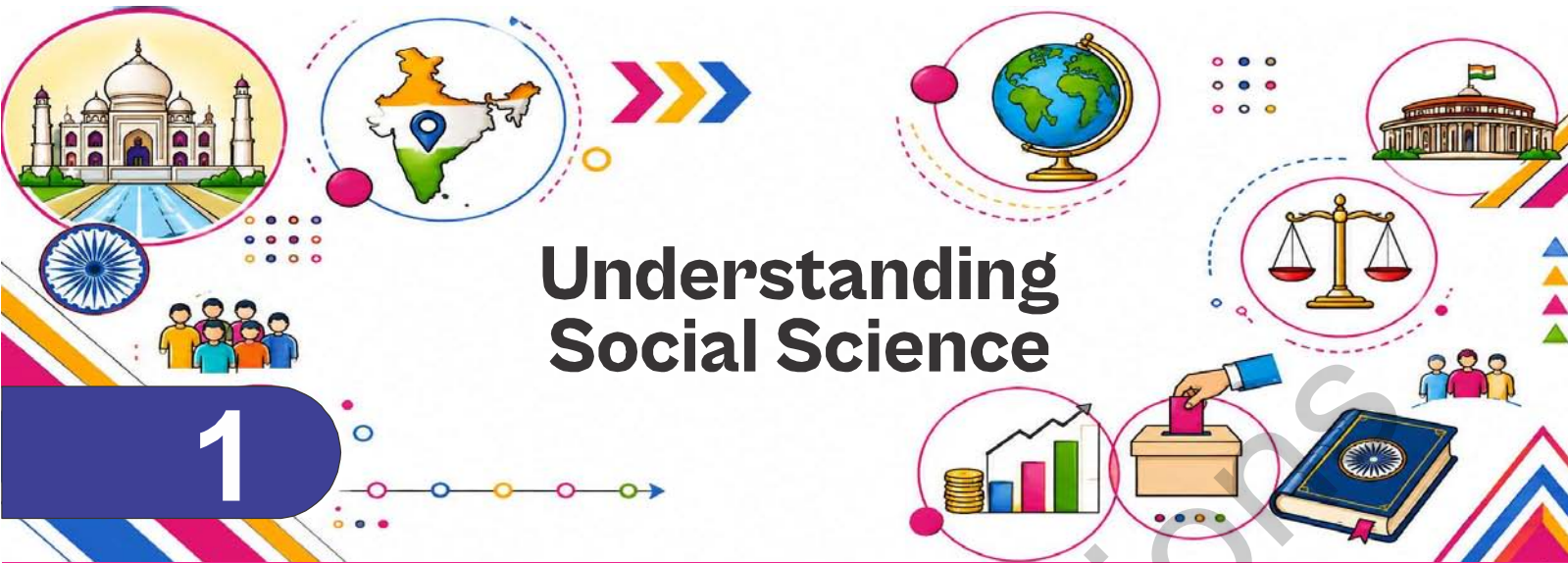




Understanding Social Science

1

SECTION 1

Social Science in Everyday Life

What is Social Science?

- In Grades 6 to 8, we explored Social Science through **stories of people, places, and events**.
- Human beings **live in societies** and depend on each other in many ways.
- Our lives are shaped by the **environment**, the **institutions** that govern us, the **economic activities** that meet our needs, and the **traditions and ideas** passed down through generations.
- **Social Science is the systematic study of human society.**
- It tells us **what happened** and **where things are located**, and also explains **why events occur**, how people live together, how environments influence life, how governments function, how economies operate, and how the **past and present together shape the world**.

How it differs from natural sciences

- Subjects like **Physics, Chemistry, and Biology** study the **natural world**.
- **Social Science** focuses on **society, institutions, cultures, and human interactions**.
- It helps us understand not only **what happens** but also **why it happens** and how different aspects of life are **interconnected**.

Social Science in Everyday Life

- Think about a day in your life:
 - ❖ You wake up in a **house** built with materials sourced from different places.
 - ❖ The **food** you eat is harvested, processed, transported, bought, and sold through the efforts of many people.
 - ❖ You travel on **roads** planned and maintained by public authorities.
 - ❖ You study in a **school** shaped by educational policies.
 - ❖ The **electricity** you use is generated at distant power stations and delivered through a vast network.
- Even the simplest daily activities rely on **systems of governance, economic production, social cooperation, and the natural environment**.
- Looking beyond our surroundings raises questions like:
 - Why do some people live in crowded cities and others in scattered villages?
 - Why do communities speak different languages?
 - Why do some regions depend on farming and others on industry?
 - Why are certain regions prone to floods?
- Society does **not function by chance**; it is shaped by **history, geography, institutions, resources, and human choices**.
- Social Science helps us explore such questions through **careful observation, evidence, and logical reasoning**.

