interpreted the Bible and formed his own view of **God and Creation**, which angered the Roman Catholic Church.
- During the **Inquisition** against heretical ideas he was hauled up **twice** and finally **executed**.
- Worried by such questioning of faith, the Church put **severe controls on publishers and booksellers** and kept an **Index of Prohibited Books from 1558**.

> **Inquisition:** a former Roman Catholic court to identify and punish heretics. **Heretical:** beliefs that do not follow the accepted teachings of the Church; heresy was seen as a threat to the Church's right to decide what people should believe.

8 The reading mania (17th–18th centuries)

- Literacy rose: **churches** of different denominations opened **village schools** for peasants and artisans. By the end of the 18th century, literacy in parts of Europe reached **60–80 per cent** → a **reading mania**.
- **Pedlars** carried little books to villages: **almanacs** (ritual calendars), ballads and folk tales, and books for entertainment.
- **England: penny chapbooks** sold by pedlars called **chapmen** – cheap enough for the poor. **France:** the **Bibliothèque Bleue** – low-priced small books on poor paper with cheap **blue covers**. Also **romances** (4–6 pages) and longer "**histories**".
- **Periodical press** (from the early 18th century) mixed **current affairs with entertainment** – news of wars, trade and other places.
- **Science and philosophy** reached ordinary people: old scientific texts, maps and diagrams were printed; **Isaac Newton** could reach a wide readership; **Thomas Paine, Voltaire and Jean Jacques Rousseau** were widely read, so ideas of **science, reason and rationality** entered popular literature.

> **Chapbook:** pocket-size book sold by travelling pedlars (chapmen). **Almanac:** a yearly book of the movements of sun and moon, tides, eclipses and other information for everyday life. **Denominations:** sub-groups within a religion.

9 "Tremble, tyrants!" – print and enlightenment

- By the mid-18th century many believed that **books spread progress and enlightenment**; they could free society from **despotism and tyranny** and bring a time when **reason and intellect** would rule.
- **Louise-Sébastien Mercier**, an 18th-century French novelist, said the printing press was the **most powerful engine of progress**, and **public opinion** the force that would sweep despotism away.
- In his novels the **heroes are transformed by reading** – they devour books, get lost in their world and become enlightened.
- Sure of print's power, he warned the tyrants of the world to **tremble before the "virtual writer"**.

> **Despotism:** government in which one person has absolute power, not checked by law or a constitution.

10 Print culture and the French Revolution (1789)

Many historians argue that **print created the conditions** for the French Revolution. Three arguments:

1. **Enlightenment ideas popularised:** thinkers criticised tradition, superstition and despotism; they wanted the **rule of reason**, not custom, and attacked the **sacred authority of the Church** and the **despotic power of the state**. Readers of **Voltaire and Rousseau** began to see the world with questioning, critical, rational eyes.
2. **A culture of dialogue and debate:** a public aware of the power of reason re-examined all values, norms and institutions; new ideas of social revolution grew.
3. **Literature mocking royalty:** by the 1780s books, **cartoons and caricatures** showed the monarchy lost in pleasure while ordinary people suffered. Circulating **underground**, they built **hostility against the monarchy**.

THE BALANCED VIEW (OFTEN ASKED)

People also read **royal and Church propaganda**; they accepted some ideas and rejected others. Print did **not directly shape their minds**, but it **opened up the possibility of thinking differently**.

Picture described: an 18th-century French cartoon shows ordinary peasants, artisans and workers living hard lives while the nobility enjoys itself and oppresses them – such cartoons spread hostile feeling against the monarchy.

11 19th-century Europe: children, women and workers

Mass literacy brought **new readers – children, women and workers**.

- **Children:** primary education became **compulsory** from the late 19th century, so **school textbooks** became vital. A **children's press** was set up in **France in 1857**, printing new works and old fairy and folk tales.
- The **Grimm Brothers** (Germany) collected peasants' folk tales for years and published them in **1812** after **editing out** anything unsuitable for children or vulgar to the elite – so **print recorded old tales but also changed them**.
- **Women** became important readers and writers: **penny magazines** and manuals on behaviour and housekeeping were made for them. Women novelists – **Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters, George Eliot** – shaped a new idea of woman: one with **will, strong personality, determination and the power to think**.
- **Workers: lending libraries** (from the 17th century) became, in 19th-century England, a means to educate **white-collar workers, artisans and the lower-middle class**. As the **working day was shortened** from the mid-19th century, workers wrote **political tracts and autobiographies**.
- **Thomas Wood**, a Yorkshire mechanic, rented old newspapers and read them by **firelight**, as he could not afford candles.

12 Further innovations in printing

- By the late 18th century the press was made of **metal**.
- **Mid-19th century: Richard M. Hoe** of New York perfected the **power-driven cylindrical press – 8,000 sheets per hour**; ideal for **newspapers**.
- **Late 19th century:** the **offset press** – up to **six colours** at a time. **From 1900: electrically operated** presses.
- Better paper feeding, better plates, **automatic paper reels** and **photoelectric control** of the colour register changed how printed pages looked.
- **New ways to sell:** periodicals **serialised novels** (a new way of writing novels); 1920s England – cheap **Shilling Series**; the **dust cover / book jacket** (20th century); during the **Great Depression (1930s)** publishers brought out cheap **paperback editions** to keep sales going.

13 India: manuscripts, then the press

- India had a rich tradition of **handwritten manuscripts** in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and many vernaculars, on **palm leaves or handmade paper**, sometimes beautifully illustrated, pressed between wooden covers or sewn. They were made till the late 19th century.
- But they were **expensive and fragile**, written in different scripts and styles, so **not used in everyday life**. In pre-colonial Bengal's village schools teachers dictated from memory and students only **wrote** – many became literate without reading texts.

