

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

PART 1 • CHAPTER 1

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SCIENCE

Competency-Based Questions (CBQs)

Instructions: Read each case carefully and answer the questions using the information given and your understanding of the chapter.

Case-Based Question 1: Understanding Everyday Systems

A group of students observes how vegetables reach their homes. Farmers grow the vegetables, workers sort and pack them, transporters carry them to markets, and shopkeepers sell them. The students also learn that roads are maintained by public authorities and that the whole process depends on the natural environment.

a) Which subject helps students understand how goods are produced, exchanged and distributed?

Answer: Economics.

b) Which subject helps explain the relationship between people and their environment?

Answer: Geography.

c) Give one reason why this situation cannot be understood through only one Social Science discipline.

Answer: The process involves farming and the environment, production and trade, transport systems, and public authorities. These aspects are interconnected.

d) Identify one way in which Social Science is useful in everyday life.

Answer: It helps us understand how systems such as food supply, transport and public services work.

Case-Based Question 2: Studying the Past

A student finds an old coin with an inscription and a symbol. A historian examines the coin's material, inscription and design and compares it with other historical evidence to understand the period in which it was used.

a) What type of historical source is the coin?

Answer: A numismatic source.

b) What can the inscription and symbols help a historian understand? Give two examples.

Answer: They may provide information about rulers, chronology, trade, the economy, political boundaries or culture.

c) Why should historians use evidence rather than rely only on guesses?

Answer: Evidence supports reliable explanations about the past and allows claims to be examined and compared.

d) Name one other type of source that could help a historian study the past.

Answer: Examples include archaeological remains, genealogical records, travelogues, memoirs, correspondence, folklore or oral traditions.

Case-Based Question 3: Drought and Society

A region experiences a severe drought. Crop production falls, farmers' incomes decline, some families move to cities in search of work, and the government announces relief measures.

a) Which discipline studies the effect of reduced crop production on farmers' income?

Answer: Economics.

b) Which discipline examines government relief measures and public decisions?

Answer: Political Science.

c) Which discipline can help study the relationship between drought and the natural environment?

Answer: Geography.

d) Explain why the situation requires an interdisciplinary understanding.

Answer: Drought affects the environment and agriculture, household incomes, migration, and government action. The disciplines together provide a fuller understanding.

Case-Based Question 4: Local Democracy

A village council discusses the need for better roads, clean drinking water and improvements to the local school. Residents attend the meeting and share their views before decisions are made.

a) Which system of local self-governance is associated with grassroots democracy in India?

Answer: The Panchayati Raj system.

b) Which Social Science discipline studies governance, power and decision-making?

Answer: Political Science.

c) How does participation by residents support local democracy?

Answer: It gives citizens a voice in local development planning and allows community needs to be considered.

d) State one responsibility of a citizen in such a process.

Answer: A citizen can participate respectfully, share relevant concerns and consider the needs of the wider community.

Case-Based Question 5: Evidence and Historical Explanation

A researcher wants to understand how a community lived in the past. The researcher studies an excavated site, reads old written records, interviews people about oral traditions and compares the information from these sources.

a) What are archaeological sources? Give one example from the case.

Answer: Archaeological sources are material remains used to study the past. The excavated site is an example.

b) What is empirical evidence?

Answer: Information collected through actual observation or experimentation.

c) Why might a researcher compare different sources?

Answer: Comparing sources can help identify connections, check interpretations and develop a better-supported explanation.

d) What is one example of an oral source mentioned in the case?

Answer: Oral traditions shared by people.

Case-Based Question 6: Interconnectedness of Human Societies

Students discuss the idea “Vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam” and consider how events in one region can affect people elsewhere. They note that environmental changes, trade and the movement of people can connect distant communities.

a) What does “Vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam” mean?

Answer: “The world is one family.”

b) What idea does this expression communicate about human societies?

Answer: It expresses the interconnectedness of human societies across regions and cultures.

c) Name one factor in the case that can connect distant communities.

Answer: Environmental changes, trade or the movement of people.

d) How can Social Science help students understand these connections?

Answer: It helps them study relationships among people, places, economies, institutions and the environment using observation, evidence and reasoning.

Case-Based Question 7: Choosing the Appropriate Discipline

A class is preparing a project about a growing city. One group studies maps and the city's location, another investigates how the city developed over time, a third examines decisions made by the municipal government, and a fourth studies jobs, businesses and the use of resources.

a) Which discipline focuses on maps, locations and relationships between people and their surroundings?

Answer: Geography.

b) Which discipline studies how the city developed over time?

Answer: History.

c) Which discipline examines government decisions and public institutions?

Answer: Political Science.

d) Which discipline studies jobs, businesses and the use of limited resources?

Answer: Economics.

Case-Based Question 8: Indian Knowledge Traditions

During a classroom discussion, students learn about the Pañchamahābhūtas and the idea that nature is interconnected. They also discuss how observation, questioning, dialogue and logical reasoning were valued in Indian knowledge traditions.

a) Name the five Pañchamahābhūtas.

Answer: Earth (Pṛithvī), water (Āpaḥ), fire (Agni), air (Vāyu) and space (Ākāśha).

b) What broad idea about nature is expressed by the concept of Pañchamahābhūtas in the chapter?

Answer: It presents nature as an interconnected system.

c) Name two methods of thinking valued in the Indian knowledge traditions described in the chapter.

Answer: Any two: questioning, observation, reflection, dialogue, discussion or logical reasoning.

d) How can questioning and observation help in the study of Social Science?

Answer: They help students investigate social questions carefully and develop explanations supported by evidence.

Quick Revision: Which Discipline?

- Geography — places, Earth's physical features, people and their surroundings.
- History — the human past and evidence used to understand change over time.
- Political Science — governance, power, public decisions and institutions.
- Economics — limited resources and the production, exchange and distribution of goods and services.