Practice Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is Social Science?

Ans. Social Science is the systematic study of human society, which examines how people live together, how societies function, and how the past and present shape the world.

2. What shapes human beings lives?

Ans. Human beings lives are shaped by the environment, the institutions that govern us, the economic activities that meet our needs, and the traditions and ideas passed down through generations.

3. What do the natural sciences study?

Ans. Subjects like Physics, Chemistry, and Biology study the natural world, unlike Social Science, which focuses on society, institutions, cultures, and human interactions.

4. What does Social Science focus on?

Ans. Social Science focuses on society, institutions, cultures, and human interactions, helping us understand what happens, why it happens, and how life is interconnected.

5. Name any two systems that even simple daily activities rely on.

Ans. Even the simplest daily activities rely on systems of governance, economic production, social cooperation, and the natural environment.

6. What shapes society, if not chance?

Ans. Society is shaped by history, geography, institutions, resources, and human choices, rather than functioning by chance.

7. Through what does Social Science seek answers?

Ans. Social Science seeks answers through careful observation, evidence, and logical reasoning.

8. Give one example of how food reaches your plate.

Ans. Before food reaches our plate, it is harvested, processed, transported, bought, and sold through the efforts of many people.

9. Name any two questions that Social Science helps explore.

Ans. Social Science helps explore questions like why some people live in crowded cities while others live in scattered villages, and why certain regions are more prone to floods.

10. How is Social Science different from Physics or Biology?

Ans. Physics and Biology study the natural world, while Social Science focuses on society, institutions, cultures, and human interactions.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is Social Science? Explain.

Ans.

- Social Science is the **systematic study of human society**.
- It tells us **what happened** and **where things are located**.
- It explains **why events occur**.
- It shows how people **live together** and how environments **influence life**.
- It studies how **governments function** and **economics operate**.
- It shows how the **past and present** together shape the world.

2. How does Social Science appear in everyday life?

Ans.

- We wake up in a **house** built with materials from different places.
- Our **food** is harvested, processed, transported, and sold by many people.
- We travel on **roads** maintained by public authorities.
- We study in a **school** shaped by educational policies.
- We use **electricity** delivered through a vast network.
- All these rely on **governance, economic production, cooperation, and the environment**.

3. How is Social Science different from the natural sciences?

Ans.

- The **natural sciences** (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) study the **natural world**.
- **Social Science** studies **society and human life**.
- It focuses on **institutions, cultures, and human interactions**.
- It explains not just **what happens** but **why**.
- It shows how aspects of life are **interconnected**.
- Thus, its focus is on **society**, not nature.

4. What kinds of questions does Social Science help explore?

Ans.

- Why do some people live in **crowded cities** and others in **villages**?
- Why do communities speak **different languages**?
- Why do some regions depend on **farming** and others on **industry**?
- How do governments make **decisions** affecting millions?
- Why are certain regions prone to **floods**?
- How does **climate change** influence our lives?



5. How does a simple daily activity depend on larger systems?

- Ans.**
- A house is built with **materials from different places**.
 - Food passes through **harvesting, transport, and trade**.
 - Roads are **planned and maintained** by public authorities.
 - Schools are shaped by **educational policies**.
 - Electricity comes from **distant power stations**.
 - Thus, daily life depends on **governance, economy, cooperation, and nature**.

6. Why is Social Science important for understanding the world?

- Ans.**
- It helps us understand **how society works**.
 - It shows how **different aspects of life** are interconnected.
 - It explains the **causes** behind events.
 - It uses **observation, evidence, and reasoning**.
 - It connects the **past, present, and future**.
 - Thus, it helps us make sense of our **social world**.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain the meaning and scope of Social Science.

- Ans. Meaning**
- Social Science is the **systematic study of human society**.

What it studies

- **What happened** and **where things are located**.
- **Why events occur** and how people **live together**.
- How **environments influence life**.
- How **governments and economies function**.

How it differs from natural sciences

- Natural sciences study the **natural world**.
- Social Science studies **society, institutions, cultures, and human interactions**.

Its value

- It shows how the **past and present** shape the world.
- It reveals how life is **interconnected**.

Conclusion

- Social Science helps us understand not just **what happens**, but **why**, making sense of our social world.

2. “Even the simplest daily activities rely on systems.” Discuss with examples.

- Ans.** Everyday examples
- We wake up in a **house** built with materials from different places.

- Our **food** is harvested, processed, transported, bought, and sold.
- We travel on **roads** maintained by public authorities.
- We study in a **school** shaped by educational policies.
- We use **electricity** delivered through a vast network.

Underlying systems

- These rely on **systems of governance**.
- They rely on **economic production**.
- They rely on **social cooperation**.
- They rely on the **natural environment**.

Conclusion

- Even simple activities show how our lives are deeply connected to **larger social, economic, and natural systems**, which Social Science helps us understand.