- *Pictures described:* an 18th-century palm-leaf manuscript of Jayadeva's **Gita Govinda** folded like an accordion; an illustrated manuscript of the **Diwan of Hafiz** (14th-century Persian poet) with fine calligraphy.
- **Mid-16th century:** the first press came to **Goa** with **Portuguese missionaries**. Jesuit priests learnt **Konkani**; by **1674** about 50 books were printed in Konkani and Kanara.
- Catholic priests printed the first **Tamil** book in **1579 at Cochin** and the first **Malayalam** book in **1713**. By **1710** Dutch Protestant missionaries had printed 32 Tamil texts.
- The East India Company imported presses from the late 17th century, but the **English press grew late**.
- **1780: James Augustus Hickey** began the weekly **Bengal Gazette** – "open to all, influenced by none": **private English enterprise**, proud of its independence. It carried advertisements (even of slave sales) and **gossip about senior Company officials**. Governor-General **Warren Hastings** persecuted Hickey and encouraged **officially sanctioned newspapers** to protect the government's image.
- The first Indian newspaper was the weekly **Bengal Gazette** of **Gangadhar Bhattacharya**, a close associate of Rammohun Roy.

14 Religious reform and public debates

- From the early 19th century there were intense debates on religion. Reformers attacked practices such as **widow immolation, idolatry and Brahmanical priesthood** and argued for **monotheism**; the **Hindu orthodoxy** argued back. Debates were held **in public and in print**; ideas were printed in the **everyday spoken language** to reach more people.
- **Rammohun Roy** published **Sambad Kaumudi** (from **1821**); the orthodoxy started **Samachar Chandrika** to oppose him. **1822:** Persian papers **Jam-i-Jahan Nama** and **Shamsul Akhbar**, and the Gujarati **Bombay Samachar**.
- **North India – the ulama** feared that with Muslim dynasties gone, colonial rulers would encourage **conversion** and change **Muslim personal laws**. They used **cheap lithographic presses** for Persian and Urdu translations of scriptures, religious newspapers and tracts. The **Deoband Seminary (1867)** published thousands of **fatwas** on daily conduct and Islamic doctrine. Rival sects used **Urdu print** to argue in public.
- **Hindus:** the first printed **Ramcharitmanas** of Tulsidas came out in Calcutta in **1810**; cheap lithographed editions flooded north India by the mid-19th century. From the 1880s the **Naval Kishore Press (Lucknow)** and **Shri Venkateshwar Press (Bombay)** printed religious texts in vernaculars – **portable**, readable anywhere, and read aloud to the unlettered.
- Print sharpened debate **within and between** religions, but also **connected communities**: newspapers carried news across regions and built **pan-Indian identities**.

> **Ulama:** scholars of Islam and the sharia.
> **Fatwa:** a legal ruling on Islamic law, usually by a mufti, where the law is unclear.
> **Lithography:** printing from a flat stone or plate – cheap and quick.

15 New forms of publication

- New readers wanted to see **their own lives, emotions and relationships** in print. The **novel**, born in Europe, met this need and took Indian forms; it showed the variety of human lives.
- Other new forms: **lyrics, short stories, essays** on social and political matters – all stressing human lives and feelings.
- **New visual culture** (late 19th century): images could be copied in large numbers. **Raja Ravi Varma** made pictures for mass circulation; poor **wood engravers** set up shop near letterpresses; cheap **prints and calendars** decorated even poor homes and shaped ideas about **modernity and tradition, religion and politics, society and culture**.

- **1870s: caricatures and cartoons** in journals: some mocked educated Indians' love of Western dress and taste, some showed fear of social change; **imperial cartoons** mocked nationalists and **nationalist cartoons** attacked imperial rule.

16 Women and print in India

- Women's lives and feelings were now written about vividly, so **women's reading grew** in middle-class homes. **Liberal husbands and fathers** taught them at home and sent them to **women's schools** (cities, after the mid-19th century). Journals carried women's writings, argued for women's education and gave a **syllabus and reading matter** for home study.
- **Opposition:** conservative Hindus believed a literate girl would be **widowed**; Muslims feared educated women would be **corrupted by Urdu romances**.
- **Rebels:** a young wife in a conservative north Indian Muslim family secretly learnt to read and write **Urdu**, as she did not understand the Arabic Quran she was allowed. In East Bengal, **Rashsundari Debi** learnt to read secretly in her **kitchen**; her autobiography **Amar Jiban (1876)** was the **first full-length autobiography in Bengali**.
- **Women writers:** from the 1860s **Kailashbashini Debi** wrote of women kept at home, kept ignorant and made to slave; in the 1880s in Maharashtra **Tarabai Shinde** and **Pandita Ramabai** wrote angrily about upper-caste Hindu women, especially **widows**. A Tamil novel's heroine said most of her joys and sorrows came from books.
- **Hindi** printing began seriously only from the **1870s**; much of it was for women's education. Early 20th-century journals by and for women discussed **education, widowhood, widow remarriage and the national movement**, plus household tips, stories and serial novels.
- **Punjab: Ram Chaddha's Istri Dharm Vichar** taught women to be **obedient wives**; the **Khalsa Tract Society** printed cheap booklets with the same message, often as dialogues.

- **Battala** (central Calcutta): an area of cheap popular printing – religious tracts and scriptures, and books thought obscene, with woodcuts and coloured lithographs. **Pedlars** took them to homes, so women could read them at leisure.

17 Print and the poor people

- Very cheap small books were sold at **crossroads in 19th-century Madras** towns to poor people going to market. **Public libraries** from the early 20th century (mostly in cities, towns and rich villages) widened access; for rich patrons a library brought **prestige**.
- From the late 19th century, **caste discrimination** was written about in tracts and essays. **Jyotiba Phule**, Maratha pioneer of 'low caste' protest, wrote **Gulamgiri (1871)**. In the 20th century **B.R. Ambedkar** (Maharashtra) and **E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker – Periyar** (Madras) wrote powerfully on caste, read all over India. Local protest movements printed journals criticising ancient scriptures and imagining a just future.
- **Workers** were overworked and lacked education, yet **Kashibaba**, a **Kanpur millworker**, published **Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal (1938)** on the link between **caste and class exploitation**. Poems of a millworker writing as **Sudarshan Chakr** (1935–55) were collected as **Sacchi Kavitayan**.
- By the 1930s **Bangalore cotton millworkers** set up libraries, following **Bombay** workers – backed by reformers who wanted to curb drinking, spread literacy and sometimes **nationalism**.

