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Print Culture and the Modern World — 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: Print Culture and the Modern World (History: India and the Contemporary World – II) · **Topics:** First printed books: China and Japan · Print comes to Europe · Gutenberg and the printing press · Print revolution and its impact · Religious debates and the fear of print · Reading mania and the French Revolution · Nineteenth century: children, women, workers · Print in India · Print and censorship

SECTION A

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

1. The oldest Japanese book, printed in AD 868 and containing six sheets of text and woodcut illustrations, is the 1

(A) Bible
(B) Bibliotheque Bleue
(C) Diamond Sutra
(D) Ramcharitmanas

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

(A) Marco Polo
(B) Johann Gutenberg
(C) Erasmus
(D) Martin Luther

3. The first book printed by Johann Gutenberg on his printing press was the 1

(A) Ninety Five Theses
(B) Bible
(C) Diamond Sutra
(D) Encyclopaedia

4. Arrange in chronological order: (I) Martin Luther writes his Ninety Five Theses; (II) the Roman Church begins to keep an Index of Prohibited Books; (III) the Vernacular Press Act is passed in India; (IV) James Augustus Hickey begins editing the Bengal Gazette. 1

(A) II, I, IV, III
(B) I, IV, II, III
(C) I, II, III, IV
(D) I, II, IV, III

5. Low-priced small books, printed on poor quality paper and bound in cheap blue covers, were sold in France. They were called 1

(A) Bibliotheque Bleue
(B) chapbooks
(C) penny magazines
(D) ukiyo

6. Who wrote 'Amar Jiban' (1876), the first full-length autobiography published in the Bengali language? 1

(A) Tarabai Shinde
(B) Pandita Ramabai
(C) Kailashbashini Debi
(D) Rashsundari Debi

7. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was modelled on the 1

(A) Rowlatt Act
(B) Act of Union
(C) Irish Press Laws
(D) Treaty of Vienna

8. Who wrote 'Gulamgiri' (1871) about the injustices of the caste system? 1

(A) B.R. Ambedkar
(B) Jyotiba Phule
(C) E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker
(D) Kashibaba

9. **Assertion (A):** The Roman Catholic Church began to maintain an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558. 1

Reason (R): Print had made a wide variety of readings and interpretations of religious ideas available to common people, and some of these questioned the Church.

(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):** Martin Luther said, 'Printing is the ultimate gift of God and the greatest one.' 1

Reason (R): Martin Luther was a Catholic reformer who wanted print to be controlled by the Church.

(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) How did the shift from hand printing to mechanical printing lead to a 'print revolution' in Europe? 2

OR

(b) How did print create a new reading public?

12. Why were some people afraid of the effects of easily available printed books? Give two examples. 2

13. What was the role of the printing press in the spread of Protestant Reformation? 2

14. What did the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 provide for? 2

SECTION C

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

15. (a) How did print culture help to create the conditions for the French Revolution? Give three reasons. 3

OR

(b) Trace how British attitudes to press freedom in India changed between the 1820s and 1878.

16. Explain how print helped women in India. Give three points. 3

17. How did print help the poor people and workers in India to raise their voice? 3

SECTION D

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

18. (a) Describe the growth of print in India from the coming of the printing press to the early nineteenth century. 5

OR

(b) Explain how print shaped religious reform and debate in India in the nineteenth century, with examples from different communities.

SECTION E

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

19. In the late nineteenth century, a children's press devoted to literature for children alone was set up in France in 1857. The Grimm Brothers in Germany spent years compiling traditional folk tales gathered from peasants. Women became important as readers as well as writers, and lending libraries had been in existence from the seventeenth century onwards.

(i) In which year was the children's press set up in France? [1]

(ii) Name two well-known women novelists of nineteenth-century England. [1]

(iii) Why did the Grimm Brothers edit the folk tales they collected before printing them? [2]

OR

(iii) How did the invention of the power-driven cylindrical press and later developments change book production in the nineteenth century? [2]

20. Menocchio, a miller in sixteenth-century Italy, began to read books that were available in his locality. He reinterpreted the message of the Bible and formulated a view of God and Creation that enraged the Roman Catholic Church. When the Church began its inquisition to repress heretical ideas, Menocchio was hauled up twice and ultimately executed.

(i) Who was Menocchio? [1]

(ii) What was the 'Inquisition'? [1]

(iii) Why did the Roman Catholic Church impose controls on publishers and booksellers? [2]

OR

(iii) What was the 'reading mania' of eighteenth-century Europe? Give two of its features. [2]

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

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

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 (C). Buddhist missionaries from China introduced hand-printing into Japan around AD 768–770; the Diamond Sutra of AD 868 is the oldest Japanese book.

Q2. Answer (A). Marco Polo, the great explorer, returned to Italy after many years in China and brought the knowledge of woodblock printing with him.

