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

POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 3

MODEL ANSWERS

Contemporary South Asia

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 3**

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 gives a 1-mark statement MCQ in almost every paper and a **4-mark** answer in SQP 2026–27 (Q20) and Board 2025 (Q20); SQP 2024–25 had a passage on SAARC and SAFTA. Learn one line on democracy in each country and the arguments for and against SAFTA.

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	"The experience of democracy in South Asia has expanded the …	[4]	C2	Explain any two reasons for the failure of democracy in …	[2]
C6	Assess the role of SAARC in promoting cooperation in South …	[4]	D1	Case: Passage – trading without walls	[4]
D2	Case: Picture – the crowded square (described)	[4]			

ANSWERS · PART A

A Textbook Check – Answers

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

South Asia and democracy

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

1. **Countries:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; Afghanistan is often included.
2. **Identity:** the Himalayas in the north and the seas on three sides make it a distinct, naturally insular region with shared history and culture.

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

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

1. **India and Sri Lanka:** have run democratic systems continuously since independence.
2. **Pakistan and Bangladesh:** have alternated between civilian and military rule; Bangladesh has had elections since 1991.
3. **Nepal:** moved from constitutional monarchy to a democratic republic in 2008.
4. **Bhutan and the Maldives:** Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy in 2008; the Maldives, a republic since 1968, adopted a multi-party system in 2005.

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

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

1. **Early generals:** Ayub Khan took over in 1958; Yahya Khan followed, and Pakistan lost East Pakistan in 1971.
2. **Bhutto and Zia:** Z. A. Bhutto ruled from 1971 to 1977, when General Zia-ul-Haq removed him.
3. **Democracy returns:** after a pro-democracy movement, Benazir Bhutto was elected in 1988; she and Nawaz Sharif's party competed for power.
4. **Musharraf:** General Musharraf took over in 1999 and ruled till the 2008 elections.

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

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

1. **Powerful elites:** the military, clergy and landowning aristocracy dominate society and resist popular rule.
2. **Conflict with India:** it strengthened pro-military groups, who said parties were selfish and unsafe for security.
3. **Weak parties:** political parties and civilian governments were weak, often discredited, and easily removed by the army.
4. **Foreign backing:** the USA and other Western countries supported military rulers for their own strategic interests.

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

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

Bangladesh was born out of the struggle of East Pakistan against West Pakistani domination.

1. **Domination:** East Pakistan resented West Pakistan's domination and the imposition of Urdu.
2. **Bengali identity:** people protested against unfair treatment of Bengali language and culture and demanded fair representation.
3. **Awami League:** Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman led the movement for autonomy; his party swept the 1970 elections in the east.
4. **Refusal and repression:** the West-dominated government would not convene the assembly, arrested Mujib and the army under Yahya Khan crushed protests.
5. **Refugees:** thousands were killed and millions fled to India, creating a huge refugee problem.
6. **1971 war:** India supported the freedom struggle; the war ended with Pakistan's surrender and the birth of Bangladesh.

Thus language, identity and democracy led to a new nation in 1971.

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

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

1. **Constitution:** the 1972 constitution declared faith in secularism, democracy and socialism.
2. **1975:** Mujib made the system presidential and banned other parties; he was assassinated in August 1975.
3. **Military rulers:** Ziaur Rahman formed the BNP and won in 1979; after his assassination, Ershad ruled.
4. **Democracy:** student-led protests forced Ershad out in 1990; multi-party elections have been held since 1991, though politics stays bitter between the two main parties.

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

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

1. **1990:** a pro-democracy movement won a democratic constitution, but governments were weak.
2. **Maoists:** in the 1990s Maoists waged an armed struggle – a triangular conflict with the king and democrats.
3. **2002 and 2006:** the king abolished parliament in 2002; the April 2006 movement of the SPA, Maoists and activists forced him to restore it.
4. **Republic:** Nepal abolished the monarchy and became a democratic republic in 2008; a new constitution came in 2015.

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

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

Sri Lanka stayed a democracy but faced a long ethnic war.

1. **Sinhala dominance:** after 1948 politics was dominated by the Sinhala majority, which was hostile to Tamils.
2. **Tamil militancy:** neglect of Tamil concerns led to militant nationalism; from 1983 the LTTE fought for a separate Tamil Eelam.
3. **North-east:** the LTTE controlled parts of the north-east of the island.
4. **IPKF:** under pressure from Tamils in India, India signed an accord in 1987 and sent the IPKF.
5. **Failure:** the IPKF ended up fighting the LTTE, was resented as interference, and left in 1989.
6. **End:** after Norway and Iceland tried mediation, the conflict ended with the LTTE's defeat in 2009.