18 Print and censorship

- **Before 1798** the Company did not care much about censorship. Its early controls were aimed at **Englishmen in India** who criticised Company misrule – it feared critics in England would use this to attack its **trade monopoly**.
- **1820s:** the **Calcutta Supreme Court** made rules to control press freedom; the Company encouraged papers that **praised British rule**.
- **1835:** on urgent petitions by editors, Governor-General **Bentinck** agreed to revise press laws; **Thomas Macaulay** framed rules that **restored the earlier freedoms**.

- **After the Revolt of 1857** attitudes changed: angry Englishmen demanded a clampdown on the 'native' press, and vernacular papers were turning **nationalist**.
- **Vernacular Press Act, 1878** – modelled on the **Irish Press Laws**: wide powers to **censor reports and editorials** in the vernacular press; the government **tracked vernacular papers** in every province. A report judged **seditious** → a **warning**; if ignored → the press could be **seized** and machinery **confiscated**.

- Yet **nationalist newspapers multiplied** all over India, reporting colonial misrule and encouraging nationalist activity. Repression → protest → more repression.
- **1907–08:** when Punjab revolutionaries were deported, **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** wrote sympathetically about them in his **Kesari** → jailed in **1908** → **protests all over India**.

GANDHIJI, 1922 (IN OUR WORDS)
Liberty of **speech**, liberty of the **press** and freedom of **association** are the three great means of expressing and building public opinion. The government was trying to crush them, so the fight for **Swaraj** (and the Khilafat) was first of all a fight for these freedoms.

Key terms

1- and 2-mark answers

Calligraphy – the art of beautiful, stylised writing

Accordion book – Chinese folded book printed on one side, stitched at the side

Ukiyo – 'pictures of the floating world' – ordinary urban life

Vellum – parchment made from animal skin

Platen – board pressed on paper to take the impression of the type

Compositor – person who sets the type for printing

Galley – metal frame in which types are laid out

Print revolution – shift from hand printing to mechanical printing and its effects

Ballad – a story or folk tale in verse, sung or recited

Protestant Reformation – 16th-century movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church

Inquisition – Catholic court that tried and punished heretics

Heretical – against the accepted teachings of the Church

Seditious – opposing the government

Chapbook – pocket-size book sold by pedlars (chapmen)

Almanac – yearly calendar of sun, moon, tides, eclipses

Despotism – absolute rule not checked by law

Vernacular – the everyday language of a region

Ulama / Fatwa – Islamic scholars / a legal ruling on Islamic law

Lithography – cheap printing from a flat stone or plate

Censorship – official checking and blocking of what is printed

Timeline to memorise

Chronology MCQs come from here

Year	Event
594	Woodblock printing of books in China
768–770	Buddhist missionaries take hand-printing to Japan
868	Diamond Sutra – oldest Japanese printed book
11th c.	Chinese paper reaches Europe by the silk route
13th c.	Tripitaka Koreana carved on about 80,000 woodblocks
1295	Marco Polo returns to Italy with woodblock printing
1377	Jikji printed in Korea with movable metal type
1430s	Gutenberg develops the press at Strasbourg
1448	Gutenberg perfects his system; prints the Bible
1508	Erasmus writes *Adages*
1517	Luther's Ninety-Five Theses
1558	Index of Prohibited Books begins
mid-1500s	First press in India, at Goa
1579 / 1713	First Tamil book (Cochin) / first Malayalam book
1753	Kitagawa Utamaro born at Edo
1780	Hickey's Bengal Gazette

Year	Event
1789	French Revolution
1810	First printed Ramcharitmanas (Calcutta)
1812	Grimm Brothers' folk tales published
1821	Rammohun Roy's Sambad Kaumudi
1822	Jam-i-Jahan Nama, Shamsul Akhbar, Bombay Samachar
1835	Bentinck and Macaulay restore press freedom
1857	Children's press in France; Revolt in India
1867	Deoband Seminary founded
1871	Phule's Gulamgiri
1876	Rashsundari Debi's Amar Jiban
1878	Vernacular Press Act
1908	Tilak jailed for writing in Kesari
1922	Gandhiji on liberty of speech, press, association
1920s / 1930s	Shilling Series / paperbacks in the Depression
1938	Kashibaba's Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal

Who's who

Match-the-following MCQs come from here

Person	Remember for
Marco Polo	Brought woodblock printing to Italy, 1295
Johann Gutenberg	Printing press; Bible (1448)
Kitagawa Utamaro	Ukiyo prints, Edo
Erasmus	Catholic reformer; feared a 'glut' of books
Martin Luther	95 Theses (1517); praised print
Menocchio	Italian miller; executed in the Inquisition
L.-S. Mercier	"Tremble, tyrants… the virtual writer"

Person	Remember for
Rammohun Roy	Sambad Kaumudi (1821)
Raja Ravi Varma	Images for mass circulation
Rashsundari Debi	Amar Jiban (1876)
Kailashbashini Debi	Wrote on women's suffering (1860s)
Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai	Wrote on upper-caste widows (1880s)

Voltaire, Rousseau	Enlightenment writers widely read
Thomas Wood	Yorkshire mechanic; read by firelight
Richard M. Hoe	Cylindrical press, 8,000 sheets/hour
James A. Hickey	Bengal Gazette (1780)
Warren Hastings	Persecuted Hickey
Gangadhar Bhattacharya	First Indian newspaper

Ram Chaddha	Istri Dharm Vichar
Jyotiba Phule	Gulamgiri (1871)
Ambedkar, Periyar	Wrote against caste
Kashibaba	Kanpur millworker; 1938 book
Sudarshan Chakr	Millworker-poet; Sacchi Kavitayan
Bentinck, Macaulay	Restored press freedom (1835)
B.G. Tilak	Kesari; jailed 1908

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27 (WHOLE CHAPTER)

- The first printed books: China, Japan, Korea
- Print comes to Europe; Gutenberg and the press
- The print revolution and its impact; religion and the fear of print
- The reading mania; print and the French Revolution
- The 19th century: new readers, new technology
- India and the world of print: reform, new forms, women, the poor
- Print and censorship

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

20 / 80

History is the first 20-mark section of the paper. This chapter appeared in **all 10 papers** of 2024–2026 that we checked. In **every 2026 paper both choices of the 3-mark Q6** came from it; in **5 of the 6** papers of 2024–25 it gave the **4-mark source**. Sample Paper 2026–27 puts it in Q4 (chronology) and Q8 (source). Expect **4–6 marks**. No map item.

