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Gender, Religion and Caste — CBSE Class 10 Social Science Chapter Test

FREE CHAPTER TEST · CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · PATTERN OF THE CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2026-27

TIME ALLOWED	MAXIMUM MARKS	QUESTIONS	NAME / ROLL NO.
1½ hours	40	20 (A 10 · B 4 · C 3 · D 1 · E 2)	

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper contains 20 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
3. In Section A, Questions 1 to 8 are multiple choice questions (MCQs) and Questions 9 and 10 are assertion-reason based questions of 1 mark each.
4. In Section B, Q11–14 are very short answer (VSA) type questions, carrying 2 marks each.
5. In Section C, Q15–17 are short answer (SA) type questions, carrying 3 marks each.
6. In Section D, Q18 is a long answer (LA) type question, carrying 5 marks.
7. In Section E, Q19–20 are case study based questions, carrying 4 marks each, with sub-parts of the values of 1, 1 and 2 marks.
8. There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in 1 question of Section B, 1 question of Section C, 1 question of Section D and in the 2-mark sub-part of each question of Section E.
9. Answer very short answer questions in about 40 words, short answer questions in about 60 words, long answer questions in about 120 words and case-based questions in about 100 words.
10. This chapter test follows the section structure, question types and marks per question of the CBSE Class X Social Science (087) Sample Question Paper 2026-27, at about half the length of the 80-mark board paper: 40 marks in 1½ hours.
11. The answer key and the marking scheme are at the end of this booklet. Attempt the paper in 1½ hours before you look at them.

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Chapter: Gender, Religion and Caste (Political Science: Democratic Politics – II) · **Topics:** Gender division and sexual division of labour · Women's political representation · Feminist movements · Religion, communalism and politics · Secular state · Caste inequalities · Caste in politics and politics in caste

SECTION A

This section comprises 10 questions of 1 mark each: 8 multiple choice questions (MCQs) and 2 assertion-reason based questions.

1. The Constitution of India allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to 1

(A) promote the religion of the majority
(B) ensure equality within religious communities
(C) collect taxes from religious bodies
(D) appoint religious leaders

2. Which of the following features of the caste system still continues in contemporary India? 1

(A) Most people marry within their own caste or tribe
(B) Everyone follows the hereditary occupation of their caste
(C) Untouchability is allowed by law
(D) Castes no longer differ in economic status

3. Which of the following is NOT a feature that makes India a secular state? 1

(A) There is no official religion for the Indian state
(B) The Constitution provides freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion
(C) The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion
(D) The state gives special status to the religion of the majority

4. In India, one-third of the seats in local government bodies — panchayats and municipalities — are reserved for 1

(A) Scheduled Castes
(B) women
(C) Other Backward Classes
(D) Scheduled Tribes

5. Which law provides that equal wages should be paid to men and women for equal work? 1

(A) The Equal Wages Act
(B) The Right to Information Act
(C) The Inland Emigration Act
(D) The Vernacular Press Act

6. A belief that one religion is superior to others and that people of one religion should dominate the rest is a form of 1

(A) secularism
(B) feminism
(C) communalism
(D) federalism

7. Which of the following political leaders and reformers worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent? 1

(A) Mazzini, Garibaldi and Cavour
(B) Metternich and Bismarck
(C) Marco Polo and Gutenberg
(D) Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker

8. Which statement about caste in Indian politics is correct? 1

(A) Every parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one caste
(B) Voters always vote only for candidates of their own caste
(C) No parliamentary constituency in India has a clear majority of one single caste
(D) Caste has no role at all in elections

9. **Assertion (A):** Caste has disappeared from contemporary India. 1
Reason (R): The Constitution of India prohibits any caste-based discrimination.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

10. **Assertion (A):** Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. 1
Reason (R): By religion, Gandhiji meant moral values that inform all religions, and he believed politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

SECTION B

This section comprises 4 very short answer (VSA) type questions of 2 marks each.

11. (a) What is meant by the sexual division of labour? Why is the role of women in public life minimal in many societies? 2

OR

(b) What is meant by patriarchy? Give one example of its effect in India.

12. Give two reasons why the Indian state was made secular by the makers of the Constitution. 2

13. Mention two forms in which communalism can be expressed in politics. 2

14. How does caste take forms in politics? Give two examples. 2

SECTION C

This section comprises 3 short answer (SA) type questions of 3 marks each.