Q3. Answer (B). About 180 copies of the Bible were printed, and it took three years to produce them; by 1448 Gutenberg had perfected the system.

Q4. Answer (D). Luther 1517; Index of Prohibited Books from 1558; Hickey's Bengal Gazette 1780; Vernacular Press Act 1878.

Q5. Answer (A). In France the 'Bibliotheque Bleue' were low-priced books; in England, penny chapbooks were carried by pedlars called chapmen.

Q6. Answer (D). Rashsundari Debi, a young married girl in a very orthodox household, learnt to read in the secrecy of her kitchen and later wrote Amar Jiban.

Q7. Answer (C). Modelled on the Irish Press Laws, it gave the government extensive rights to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular press.

Q8. Answer (B). Jyotiba Phule, the Maratha pioneer of 'low caste' protest movements, wrote about the injustices of the caste system in Gulamgiri.

Q9. Answer (A). Both true, and R explains A: troubled by such effects of popular readings (as with the miller Menocchio), the Church imposed severe controls over publishers and booksellers. Answer (A).

Q10. Answer (C). A is true: Luther's Ninety Five Theses (1517) were printed in large numbers and read widely, leading to the Protestant Reformation. R is false: Luther was a religious reformer who criticised the Roman Catholic Church; it was Erasmus who, as a Catholic reformer, criticised the spread of print. Answer (C).

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: (a) presses all over Europe 1450–1550, 20 then 200 million copies; changed relations to knowledge; (b) cheaper books; new reading public.
(a) Between 1450 and 1550 printing presses were set up in most countries of Europe; the shift brought a big rise in book production — 20 million copies in the second half of the fifteenth century and 200 million in the sixteenth. [1]
It was a new way of producing books that transformed the lives of people, their relationship to information and knowledge, and opened new ways of looking at things. [1]
OR (b) Print reduced the time and labour required to produce each book, so multiple copies could be produced with greater ease and books became cheaper. [1]
A new reading public emerged: books flooded the market and reached an ever-growing readership, including common people who could listen to books read aloud. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: Fear of rebellious and irreligious ideas; Erasmus, religious authorities and monarchs.
Not everyone welcomed the printed book: many feared that if there was no control over what was printed and read, rebellious and irreligious thoughts might spread and the authority of 'valuable' literature would be destroyed. [1]
Erasmus, a Latin scholar and Catholic reformer, expressed deep anxiety about printing; religious authorities and monarchs, and many writers and artists, were also critical. [1]

Q13. (2 marks) Answer: Ninety Five Theses printed widely; division in the Church.
In 1517 Martin Luther wrote Ninety Five Theses criticising many of the practices and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church; a printed copy was posted on a church door in Wittenberg. [1]
Luther's writings were immediately reproduced in vast numbers and read widely, leading to a division within the Church and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. [1]

Q14. (2 marks) Answer: Censorship of the vernacular press; warnings, seizure of presses.
Modelled on the Irish Press Laws, it gave the government extensive rights to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular press. [1]
The government kept regular track of vernacular newspapers; when a report was judged seditious, the newspaper was warned, and if the warning was ignored the press was liable to be seized and the printing machinery confiscated. [1]

Q15. (3 marks) Answer: (a) Enlightenment ideas, culture of debate, literature mocking royalty; (b) 1820s regulations; 1835 Bentinck and Macaulay restore freedoms; 1878 Vernacular Press Act.
(a) Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers such as Voltaire and Rousseau, who criticised tradition, superstition and despotism and argued for the rule of reason. [1]
Print created a new culture of dialogue and debate; values, norms and institutions were re-evaluated and discussed by a public that had become aware of the power of reason. [1]
By the 1780s there was an outpouring of literature that mocked the royalty and criticised their morality, raising questions about the existing social order. [1]
OR (b) In 1820s the Calcutta Supreme Court passed regulations to control press freedom, and the Company began encouraging publication of newspapers that would celebrate British rule. [1]
In 1835, faced with urgent petitions by editors of English and vernacular newspapers, Governor-General Bentinck agreed to revise press laws; Thomas Macaulay formulated new rules that restored the earlier freedoms. [1]
After the revolt of 1857 attitudes changed; the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 gave the government extensive rights to censor the vernacular press. [1]

Q16. (3 marks) Answer: Education and women's journals; Rashsundari Debi and Kailashbashini Debi; Tarabai Shinde and Pandita Ramabai.
Liberal husbands and fathers began educating their womenfolk at home and sent them to schools for women in cities and towns; many journals carried writings by women explaining why women should be educated. [1]
Some women learnt to read secretly and wrote: Rashsundari Debi wrote her autobiography Amar Jiban (1876); Kailashbashini Debi wrote books highlighting the experiences of women. [1]
In Maharashtra, Tarabai Shinde and Pandita Ramabai wrote with passionate anger about the miserable lives of upper-caste Hindu women, especially widows. [1]