MOST ASKED IN BOARD PAPERS, 2024–2026 (10 PAPERS CHECKED)

How often	Topic / question type	Marks	Papers
★★★	Print, the Enlightenment and the French Revolution (incl. Mercier)	3–4	5 of 10
★★☆	Print in India: writers and works, reformers, women, the poor	1–4	4 of 10 + SQP
★★☆	Print and censorship in India (Vernacular Press Act, Gandhiji)	4	3 of 10
★☆☆	Gutenberg, Marco Polo and the print revolution	1–3	2 of 10
★☆☆	Luther, the Reformation and the fear of print	1–3	2 of 10 + SQP
★☆☆	Print in China, Japan and Korea (Buddhist missionaries, Jikji)	1–3	2 of 10
★☆☆	19th-century innovations and new readers	3	2 of 10
★☆☆	New forms: novels, visual culture, cartoons	1	1 of 10

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

2 marks
Very short answer · up to 40 words · 2 clear points

3 marks
Short answer · up to 60 words · 3 points

4 marks
Case / source based · up to 100 words in all · answer from the source

5 marks
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 the **two Bengal Gazettes**: Hickey's (1780, English, private) and **Gangadhar Bhattacharya's** (the first Indian paper).
- Writing that Gutenberg "invented printing" – China printed from **594** and Korea used **metal type** in **1377**. Gutenberg built Europe's first known **press**.
- Calling **Erasmus** a Protestant – he was a **Catholic reformer** who kept away from Luther.
- Saying print **alone** caused the French Revolution – add the balanced view for full marks.
- **Sambad Kaumudi** = Rammohun Roy (reform); **Samachar Chandrika** = orthodoxy (against him).
- Wrong numbers: Tamil **1579**, Malayalam **1713**; Index **1558**; Vernacular Press Act **1878** (not 1857); Hoe **8,000** sheets/hour; offset **six** colours.
- Listing facts without links – use **because, as a result, this led to** (Part 2).

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. **Day 1:** Read the Chapter Notes twice; learn the timeline and who's who.
2. **Day 2:** Part 2 Key Words & Links – learn the cards, read the link chain aloud, do the drills.
3. **Day 3:** Parts A and B. **Day 4:** Parts C and D – MUST DO questions first.
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.

2

READ THIS SECOND · THE THREAD THAT JOINS THE CHAPTER

Key Words & Links

Good students lose History marks because they know the words but not how one topic leads to the next. Learn each word's meaning, its example and its link – then use the link words in every answer.

24 keyword cards

Means · Example · Link →

Woodblock printing — CHINA, FROM 594

MEANS printing by carving a page in reverse on a block of wood, inking it and pressing paper on it

EXAMPLE China printed books this way; the paper took ink on one side only, so books were folded as 'accordion books'

LINK → it was carried to Japan by Buddhist monks and to Italy by Marco Polo – every later step of print starts here

Civil service examination — CHINA

MEANS a test through which the Chinese state chose its officials

EXAMPLE the imperial state printed textbooks for it in huge numbers

LINK → explains why the STATE was China's biggest printer – until town life made merchants and women readers too

Movable metal type — KOREA · GUTENBERG

MEANS separate metal letters that can be rearranged and reused for every new page

EXAMPLE Korea's Jikji (1377); Gutenberg cast metal types in moulds (1448)

LINK → made printing fast and cheap → the PRINT REVOLUTION

Ukiyo — JAPAN

MEANS 'pictures of the floating world' – prints of everyday, mostly urban, life

EXAMPLE Kitagawa Utamaro's prints; they influenced Manet, Monet and Van Gogh

LINK → shows print spreading ART AND CULTURE, not only religion

Manuscript — EUROPE · INDIA

MEANS a book copied by hand

EXAMPLE European scribes on vellum; Indian palm-leaf books like the Gita Govinda

LINK → manuscripts were costly, slow and fragile → demand for a FASTER TECHNOLOGY → Gutenberg

Print revolution — EUROPE, AFTER 1450

MEANS the shift from hand printing to mechanical printing, and the changes it brought

EXAMPLE 20 million books (late 15th c.) → 200 million (16th c.)

LINK → cheap books → a READING PUBLIC → new ideas → fear of print, Reformation, Enlightenment

Reading public — EUROPE

MEANS people who read books themselves, in place of a 'hearing public' who listened

EXAMPLE printers made illustrated ballads and folk tales for people who could not read; these were read aloud in taverns

LINK → the ORAL AND READING CULTURES MIXED; ideas could now reach ordinary people

Protestant Reformation — 1517

MEANS 16th-century movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church

EXAMPLE Luther's Ninety-Five Theses were printed and read widely

LINK → shows print could CHALLENGE AUTHORITY → the Church's FEAR OF PRINT

Heresy / Inquisition — ITALY, 16TH C.

MEANS beliefs against Church teaching / the court that punished them

EXAMPLE the miller Menocchio read books, formed his own idea of God and Creation, and was executed

LINK → led the Church to control publishers and start the INDEX OF PROHIBITED BOOKS (1558)

Censorship — EUROPE · INDIA

MEANS official control over what may be printed

EXAMPLE Index of Prohibited Books (1558); Vernacular Press Act (1878)

LINK → every time print spread 'dangerous' ideas, RULERS TRIED TO CENSOR it – a pattern from Rome to Calcutta

Reading mania — 17TH–18TH C.