15. (a) 'Women in India still face discrimination and oppression in various ways.' Support the statement with three examples. 3

OR

(b) How can women's political representation in India be improved? Explain with three points.

16. Explain the changes that have weakened the caste system in modern India. 3

17. How has politics influenced the caste system? Explain three ways. 3

SECTION D

This section comprises 1 long answer (LA) type questions of 5 marks each.

18. (a) What is communalism? Explain the different forms communalism can take in politics, and how the Constitution of India deals with it. 5

OR

(b) 'Caste alone cannot determine election results in India.' Support the statement with five reasons.

SECTION E

This section comprises 2 case study based questions of 4 marks each, with sub-parts of 1, 1 and 2 marks.

19. Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights. There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women. These agitations demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and career opportunities.

(i) What are such movements called? [1]

(ii) What is the radical aim of these movements? [1]

(iii) How did the political expression of gender issues help to improve women's role in public life? Give two points. [2]

OR

(iii) Give two reasons why women's issues need representation in legislatures. [2]

20. Caste can take various forms in politics. Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support. It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

(i) What is the principle of 'one-person-one-vote'? [1]

(ii) How did universal adult franchise affect castes earlier treated as inferior? [1]

(iii) Explain one positive and one negative effect of the role of caste in politics. [2]

OR

(iii) Why can't the idea of a 'vote bank' of a caste fully explain election results? Give two reasons. [2]

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
(B)	(A)	(D)	(B)	(A)	(C)	(D)	(C)	(D)	(A)

MARKING SCHEME AND WORKED SOLUTIONS

Marks for each step are shown in brackets, as in the CBSE marking scheme. Any correct alternative method earns full marks.

Q1. Answer (B). The state may intervene to ensure equality within religious communities — for example, the Constitution bans untouchability; it gives no special status to any religion.

Q2. Answer (A). Endogamy continues: most people marry within their own caste or tribe. Hereditary occupations have broken down, untouchability is prohibited by law, and the effects of past inequality on economic status are still felt.

Q3. Answer (D). Unlike Buddhism in Sri Lanka or Islam in Pakistan, the Indian Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.

Q4. Answer (B). One-third of the seats in local bodies are reserved for women; this has brought a very large number of women into local government.

Q5. Answer (A). The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work; yet in almost all areas of work women are paid less than men.

Q6. Answer (C). Communalism uses religion to divide people into exclusive communities whose interests are seen as opposed.

Q7. Answer (D). Political leaders and social reformers such as Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar advocated and worked for a society without caste inequalities.

Q8. Answer (C). Every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste to win an election; many voters vote on other grounds too.

Q9. Answer (D). A is false: caste has not disappeared — endogamy continues, untouchability has not ended completely and the effects of past inequalities are still felt. R is true. Answer (D).

Q10. Answer (A). Both true, and R explains A: Gandhiji did not mean any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam. Answer (A).

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: (a) home work for women, outside work for men; women's work undervalued; (b) system valuing men more; sex-selective abortion.
(a) It is a system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family or organised by them through domestic helpers, while men work outside. [1]
Because of this division, women's work is not valued and their role in public life, especially politics, has been minimal; it is based on social expectations and stereotypes, not biology. [1]
OR (b) Patriarchy literally means rule by father; it refers to a system that values men more and gives them power over women. [1]
Example: in many parts of India parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted (sex-selective abortion), which lowers the child sex ratio. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: To check communalism; to give equal freedom and rights to all religions.
Communalism was one of the major challenges to democracy in India; the makers of the Constitution were aware of it and chose the model of a secular state as a solution. [1]
A secular state with no official religion and freedom of religion for all citizens ensures that no religion dominates others and all citizens have equal rights. [1]

Q13. (2 marks) Answer: Everyday prejudice; political mobilisation on religious lines or communal violence.
In everyday beliefs, as religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and a belief in the superiority of one's religion over others. [1]
As political mobilisation on religious lines using sacred symbols, religious leaders and emotional appeals; or, in its ugliest form, communal violence, riots and massacres, as at the time of Partition (any one). [1]

Q14. (2 marks) Answer: Candidates chosen by caste composition; appeals to caste sentiment.
When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes to muster support. [1]
Political parties and candidates make appeals to caste sentiment to win support; some parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives. [1]