Thus ethnic conflict, not dictatorship, was Sri Lanka's main challenge.

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

India and its neighbours; SAARC

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

1. **Kashmir:** wars in 1947–48 and 1965 did not settle it; the Line of Control divides the region and Kargil (1999) showed the danger.
2. **Strategic issues:** control of the Siachen glacier and the Sir Creek boundary in the Rann of Kutch.
3. **Arms race:** both tested nuclear weapons in 1998 – Pokhran and Chagai.
4. **Terrorism:** India accuses Pakistan of backing militants; Pakistan blames India for trouble in Sindh and Balochistan.

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

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

1. **Water:** disputes over sharing the Ganga and Brahmaputra waters remain a long-standing problem.
2. **India's concerns:** illegal migration from Bangladesh, shelter to anti-India groups, refusal of transit and of gas exports.
3. **Bangladesh's concerns:** many see India as a regional bully on water, trade and borders.
4. **Cooperation:** growing trade, the Act East link, cooperation in disaster management and the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement.

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

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

1. **Bhutan:** no major conflict; it drove out north-east militants; India builds hydroelectric projects and is its biggest aid giver.
2. **Maldives:** India stopped a mercenary attack in 1988 at its request and helps its tourism and fisheries.

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

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

1. **Meaning:** the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, set up in 1985 to build cooperation by multilateral means.
2. **Members:** the seven South Asian states; Afghanistan joined in 2007, making eight members.
3. **Political differences:** India–Pakistan rivalry and mutual suspicion block decisions; summits have stalled since 2014.
4. **Fear of India:** smaller members fear India's size, so bilateral deals often replace regional ones.

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

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

1. **SAFTA:** the South Asian Free Trade Area, signed in 2004 and in force from 2006, to lower tariffs across the region.
2. **Neighbours' fear:** that India will 'invade' their markets and influence their politics.
3. **India's view:** free trade brings real benefits to all and helps political cooperation.
4. **Doubts in India:** some feel it is not worth it, as India has bilateral deals with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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

B

ANSWER KEY · PART B

Objective – Answer Key

All 18 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	**(d) China**	China is a neighbour but not part of South Asia.
B2	**(a) I, II and III**	SQP 2026–27 Q1 asked a similar set.
B3	**(a) II, IV, I, III**	1958 → 1971 → 1977 → 1999.
B4	**(c) Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman**	He became the first leader of Bangladesh.
B5	**(b) secularism, democracy and socialism**	Later amended in 1975.
B6	**(c) I, II and III**	Nepal became a republic in 2008.
B7	**(b) a separate Tamil Eelam**	From 1983 to 2009.
B8	**(d) 1987**	Withdrawn in 1989.
B9	**(a) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i**	Two different 2008 events.
B10	**(c) Pokhran and Chagai Hills**	Pakistan tested within days of India.
B11	**(b) World Bank**	It survived several wars.
B12	**(d) 1985**	Afghanistan joined in 2007.
B13	**(b) 1 January 2006**	Signed in 2004.
B14	**(d) Nepal**	A special relationship despite irritants.
B15	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R is the evidence for A.
B16	**(d) A is false, but R is true.**	A is false – it withdrew without success; R is true.
B17	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R explains A.
B18	**(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**	Both true; the fear is about India 'invading' their markets, not about bilateral deals.

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.

Democracy in South Asia

★★★ 5 of 6 papers · 1, 2 and 4 marks

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

1. **Shared aspiration:** despite military rule and monarchy, people in every South Asian country want democracy.
2. **Survey evidence:** rich and poor and people of all religions prefer democracy to any other system.
3. **Not only for the rich:** this challenges the idea that democracy works only in prosperous countries.
4. **People's movements:** Nepal (2006), Bangladesh (1990) and Pakistan's 1980s movement show ordinary people winning democracy.

62 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | SQP 2026–27 Q20; Board 2025 59/1/1 Q20(B) | MUST DO

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

1. **Elites and army:** the military, clergy and landowning aristocracy dominate, and conflict with India strengthens the army.
2. **Foreign support:** Western countries, especially the USA, backed military rulers for their own security interests.

32 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | 59/1/1 (year not printed) Q13 | MUST DO

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

1. **Features:** it declared faith in secularism, democracy and socialism, with a parliamentary system.
2. **1975 change:** Mujib made it presidential and banned all parties except the Awami League.