MEANS the huge desire to read once literacy rose to 60–80 per cent

EXAMPLE village church schools; chapbooks, almanacs, Bibliothèque Bleue, newspapers

LINK → readers met the ideas of NEWTON, VOLTAIRE AND ROUSSEAU → reason and rationality became popular

Chapbook — ENGLAND

MEANS a cheap pocket-size book sold by pedlars called chapmen, for a penny

EXAMPLE the poor could buy them – like the Bibliothèque Bleue of France

LINK → proves print reached THE POOR in Europe, as small books at Madras crossroads did later in India

Enlightenment / reason — 18TH C.
MEANS the idea that everything should be judged by reason, not custom or superstition
EXAMPLE Voltaire and Rousseau attacked the Church's sacred authority and the despotic state
LINK → the first of the three arguments that print prepared the FRENCH REVOLUTION

Despotism — MERCIER
MEANS rule by one person with absolute power, unchecked by law
EXAMPLE Mercier said print and public opinion would sweep despotism away – tyrants should tremble before the 'virtual writer'
LINK → links print to the idea of LIBERTY – the same idea Gandhiji used in 1922

Caricature / cartoon — FRANCE 1780S · INDIA 1870S
MEANS a drawing that exaggerates features to mock or criticise
EXAMPLE French cartoons showed nobles enjoying themselves while the poor suffered; Indian cartoons mocked Westernised Indians or the Raj
LINK → built HOSTILE PUBLIC FEELING – against the French monarchy, and later against imperial rule

Lending library — ENGLAND, 19TH C.
MEANS a library that lends books cheaply
EXAMPLE educated white-collar workers, artisans and the lower-middle class
LINK → with a SHORTER WORKING DAY, workers began to write political tracts and autobiographies

Vernacular — INDIA
MEANS the everyday spoken language of a region
EXAMPLE religious debates and scriptures were printed in vernaculars; vernacular papers grew nationalist
LINK → the reason the government targeted them with the VERNACULAR PRESS ACT (1878)

Lithographic press — INDIA, 19TH C.
MEANS a cheap, quick printing method using a flat stone or plate
EXAMPLE the ulama printed Urdu and Persian translations and tracts; cheap Ramcharitmanas editions
LINK → made religious texts PORTABLE AND CHEAP → wider debate within and between religions

Fatwa — DEOBAND, 1867
MEANS a legal ruling on Islamic law by a scholar
EXAMPLE the Deoband Seminary printed thousands of fatwas on daily conduct
LINK → shows print used to DEFEND tradition as well as to reform it

Public debate — BENGAL, 1820S
MEANS discussion carried on openly, in print, by many people
EXAMPLE Sambad Kaumudi (Rammohun Roy) vs Samachar Chandrika (orthodoxy)
LINK → print SHAPED THE DEBATE and let a wider public take part; it also built PAN-INDIAN IDENTITIES

Visual culture — LATE 19TH C.
MEANS ideas spread through pictures that are printed in large numbers
EXAMPLE Raja Ravi Varma's images; cheap calendars in poor homes
LINK → shaped ideas of religion, politics and modernity – the same calendars appear in AGE OF INDUSTRIALISATION adverts

Autobiography — BENGAL, 1876
MEANS the story of one's own life written by oneself
EXAMPLE Rashsundari Debi learnt to read secretly and wrote Amar Jiban
LINK → women became WRITERS, NOT ONLY READERS – their voice against confinement entered print

Caste protest — 1871 ONWARDS
MEANS writing that challenges caste discrimination
EXAMPLE Phule's Gulamgiri; Ambedkar and Periyar; Kashibaba on caste and class
LINK → print gave the POOR AND 'LOW CASTES' A VOICE – links to Ambedkar in Nationalism in India

Sedition — 1878–1908
MEANS writing seen as opposing the government
EXAMPLE a seditious report brought a warning, then seizure of the press; Tilak was jailed in 1908
LINK → repression → PROTEST → more repression: print became a weapon of NATIONALISM

The link chain – the whole chapter as one story

Read top to bottom; the orange line is the link

How print reached and changed Europe

594 **China**: woodblock printing; the state prints exam textbooks

▼ *Buddhist missionaries carry it east*

768–868 **Japan**: hand-printing arrives; Diamond Sutra (868). **Korea**: Tripitaka Koreana, Jikji (1377)

▼ *paper travels west on the silk route*

11th c. **Paper reaches Europe** → scribes write manuscripts

▼ *Marco Polo brings woodblock printing (1295)*

1300s–1400s **Woodblock printing in Europe**; but manuscripts are slow, costly, fragile

▼ *demand outruns the scribes*

1448 **Gutenberg's press**: olive press + metal type → the Bible

▼ *books become cheaper and faster to make*

1450–1550 **Print revolution**: a reading public; oral and print cultures mix

▼ *anyone can now print and spread ideas*

1517–1558 **Luther → Reformation**; Erasmus' fear; Menocchio → **Index of Prohibited Books**

▼ *church schools spread literacy*

1600s–1700s **Reading mania**: chapbooks, almanacs, newspapers; Newton, Voltaire, Rousseau

▼ *reason questions tradition and despotism*

1789 **French Revolution**: Enlightenment ideas, debate, cartoons mocking royalty

▼ *mass schooling makes new readers*

1800s–1930s **Children, women, workers** read; Hoe press, offset press, paperbacks

How print came to India and changed it

before 1550 **Manuscripts** on palm leaf and handmade paper – costly, fragile

▼ *Portuguese missionaries bring the press*

1550s–1713 **Goa** (Konkani), first **Tamil** book 1579, **Malayalam** 1713

▼ *private English enterprise starts newspapers*

1780 **Hickey's Bengal Gazette** mocks officials → Hastings persecutes him

▼ *Indians start their own papers*

1821–1822 **Sambad Kaumudi vs Samachar Chandrika**; Persian and Gujarati papers

▼ *religious debates move into print*

1810–1880s **Ulama** (Deoband fatwas, 1867); cheap **Ramcharitmanas**; Naval Kishore Press

▼ *more people read → new forms*

late 1800s **Novels**, Ravi Varma prints, calendars, **cartoons** (1870s)

▼ *readers widen to women and the poor*

1860s–1938 **Women**: Rashsundari Debi (1876), Tarabai Shinde. **Poor**: Phule (1871), Ambedkar, Kashibaba

▼ *papers link regions → pan-Indian identity*

after 1857 **Nationalist newspapers** expose colonial misrule

▼ *rulers fear the 'native' press*

1878–1908 **Vernacular Press Act**; Tilak jailed for Kesari → nationwide protests

▼ *repression strengthens nationalism*

1922 **Gandhiji**: Swaraj = liberty of speech, press and association

Cross-chapter links

Words that come back in other chapters

Board answers score higher when you connect chapters. Learn these twelve bridges.