Q15. (3 marks) Answer: (a) lower literacy and higher studies; few top jobs, unpaid work; unequal wages; (b) low share in legislatures; legally binding share (2023 Act, after delimitation); one-third seats in local bodies.
(a) The literacy rate among women is lower than among men; a smaller proportion of girl students go on for higher studies, as parents prefer to spend on their sons' education. [1]
The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small; on average an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day, yet much of her work is unpaid and not valued. [1]
In almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema to factories and fields, women are paid less than men even when both do the same work, despite the Equal Wages Act. [1]
OR (b) Women's representation in legislatures has been low; the percentage of elected women members in the Lok Sabha has stayed far below half of its strength. [1]
One way is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in elected bodies: the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 reserves one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies for women, to take effect after a fresh delimitation. [1]
One-third of seats in local government bodies are reserved for women, which has brought a very large number of women into local government. [1]

Q16. (3 marks) Answer: Urbanisation, literacy, occupational mobility; weaker landlords, reformers; constitutional prohibition of discrimination.
Economic development, large-scale urbanisation, the growth of literacy and education, and occupational mobility have broken down the old notions of caste hierarchy. [1]
The position of landlords in the villages has weakened, and political leaders and social reformers such as Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar worked for a society without caste inequalities. [1]
The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system. [1]

Q17. (3 marks) Answer: Castes enlarge; coalitions and negotiation; new 'backward' and 'forward' groups.
Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes that were earlier excluded. [1]
Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities, and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation. [1]
New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena, such as 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups. [1]

Q18. (5 marks) Answer: (a) definition; everyday beliefs; dominance and mobilisation; violence; secular Constitution; (b) no single-caste majority; many castes needed; vote bank means a large share; several same-caste candidates; incumbents lose.
(a) Communalism is a situation in which a religious group promotes only its own interests at the cost of others; it is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community, and that followers of different religions cannot live as equal citizens. [1]
It can be expressed in everyday beliefs, as religious prejudices, stereotypes and a belief in the superiority of one's religion. [1]
A communal mind may seek political dominance of its own religious community — majoritarian dominance, or for minority communities a desire to form a separate political unit; political mobilisation on religious lines uses sacred symbols, religious leaders and emotional appeal. [1]
Sometimes it takes its ugliest form of communal violence, riots and massacres; India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of Partition. [1]
The Constitution makes India secular: no official religion; freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion; prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion; and the state may intervene in religious matters to ensure equality within communities. [1]
OR (b) Caste alone cannot determine election results in India: no parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste. [1]
So every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections. [1]
No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community; when people say a caste is a 'vote bank' of a party, it usually means that a large proportion of its voters vote for that party. [1]
Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste, so some voters have more than one candidate from their caste. [1]
The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose elections; voters also have strong attachment to parties and are influenced by the performance of the government. [1]

Q19. (4 marks) Answer: (i) feminist movements; (ii) equality in personal, family and public life; (iii)(a) high participation in Scandinavia, new careers; (b) issues neglected without women; laws for women.
(i) Feminist movements. [1]
(ii) Equality in personal and family life as well as in public affairs. [1]
(iii)(a) Political mobilisation helped improve women's role in public life: in Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland, the participation of women in public life is very high. [1]
Women now work as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers and college and university teachers, jobs earlier not considered suitable for women. [1]
OR (iii)(b) Issues concerning women's welfare or development do not get adequate attention when few women are in decision-making bodies. [1]
Women in legislatures can push for laws against discrimination and for their safety, education and work. [1]

Q20. (4 marks) Answer: (i) one vote of equal value for each adult; (ii) new consciousness, demand for power; (iii)(a) access for disadvantaged vs diversion and conflict; (b) not all of a caste vote alike; performance matters.
(i) Every adult citizen has one vote, and every vote has equal value. [1]
(ii) It brought new consciousness among them, so they began to demand their share of power. [1]
(iii)(a) Positive: it allowed disadvantaged communities, such as Dalits and OBCs, to gain better access to decision-making and to demand their share of power. [1]
Negative: politics based on caste identity alone can divert attention from other pressing issues such as poverty, development and corruption, and can lead to tensions, conflict and even violence. [1]
OR (iii)(b) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste; a 'vote bank' only means that a large proportion of its voters vote for that party. [1]
Voters are also influenced by the performance of the government and the popularity of leaders, and sitting MPs and MLAs frequently lose. [1]

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computer.