

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chapter 8 – Unity in Diversity, or ‘Many in the One’

Competency-Based Questions & Answers

Exam-focused | Case Study • Application • Reasoning • Source Analysis • HOTS

1. Case-Based Question – Understanding Diversity

A student travels from one part of India to another and notices differences in language, food, clothing, festivals and customs. However, people from different regions also interact, work together and share many cultural practices.

Answer: It shows that India has great diversity in language, culture, food, customs and traditions. Diversity and unity can exist together because people may have different regional identities while sharing common social, cultural and national connections.

2. Competency-Based Question – Meaning of Unity in Diversity

Why is the expression “Unity in Diversity” appropriate for India?

Answer: India consists of many communities with different languages, traditions, customs, food habits and lifestyles. At the same time, people share many cultural connections and live together as part of one country. Therefore, diversity exists within a larger sense of unity.

3. Case Study – Language

A family speaks one language at home but learns and uses another language at school and communicates with people who speak other languages. What does this situation tell us about India’s linguistic diversity?

Answer: It shows that India is linguistically diverse. People can use more than one language and interact with speakers of different languages. Languages can coexist and contribute to India’s cultural richness.

4. Higher-Order Thinking

A student says, “For a country to be united, everyone must follow exactly the same traditions.” Do you agree? Explain.

Answer: No. Unity does not require everyone to have identical traditions. People can have different languages, customs, food habits and festivals while sharing common civic and social bonds. Respecting diversity can support peaceful coexistence.

5. Case-Based Question – Food Diversity

During a school event, students bring dishes from different parts of India. The dishes look and taste different, but everyone enjoys learning about them. What does this activity demonstrate?

Answer: It demonstrates cultural diversity and cultural exchange. Food traditions differ from region to region, and sharing them helps people understand and appreciate other communities.

6. Competency-Based MCQ

Which situation best demonstrates unity in diversity?

- A. Everyone following exactly the same customs
- B. Different communities preserving their traditions while living and participating together
- C. One language replacing all other languages
- D. Different communities avoiding one another

Answer: B. Different communities preserving their traditions while living and participating together.

7. Application-Based Question - Festivals

Different communities celebrate different festivals, while people from other communities sometimes participate in or learn about these celebrations. What does this tell us about cultural interaction?

Answer: It shows that cultural traditions can be shared and appreciated across community boundaries. Such interaction can promote understanding and strengthen social connections.

8. Source-Based Question

A historical source describes a region where traders, travellers and communities from different places met regularly. How might such interaction influence culture?

Answer: Regular interaction could lead to the exchange of languages, ideas, food habits, technologies, artistic styles, customs and knowledge. Over time, such exchanges can influence local culture.

9. Reasoning Question - Similarity and Difference

Two regions have different languages and food traditions but share some similar stories and cultural practices. What could explain this?

Answer: The similarities could be the result of historical interaction, migration, trade, shared cultural influences or common traditions. More evidence would be needed to determine the exact reason.

10. Case-Based Question - Migration

A community moves from one region to another but continues to practise some of its traditional customs. At the same time, it adopts some practices of the new region. What cultural process is illustrated here?

Answer: This illustrates cultural interaction and adaptation. The community maintains elements of its original culture while adopting or adapting to practices from its new surroundings.

11. Assertion and Reason

Assertion: India's diversity has developed through long periods of interaction among different communities.

Reason: Travel, trade, migration and other forms of contact can lead to the exchange of cultural practices.

Answer: Both the Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion.

12. Competency-Based Question - Regional Diversity

Why do different regions of India have different food habits?

Answer: Food habits can be influenced by local climate, geography, availability of crops and animals, traditional knowledge, history and cultural practices. Therefore, regional food traditions can vary considerably.

13. Higher-Order Thinking - Geography and Culture

A coastal community traditionally eats more seafood, while a community in an inland agricultural region has a different food pattern. How can geography influence culture?

Answer: Geography affects the availability of natural resources and food materials. Communities often develop practices based on their environment, so geography can influence food, occupations and aspects of daily life.

14. Competency-Based Question - Clothing

Traditional clothing differs across different regions of India. What factors can influence regional clothing traditions?

Answer: Clothing can be influenced by climate, local materials, occupations, customs, history and cultural traditions. Different regions therefore develop distinctive forms of dress.

15. Case-Based Question - Arts

A school organises a programme in which students perform different traditional dances and musical forms from various parts of India. How can such activities help students understand unity in diversity?

Answer: They expose students to different cultural traditions and help them understand India's many forms of music, dance and artistic expression. Learning about different traditions can encourage appreciation and respect while recognising wider cultural connections.

16. Competency-Based MCQ

Which factor can contribute to cultural diversity?

- A. Differences in geography and environment
- B. Interaction between communities
- C. Historical developments
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above.

17. Case Study - Cultural Change

A traditional art form is practised today, but artists have introduced new designs while retaining important traditional features. What does this example demonstrate?

Answer: It demonstrates continuity and change. Important elements of the tradition have continued, while artists have adapted the art form to new circumstances.

18. Critical Thinking Question

Why should we avoid judging another community's customs simply because they are different from our own?

Answer: Customs develop within particular historical, social and cultural contexts. A practice that is unfamiliar to us may have important meaning for another community. Understanding the context helps us appreciate diversity respectfully.

19. Application-Based Question - School

Your class has students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. What steps can students take to maintain unity while respecting diversity?

Answer: Students can respect different languages and traditions, learn about one another's cultures, avoid stereotypes and discrimination, participate respectfully in cultural activities, work together on common goals and treat everyone fairly.

20. Comprehensive Competency Question

Imagine that you are preparing an exhibition titled "Many in the One." You have sections on languages, food, clothing, festivals, music, dance, crafts and traditions. How would the exhibition demonstrate the idea of unity in diversity?

Answer: The exhibition would show that India contains many different cultural traditions, each with its own characteristics. It would also show how communities have interacted and influenced one another over time. It would therefore demonstrate that different identities and traditions can exist together within a shared social and national framework.

Quick Competency Revision

Unity in Diversity

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Many Languages + Many Food Traditions + Many Festivals

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Many Customs, Arts & Traditions

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Interaction & Cultural Exchange

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Shared Life and Connections

Competency Clues

If the question mentions...	Think about...
Different languages	Linguistic diversity
Different food habits	Geography + culture
Different clothing	Climate + local traditions
Different festivals	Cultural diversity
Traders / travellers	Cultural exchange
Migration	Cultural interaction and adaptation
Different art forms	Cultural diversity
Traditional practice changing	Continuity + change
People working together despite differences	Unity in diversity
Respect for different traditions	Inclusive coexistence

Key Exam Idea

Unity in diversity does not mean that everyone is the same. It means that people with different identities, languages, traditions and lifestyles can live together and share common connections.

How to Answer Competency Questions

- Identify the evidence or situation given.
- Explain what it suggests.
- Give a reason or link it to the concept in the chapter.
- Avoid conclusions that go beyond the evidence.