Key word	In Print Culture	Comes back in	A link sentence for your answer
Silk routes	Chinese paper reached Europe on the silk route (11th c.)	**Making of a Global World**: silk routes carried goods, people, technologies and religions	*"The silk routes carried not just silk but also paper – the base of manuscripts and later of print in Europe."*
French Revolution	print spread Enlightenment ideas and mocked royalty	**Nationalism in Europe**: 1789 was the first clear expression of nationalism (la patrie, le citoyen)	*"Print prepared minds for 1789, and 1789 in turn gave Europe the idea of the nation."*
Censorship	Index of Prohibited Books (1558); Vernacular Press Act (1878)	**Nationalism in Europe**: regimes after 1815 censored papers and books → freedom of the press became a liberal demand	*"Whenever print carried new ideas, rulers – the Church, Metternich, the British – tried to censor it."*
Grimm Brothers / folklore	edited peasants' folk tales in 1812: print recorded and changed them	**Nationalism in Europe**: folklore built a German identity. **Nationalism in India**: folk tales and songs collected to revive national pride	*"Folk culture, once printed, became a tool of national identity in Germany and in India."*
Nationalism	nationalist papers; pan-Indian identity; Tilak's Kesari	**Nationalism in India**: collective belonging through images (Bharat Mata), songs (Vande Mataram), history and folklore	*"Print carried the images and songs of the national movement into every province."*
Gandhiji and liberty	1922: liberty of speech, press and association	**Nationalism in India**: Rowlatt Act (1919) curbed political activity → Rowlatt Satyagraha; Non-Cooperation	*Board 2025 (32/1/3 Q36) placed a Rowlatt Satyagraha question inside a print-censorship source.*
Calendars and prints	cheap prints and Ravi Varma images shaped popular ideas	**Age of Industrialisation**: manufacturers printed calendars and labels with gods and heroes to sell goods	*"The same cheap calendar that decorated a poor home also advertised a mill's cloth."*
Workers	workers' libraries; Kashibaba, a Kanpur millworker	**Age of Industrialisation**: mill workers of Bombay and Kanpur. **Nationalism in India**: workers in Civil Disobedience	*"Mill workers were not only labour for industry – some became readers and writers too."*
Caste	Phule (Gulamgiri), Ambedkar, Periyar	**Nationalism in India**: Ambedkar, Depressed Classes Association (1930), Poona Pact (1932). **Gender, Religion and Caste**: leaders against caste	*"Ambedkar argued against caste in print long before the Poona Pact."*
Women	Rashsundari Debi, Tarabai Shinde, women's journals	**Nationalism in Europe**: women denied the vote in 1848. **Gender, Religion and Caste**: feminist movements	*"From Frankfurt to Calcutta, women fought to be heard – print gave them a voice."*
Vernacular language	religious texts and nationalist papers in vernaculars	**Nationalism in Europe**: Romantics used the vernacular; Poles used Polish against Russian rule	*"Language was a weapon: Polish in church, vernacular papers in India."*
Company monopoly	early censorship protected the Company's trade monopoly	**Age of Industrialisation**: the Company built a monopoly over Indian weavers through gomasthas	*"The Company guarded its monopoly at the loom and in the press."*

Drill 1 · Explain how X led to Y

2 marks each · 40 words

Use a chain: **cause → what changed → result**. Join the steps with link words:

as a result | this led to | because | therefore | in turn | this made it possible to | on the other hand | however

L1. Explain how **Marco Polo's return in 1295** led to **printing in Europe**. [2]

L2. Explain how **Gutenberg's early life** led to the **design of his press**. [2]

L3. Explain how **low literacy** led printers to **mix oral and print culture**. [2]

L4. Explain how **Menocchio's reading** led to the **Index of Prohibited Books**. [2]

L5. Explain how **rising literacy** in the 18th century led to **new ideas of reason** among ordinary people. [2]

L6. Explain how **compulsory primary education** led to a **children's press**. [2]

L7. Explain how **Hickey's gossip** led to **officially sanctioned newspapers**. [2]

L8. Explain how the **Revolt of 1857** led to the **Vernacular Press Act**. [2]

Drill 2 · Use all three words in one answer

3 marks each · 60 words

Underline the three words in your answer. Each must be used with its correct meaning.

L9. Write a 60-word answer using: **Erasmus · glut · seditious**. [3]

L10. Write a 60-word answer using: **literacy · chapbook · pedlar**. [3]

L11. Write a 60-word answer using: **ulama · lithographic press · fatwa**. [3]

L12. Write a 60-word answer using: **Rashsundari Debi · Amar Jiban · orthodox**. [3]

Drill 3 · Fill the missing link

1 mark each

L13. Write the missing step: [1]

Chinese paper reaches Europe (11th c.) → ? → Woodblock printing begins in Italy

L14. Write the missing step: [1]

Luther's Theses are printed (1517) → ? → Protestant Reformation

L15. Write the missing step: [1]

Tilak writes in Kesari about deported revolutionaries → ? → Protests all over India

Drill 4 · Odd one out

1 mark

L16. Find the odd one out and give the link that joins the other three: **Gulamgiri · Amar Jiban · Istri Dharm Vichar · Diamond Sutra** [1]

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.

Print in East Asia and Europe

A1. Why did woodblock printing reach Europe only after 1295? [2]

A2. Why did Martin Luther speak out in praise of print? [2]

A3. Why did the Roman Catholic Church begin keeping an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558? [2] MUST DO

A4. Gandhiji said that the fight for Swaraj is a fight for liberty of speech, of the press and of association. Why? [3] MUST DO

A5. Write a short note on the Gutenberg press. [3] MUST DO

A6. What was Erasmus's idea of the printed book? [3]

A7. Write a short note on the Vernacular Press Act. [3] MUST DO

What print meant in India

A8. What did the spread of print culture in 19th-century India mean to women? [3] MUST DO

A9. What did the spread of print culture in 19th-century India mean to the poor? [3]

A10. What did the spread of print culture in 19th-century India mean to reformers? [3]

Long answers from the NCERT exercises

A11. Why did some people in 18th-century Europe think that print culture would bring enlightenment and end despotism? [5] MUST DO

A12. Why did some people fear the effect of easily available printed books? Give one example from Europe and one from India. [5] MUST DO

A13. Explain how print culture helped the growth of nationalism in India. [5] MUST DO

A14. How did print develop in China? [3]

A15. Give one fact each about (a) the Diamond Sutra and (b) Kitagawa Utamaro. [2]

A16. Give one fact each about (a) the Tripitaka Koreana and (b) Jikji. [2]

