

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-02
Globalisation and Social Change

General instruction:

- Question 1-5 carries two marks each.
 - Question 6-8 carries four marks each.
 - Question 9-10 carries six marks each.
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1. Different subjects or academic disciplines may focus on different aspects of globalisation. Give examples.
2. What does the term 'liberalisation' refer to?
3. What were the economic reforms undertaken by the Indian state since July 1991?
4. Define 'electronic economy'.
5. What is 'weightless economy'?
6. The impact of globalisation on different sections of society is very different. Explain.
7. How was India interconnected to the world in the early years?
8. How did independent India retain a global outlook?
9. Describe the economic policy of liberalisation.
10. Write a note on the expansion of telecommunication in India.

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Globalisation and Social Change

1. Different subjects or academic disciplines may focus on different aspects of globalisation. For example, economics may be dealing more with the economic dimensions such as capital flows. Political science may focus on the changing role of governments. However, the very process of globalisation is so far-reaching that disciplines have to increasingly borrow from each other to understand both the causes and consequences of globalisation.
2. The term liberalisation refers to a range of policy decisions that the Indian state took since 1991 to open up the Indian economy to the world market. This marked a break with an earlier stated policy of the government to have a greater control over the economy.
3. Since July 1991, the Indian economy has witnessed a series of reforms in all major sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, trade, foreign investment and technology, public sector, financial institutions, etc. The basic assumption was that greater integration into the global market would be beneficial to Indian economy.
4. The 'electronic economy' is one of the factor that underpins economic globalisation. Banks, corporations, fund managers and individual investors are able to shift funds internationally with the click of a mouse. This new ability to move 'electronic money' instantaneously carries it with great risks however. Such transactions can happen only because of the communication revolution.
5. The weightless economy is one in which products have their base in information, as in the case with computer software, media and entertainment products and internet- based services.
6. The impact of globalisation on different sections of society is very different. There are, therefore, sharply divided views about the impact of globalisation regarding its effect. Some believe that it is necessary to herald a better world. Others fear that the impact of globalisation on different sections of people is vastly different. They argue that while many in the more privileged section may benefit, the condition of a large section of the already excluded population worsens. There are yet others who argue that globalisation is not a new development at all. In the next two sections we look at these issues.
7. India was not isolated from the world even two thousand years ago.

The famous Silk route, centuries ago had connected India to the great civilisations, which existed in China, Persia, Egypt and Rome.

Throughout India's long past, people from different parts came here, sometimes as traders, sometimes as conquerors, sometimes as migrants in search of new lands and settled down here.

In remote Indian villages often people 'recall' a time when their ancestors lived elsewhere, from where they came and settled down where they now live.

Global interactions or even a global outlook are thus not novel developments unique to the modern period or unique to modern India.

8. Independent India retained a global outlook in the following ways:

In many senses this was inherited from the Indian nationalist movement. Commitment to liberation struggles throughout the world, solidarity with people from different parts of the world was very much part of this vision.

Many Indians travelled overseas for education and work. Migration was an ongoing process.

Export and import of raw material, goods and technology was very much part of development since independence.

Foreign firms did operate in India. Hence, it is important to identify if the current process of change is radically different from anything that occurred in the past.

9. The term liberalisation refers to a range of policy decisions that the Indian state took since 1991 to open up the Indian economy to the world market. This marked a break with an earlier stated policy of the government to have a greater control over the economy.

Liberalisation of the economy meant the steady removal of the rules that regulated Indian trade and finance regulations. These measures are also described as economic reforms. Since July 1991, the Indian economy has witnessed a series of reforms in all major sectors of the economy (agriculture, industry, trade, foreign investment and technology, public sector, financial institutions etc). The basic assumption was that greater integration into the global market would be beneficial to Indian economy.

The process of liberalisation also involved the taking of loans from international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These loans are given on certain conditions. The government makes commitments to pursue certain kind of economic measures that involve a policy of structural adjustments.

Structural adjustments usually mean cuts in state expenditure on the social sector such as

health, education and social security. There is also a greater say by international institutions such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

10. When India gained independence in 1947, the new nation had 84,000 telephone lines for its population of 350 million.

Thirty three years later, by 1980, India's telephone service was still bad with only 2.5 million telephones and 12,000 public phones for a population of 700 million; only 3 percent of India's 600,000 villages had telephones.

During the late 1990s, a sea change occurred in the telecommunication scenario: by 1999, India had installed network of over 25 million telephone lines, spread across 300 cities, 4,869 towns, and 310, 897 villages, making India's telecommunication network the ninth largest in the world.

Between 1988 and 1998, the number of villages with some kind of telephone facility increased from 27,316 to 300,000 villages (half of all villages in India).

By 2000, some 650,000 public call offices (PCOs) provided reliable telephone service, where people can simply walk in, make a call, and pay the metered charges, had mushroomed all over India, including the remote, rural, hilly, and tribal areas.

The emergence of PCOs satisfies the strong Indian socio-cultural need of keeping in touch with family members. Not surprisingly, most advertisement for telephony service show mothers talking to their sons and daughters, or grandparents talking to grandchildren.

Telephone expansion in India thus serves a strong socio-cultural function for its users, in addition to a commercial one.