27 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | 59/1/1 (year not printed) Q14

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

1. **Nepal's struggle:** a democratic constitution in 1990, weak governments, a Maoist insurgency and the king's takeover in 2002.
2. **Nepal's republic:** the 2006 movement restored parliament; the monarchy was abolished in 2008.
3. **Maldives' republic:** a sultanate till 1968, then a republic with a presidential form of government dominated by one party.
4. **Multi-party Maldives:** parliament voted for a multi-party system in 2005.

60 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | Board 2025 59/1/1 Q1 (Nepal); SQP 2026–27 Q1 and 59/1/3 Q1 (Maldives)

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

1. **Pakistan's coups:** Ayub Khan (1958), Zia-ul-Haq (1977) and Musharraf (1999) removed civilian governments.
2. **Army's claim:** they said politicians were selfish and corrupt and endangered national security.
3. **Bangladesh's coups:** Mujib was killed in a military uprising in 1975; Ziaur Rahman and later Ershad ruled with army backing.
4. **People's resistance:** protests restored democracy – in Pakistan in 1988 and 2008, in Bangladesh in 1990–91.

62 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | 2025 59/1/2 Q1 (Bhutto); 59/1/1 Q4 (order of Pakistani leaders)

SAARC and SAFTA

★★☆ 2 of 6 papers · 4 marks

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

1. **Purpose:** set up in 1985 to build cooperation among South Asian states through multilateral means.
2. **SAFTA:** its members signed SAFTA in 2004 to create a free trade zone, in force from 2006.
3. **Limited success:** persistent political differences, especially India–Pakistan, have limited its work; summits have stalled.
4. **Value:** it remains a forum for dialogue, and free trade could build trust on political issues.

63 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | Board 2025 59/1/1 Q20(A); SQP 2024–25 Q26 (passage) | MUST DO

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

1. **Market fear:** they fear that India, the largest economy, will 'invade' their markets with its goods.
2. **Political fear:** they fear India will use trade to influence their societies and politics.
3. **India's view:** free trade brings real benefits to all and will help political cooperation.
4. **Doubts in India:** some feel SAFTA is unnecessary, as bilateral deals exist with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

62 words · limit 120 | Marking: 4 points × 1 = 4 | SQP 2024–25 Q26 (passage)

South Asia as a region; outside powers

★★☆ 2 + 1 of 6 papers · 1 and 2 marks

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

1. **Countries:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Afghanistan often included).
2. **Features:** natural insularity from the Himalayas and the seas; great diversity with both rivalry and goodwill.

30 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | SQP 2026–27 Q3; 59/1/1 Q3 (MCQs)

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

1. **Moderator:** it built good relations with both India and Pakistan and acts as a moderator between them.
2. **Economic and social links:** economic reforms deepened US involvement, and a large South Asian diaspora lives in the USA.

36 words · limit 60 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | SQP 2024–25 Q14

India and its neighbours

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

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

India's relations with its neighbours mix cooperation and conflict.

1. **Pakistan – conflict:** Kashmir, Siachen, nuclear rivalry and terrorism keep relations tense.
2. **Pakistan – limits:** the Indus Waters Treaty survived wars but was put in abeyance in 2025; talks have often failed.
3. **Bangladesh – issues:** water sharing, migration and transit have caused disputes.
4. **Bangladesh – cooperation:** trade, disaster management and the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement have improved ties.
5. **Nepal:** open borders and a special treaty, but irritants over Nepal's ties with China, water projects and alleged interference.
6. **Bhutan:** very special ties; Bhutan expelled north-east militants, and India builds hydroelectric projects and is its biggest aid giver.

Thus India's size makes good neighbourly relations both vital and difficult.

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

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

1. **Suspicion:** smaller neighbours fear India's size and power and see it as a regional bully.
2. **India's view:** India feels its neighbours are unfair and that their internal problems spill into India.

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

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 – trading without walls (printed in the booklet) **[4]**

(i) Name the agreement described. **[1]**
SAFTA – the South Asian Free Trade Area.

(ii) Under which regional organisation was it signed? **[1]**
SAARC – the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

(iii) Who is the 'biggest member'? **[1]**
India.

(iv) Give one fear of the smaller members. **[1]**
India would 'invade' their markets and influence their societies and politics.

27 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4 | SQP 2024–25 Q26 was a passage on SAARC and SAFTA

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

(i) **Which country is shown?** [1]
Nepal.

(ii) **In which year did this movement take place?** [1]
2006.

(iii) **Which alliance led the movement along with the Maoists?** [1]
The Seven Party Alliance (SPA).

(iv) **What was the final result of this movement by 2008?** [1]
The monarchy was abolished and Nepal became a democratic republic.

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

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

(i) **Identify A.** [1]
The Maldives.

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

(iii) **Identify C.** [1]
Sri Lanka.

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

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