PART B · SECTION A STYLE

B Objective Practice

The MCQ types used in the board paper: chronology, matching, picture-based, statements, combinations 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. Arrange in chronological order: [1]
I. Gutenberg perfects his printing system II. Luther's Ninety-Five Theses III. Index of Prohibited Books begins IV. The Diamond Sutra is printed

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

B2. Arrange in chronological order: [1]
I. Vernacular Press Act II. Hickey's Bengal Gazette III. Tilak jailed for writing in Kesari IV. Sambad Kaumudi begins

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

B3. Match the writers with their works and choose the correct option: [1]
(a) Jyotiba Phule (b) Rashsundari Debi (c) Rammohun Roy (d) Ram Chaddha
(i) Istri Dharm Vichar (ii) Gulamgiri (iii) Sambad Kaumudi (iv) Amar Jiban

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

B4. *Picture described:* an 18th-century Japanese woodblock print shows women of a city household at their daily tasks. Prints of this kind were called: [1]

(a) ukiyo **(b)** calligraphy **(c)** vellum **(d)** almanac

B5. *Picture described:* a heavy wooden machine with a large screw and handle; a flat board is screwed down onto paper laid over inked metal letters. The flat board is the: [1]

(a) galley **(b)** platen **(c)** compositor **(d)** woodblock

B6. Read the statements: [1]
I. Jikji was printed with movable metal type in 1377.
II. The Tripitaka Koreana is a set of Buddhist scriptures carved on about 80,000 woodblocks.
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

B7. Which of these were reasons why manuscripts could not meet the demand for books in Europe? [1]
a. They were costly b. They were fragile c. They were printed by machines d. Copying was slow

(a) Only a and c **(b)** Only a, b and d **(c)** Only b and c **(d)** All of these

B8. Who described printing as God's ultimate and greatest gift? [1]

(a) Erasmus (b) Gutenberg (c) Martin Luther (d) Mercier

B9. The 'Bibliothèque Bleue' were: [1]

(a) costly manuscripts on vellum

(b) cheap small books with blue covers in France

(c) newspapers of the French Revolution

(d) Church lists of banned books

B10. Richard M. Hoe's power-driven cylindrical press could print: [1]

(a) 800 sheets per hour (b) 8,000 sheets per hour

(c) 80,000 sheets per hour (d) 6 colours at a time

B11. Menocchio was: [1]

(a) a Catholic reformer who wrote *Adages*

(b) a German goldsmith

(c) an Italian miller executed by the Inquisition

(d) a French novelist

B12. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was modelled on the: [1]

(a) Irish Press Laws (b) Rowlatt Act

(c) Napoleonic Code (d) Calcutta Supreme Court rules

B13. Who brought the knowledge of woodblock printing from China to Italy in 1295? [1]

(a) Marco Polo (b) Gutenberg (c) Utamaro (d) Erasmus

B14. The Deoband Seminary, founded in 1867, published thousands of: [1]

(a) novels (b) fatwas (c) chapbooks (d) almanacs

B15. 'Battala' in central Calcutta was known for: [1]

(a) the first press in India (b) printing cheap popular books

(c) the Deoband Seminary (d) Hickey's newspaper office

B16. Read the statements: [1]

I. The printing press first came to India with Portuguese missionaries to Goa.

II. The first Malayalam book was printed in 1579.

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

B17. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Printers in early modern Europe published ballads and folk tales with many pictures.

Reason (R): Literacy was low, so most people enjoyed books by hearing them read aloud.

B18. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Richard M. Hoe's cylindrical press was very useful for newspapers.

Reason (R): In the 1920s popular works were sold in England in a cheap Shilling Series.

B19. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): The Grimm Brothers published rural folk tales in 1812 exactly as the peasants told them.

Reason (R): They removed anything that seemed unsuitable for children or vulgar to the elite.

B20. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Erasmus kept his distance from Martin Luther.

Reason (R): Erasmus was a Protestant reformer who wanted to break away from the Catholic Church.

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN

Board Pattern Practice

Written-answer questions grouped by topic. ★★★ = asked in 5 or more of 10 papers · ★★ = 3–4 papers · ★ = 0–2 papers.

Print, the Enlightenment and the French Revolution

★★★ 5 of 10 papers · 3–4 marks

C1. How did print culture create favourable conditions for the French Revolution? Explain three ways. MUST DO [3]

C2. Historians say that print did not directly shape people's minds before the French Revolution. Give two reasons. [2]

C3. "Print culture created the conditions within which the French Revolution occurred." Examine the statement, including the view of historians who question it. MUST DO [5]

Print and censorship in India

★★☆ 3 of 10 papers · 1–4 marks

C4. How did the colonial government try to control the Indian press after the Revolt of 1857? MUST DO [3]

C5. Trace the changing relationship between print and censorship in colonial India from 1798 to 1922. [5]

C6. Why was Bal Gangadhar Tilak imprisoned in 1908? What was the result? [2]

Print comes to India: reformers, women and the poor

★★☆ 4 of 10 papers + Sample Paper 2026–27 · 1–4 marks

C7. How did print shape religious debates in 19th-century India? Explain with three examples. MUST DO [3]

C8. "Print gave Indian women a voice." Support the statement with three examples. MUST DO [3]

C9. Why did James Augustus Hickey's Bengal Gazette anger the Company? How did Warren Hastings respond? [2]

C10. Trace in three steps how printing in India passed from missionaries to Indian editors. MUST DO [3]

Gutenberg and the print revolution

★☆☆ 2 of 10 papers · 1–3 marks

C11. Explain the role of Johann Gutenberg in the coming of the printing press. MUST DO [3]

C12. How did the print revolution create a new reading public? Why did oral and reading cultures mix? [3]

C13. Why could manuscripts not meet the growing demand for books in Europe? Give two reasons. [2]

Religion and the fear of print

★☆☆ 2 of 10 papers + Sample Paper 2026–27 · 1–3 marks

C14. Explain the role of print in the spread of the Protestant Reformation. MUST DO [3]

C15. How did print lead to new interpretations of faith among common people? Give an example. [2]

Print in East Asia

★☆☆ 2 of 10 papers · 1–3 marks

C16. Explain the role of Buddhist missionaries in the growth of print culture in Japan. MUST DO [3]

C17. How did the uses of print diversify in China by the 17th century? [3]

New readers and new technology, 1800–1930s

★☆☆ 2 of 10 papers · 3 marks

C18. Explain three innovations in printing technology from the 19th century onwards. MUST DO [3]

C19. How did children, women and workers become new readers in 19th-century Europe? [3]

New forms of publication in India

★☆☆ 1 of 10 papers (picture MCQ) · 1–3 marks

C20. How did new forms of publication change reading in late 19th-century India? [3]

D

PART D · SOURCE-BASED (Q8 STYLE)

Source-Based Questions

Each source carries 4 marks (1 + 1 + 2), as in the History source-based question of the board paper. Answer from the source and your notes.