Q17. (3 marks) Answer: Cheap books and libraries; Phule, Ambedkar, Periyar on caste; Kashibaba's writing on workers.
Very cheap small books were brought to markets in nineteenth-century Madras towns and sold at crossroads; public libraries were set up from the early twentieth century, expanding access. [1]
From the late nineteenth century, issues of caste discrimination began to be written about: Jyotiba Phule wrote Gulamgiri (1871); B.R. Ambedkar and E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker (Periyar) also wrote powerfully on caste. [1]
Local protest movements and sects also created popular journals; Kashibaba, a Kanpur millworker, wrote Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal (1938) to show the links between caste and class exploitation. [1]

Q18. (5 marks) Answer: (a) Goa and Konkani; Tamil 1579 and Malayalam 1713; Hickey's Bengal Gazette 1780; Gangadhar Bhattacharya; Sambad Kaumudi, Persian and Gujarati papers 1822; (b) debates; reformers vs orthodoxy; Deoband fatwas; Ramcharitmanas 1810, vernacular presses; wide reach.

(a) The printing press first came to Goa with Portuguese missionaries in the mid-sixteenth century; Jesuit priests learnt Konkani and printed several tracts, and by 1674 about 50 books had been printed in Konkani and Kanara. [1]

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. [1]

From 1780 James Augustus Hickey began to edit the Bengal Gazette, a weekly magazine that described itself as a commercial paper open to all but influenced by none. [1]

Gangadhar Bhattacharya, a close associate of Rammohun Roy, was the first Indian to publish an Indian newspaper, the weekly Bengal Gazette. [1]

From 1821 Rammohun Roy published the Sambad Kaumudi, and the Hindu orthodoxy replied with Samachar Chandrika; in 1822 two Persian newspapers, Jam-i-Jahan Nama and Shamsul Akhbar, were published, and the Gujarati newspaper Bombay Samachar made its appearance. [1]

OR (b) Print allowed religious texts to reach a wide circle of people and encouraged discussions, debates and controversies within and among religions. [1]

Reformers such as Rammohun Roy and their opponents debated in print issues such as widow immolation, monotheism, Brahmanical priesthood and idolatry; Sambad Kaumudi (1821) and Samachar Chandrika were examples. [1]

The Deoband Seminary, founded in 1867, published thousands of fatwas telling Muslim readers how to conduct themselves in their everyday lives. [1]

Among Hindus, the first printed edition of the Ramcharitmanas of Tulsidas came out from Calcutta in 1810; the Naval Kishore Press at Lucknow and the Shri Venkateshwar Press in Bombay published numerous religious texts in vernaculars. [1]

Printed religious texts in vernaculars could be read easily by the common people, even illiterate women, and print connected communities and people in different parts of India. [1]

Q19. (4 marks) Answer: (i) 1857; (ii) Jane Austen, Brontë sisters, George Eliot; (iii)(a) unsuitable parts removed, tales changed; (b) Hoe's press, 8,000 sheets an hour; offset press, electric presses.

(i) 1857. [1]

(ii) Any two: Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters, George Eliot. [1]

(iii)(a) Anything considered unsuitable for children or that would appear vulgar to the elites was not included in the published version. [1]

Rural folk tales thus acquired a new form; print recorded old tales but also changed them. [1]

OR (iii)(b) By the mid-nineteenth century Richard M. Hoe of New York had perfected the power-driven cylindrical press, capable of printing 8,000 sheets per hour; it was particularly useful for printing newspapers. [1]

In the late nineteenth century the offset press was developed, which could print up to six colours at a time; electrically operated presses accelerated printing operations from the turn of the twentieth century. [1]

Q20. (4 marks) Answer: (i) Italian miller; (ii) court to punish heretics; (iii)(a) individual interpretations of faith; Index of Prohibited Books 1558; (b) demand for books as literacy rose; almanacs, ballads, periodicals, science for all.

(i) A miller in sixteenth-century Italy. [1]

(ii) A former Roman Catholic court for identifying and punishing heretics. [1]

(iii)(a) Print and popular religious literature stimulated many distinctive individual interpretations of faith even among little-educated working people, which questioned the Church. [1]

Troubled by such effects, the Church imposed severe controls and began to maintain an Index of Prohibited Books from 1558. [1]

OR (iii)(b) As churches set up schools in villages and literacy rose (to 60 to 80 per cent in some parts of Europe by the end of the eighteenth century), people everywhere wanted books, and printers produced them in ever-increasing numbers. [1]

New forms of popular literature appeared — almanacs, ritual calendars, ballads and folktales — periodicals combined current affairs with entertainment, and the ideas of scientists such as Isaac Newton reached a wider public. [1]

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