D1. Source-Based · A Swarm of Books [4]

A famous Latin scholar of the early 1500s, who wanted to clean up the Catholic Church from within but refused to join Luther, looked at the new printing shops with alarm. Books, he complained, now flew like swarms to every corner of the world. A few might be worth reading, but their sheer number created a glut that harmed true learning. Worse, printers were filling the world with foolish, slanderous, irreligious and even rebellious writings – so many that the truly valuable books were losing their worth.

(i) Name the scholar described in the source. [1]

(ii) What did he mean by a ‘glut’ of books? [1]

(iii) Why did religious authorities and rulers share his fear of print? Give two reasons. [2]

D2. Source-Based · Open to All, Influenced by None [4]

In 1780 an Englishman in Calcutta started a weekly paper that boasted it was a commercial paper open to everyone but controlled by nobody. Alongside advertisements – some even for the sale of slaves – it printed juicy gossip about the Company's senior officials. The Governor-General was furious. He hounded the editor and encouraged newspapers that carried the government's own approved version of events. Before long Indians too began bringing out papers of their own.

(i) Name the newspaper and its editor. [1]

(ii) Which Governor-General acted against the editor, and why? [1]

(iii) How did the Governor-General's action and the Indian response change the press? Give two points. [2]

D3. Source-Based · The Act of 1878 [4]

After the great revolt, many British officials no longer trusted newspapers printed in Indian languages. As these papers became openly nationalist, the government copied a law used in Ireland. Officials now read the Indian-language papers of every province. A report thought to be against the government brought a warning; an editor who ignored it could lose his press and his machines. Yet the number of nationalist papers kept rising.

(i) Name the law described in the source. [1]

(ii) Why did the colonial attitude towards the press change after 1857? [1]

(iii) Explain two effects of the law on Indian newspapers. [2]

D4. Source-Based · Reading in Secret [4]

In an orthodox household of East Bengal, a young wife was expected only to cook and serve. Books were not for her – people said an educated girl would soon become a widow. Hiding a page in the smoky kitchen, she taught herself the letters one by one. Many years later she told her whole life story in a book.

(i) Name the woman and her book. [1]

(ii) Why is her book important in the history of Bengali print? [1]

(iii) How did journals of the time help women's education? Give two ways. [2]

D5. Source-Based · The Virtual Writer [4]

An eighteenth-century French novelist described his own heroes as people changed by books: they devoured page after page, lost themselves in the world of the story and came out wiser. He was certain the printing press was the strongest engine of progress, and that public opinion would one day sweep away despots. He even warned the tyrants of the world to tremble before the writer.

(i) Name the novelist. [1]

(ii) Why did he call the printing press an 'engine of progress'? [1]

(iii) How did reading change people, according to him? Give two points. [2]

PART E · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

E Board PYQ Index

Real questions from the 2024–2026 Social Science papers. Open the official paper and attempt the listed questions.

Frequency	Topic	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★★	**Print, Enlightenment, French Revolution**	3–4	**2026:** 32/4/2 Q6(A); 32/5/2 Q6(A); 32/5/3 Q6(A) · **2025:** 32/2/1 Q34 (source) · **2024:** 32/1/1 Q34 (source on Mercier)	A11, C1–C3, D5, L5
★★☆	**Print in India: writers, reformers, women, poor**	1–4	**2026:** 32/4/2 Q2; 32/5/2 Q1; 32/5/3 Q1 (writers and their works) · **2024:** 32/5/1 Q4 (Amar Jiban) · **SQP 2026–27:** Q8 (source: print comes to India)	A8–A10, B3, C7–C10, D2, D4
★★☆	**Print and censorship in India**	4	**2025:** 32/1/3 Q36 (source) · **2024:** official set† Q34 (source on the 1878 Act); Outside Delhi Set 2 Q35 (source)	A4, A7, B12, C4–C6, D3
★☆☆	**Gutenberg and the print revolution**	1–3	**2026:** 32/1/3 Q6(A) · **2025:** 32/1/3 Q8, Q9 (MCQs: Marco Polo; why print helped scholars)	A1, A5, B5, B13, C11–C13
★☆☆	**Luther, Reformation, fear of print**	1–3	**2026:** 32/1/3 Q6(B) · **2024:** official set† Q7 (MCQ) · **SQP 2026–27:** Q4 (chronology)	A2, A3, A6, A12, B1, B8, C14–C15, D1
★☆☆	**China, Japan, Korea**	1–3	**2026:** 32/4/2 Q6(B) · **2025:** 32/2/1 Q4 (MCQ on Jikji)	A14–A16, B4, B6, C16–C17
★☆☆	**19th-century innovations and new readers**	3	**2026:** 32/5/2 Q6(B); 32/5/3 Q6(B)	B10, B18, C18–C19
★☆☆	**Manuscripts, new forms, visual culture**	1	**2026:** 32/4/2 Q1 (picture MCQ on book-making – probably this chapter)	B15, C20

Papers checked (10): 2026 – 32/1/3, 32/4/2, 32/5/2, 32/5/3 · 2025 – 32/1/3, 32/2/1 · 2024 – 32/1/1, 32/5/1, official set†, Outside Delhi Set 2. Also the official Sample Paper and Marking Scheme 2026–27. † Code not printed on the copy we used. 2024–25 papers had the old pattern (4-mark case in Section E); from 2026 the History source is Q8. Other 2025 sets and the 2023 papers could not be opened online; download official papers from cbse.gov.in → Previous Year Question Papers.

F

PART F · YOUR RECORD

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 ✓