3. How does Social Science help us understand the connections in our everyday life?

Ans. Seeing connections

- Daily life depends on **many systems** working together.
- A house, food, roads, school, and electricity all involve **many people and processes**.

Exploring questions

- Social Science asks why cities and villages differ, why languages vary, and why some regions face floods.

Method

- It uses **careful observation, evidence, and logical reasoning**.

Understanding society

- Society is shaped by **history, geography, institutions, resources, and human choices**.

Conclusion

- Social Science helps us see society as **one connected story** rather than a collection of separate pieces.

4. Distinguish between the Natural Sciences and Social Science.

Ans.

Basis	Natural Sciences	Social Science
Subjects	Physics, Chemistry, Biology	Geography, History, Political Science, Economics
Focus Studies	The natural world Physical and biological processes	Society and human life Institutions, cultures, human interactions
Key question	How nature works	Why society works the way it does



Conclusion

- Social Science explains not just **what happens** but also **why** and how life is **interconnected**.

- While the natural sciences study **nature**, Social Science studies **human society**, and both help us understand the world.

SECTION 2

Understanding Society through Time and Traditions

Society changes over time

- Society has **not always been as it is today**, and over thousands of years it has changed greatly.
- Early human communities depended directly on **nature** for survival.
- With time, people learnt to **grow crops, domesticate animals, build settlements, develop tools, exchange goods, and organise systems of governance**.
- **Villages developed into towns, and towns grew into cities**.

India's knowledge traditions

- The spirit of inquiry has **deep roots** in India's knowledge traditions.
- Early thinkers valued **discussion, questioning, and logical reasoning**.
- Knowledge was explored through **observation, reflection, and dialogue**.

The Pañchamahābhūtas

- The concept of the **Pañchamahābhūtas** describes the natural world as an **interconnected system** in which human life is embedded.
- It helps explain how the environment influences **settlement patterns, occupations, architecture, food habits, and health practices**.
- The five great elements are: **earth (Prithvi), water (Apah), fire (Agni), air (Vāyu), and space (Ākāsha)**.

Vasudhaivakumbhakam

- The idea of **vasudhaivakumbhakam** means **'the world is one family'**.
- It expresses the **interconnectedness** of human societies across regions and cultures.

The Arthāuhāstra

- The **Arthāuhāstra**, attributed to **Kaumilya** and composed about **2,300 years ago**, examined **administration, economic management, taxation, and the duties of rulers** toward their people.
- Such works show that **systematic thinking about governance and the economy** existed long before modern academic disciplines developed.

Modern Social Science

- Modern Social Science continues this legacy using **new tools and methods**.
- Social scientists **observe people's lives, conduct interviews and surveys, examine documents, and compare different times and places**.
- By gathering information from **multiple sources**, they develop explanations that are **supported by evidence**.

Practice Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is the Pañchamahābhūtas?

Ans. The Pañchamahābhūtas is an Indian philosophical idea that describes the natural world as an interconnected system composed of five fundamental elements.

2. Name the five great elements of the Pañchamahābhūtas.

Ans. The five great elements are earth (Prithvi), water (Apah), fire (Agni), air (Vāyu), and space (Akasha).

3. What does 'vasudhaivakumbhakam' mean?

Ans. 'Vasudhaivakumbhakam' means 'the world is one family', expressing the interconnectedness of human societies across regions and cultures.

4. To whom is the Arthāuhāstra attributed?

Ans. The Arthāuhāstra is attributed to Kaumilya and was composed about 2,300 years ago.



5. What does the Arthauhástra examine?

Ans. The Arthauhástra examines administration, economic management, taxation, and the duties of rulers toward their people.

6. How did early Indian thinkers explore knowledge?

Ans. Early Indian thinkers explored knowledge through observation, reflection, and dialogue, valuing discussion, questioning, and logical reasoning.

7. How did human settlements evolve over time?

Ans. Over time, villages developed into towns, and towns grew into cities, as people learnt farming, tool-making, trade, and governance.

8. How do modern social scientists develop explanations?

Ans. Modern social scientists develop explanations supported by evidence by gathering information from multiple sources like interviews, surveys, and documents.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. Explain the concept of the Pañchamahâbhûtas.

Ans.

- It is an idea from **Indian philosophical traditions**.
- It describes the natural world as an **interconnected system**.
- Human life is **embedded** in this system.
- It has **five great elements** — earth, water, fire, air, and space.
- It explains the environment's influence on **settlement, occupations, and architecture**.
- It also influences **food habits and health practices**.

2. What does 'vasudhaivakumbhakam' express?

Ans.

- It means '**the world is one family**'.
- It expresses the **interconnectedness** of human societies.
- This applies across **regions**.
- It also applies across **cultures**.
- It reflects a sense of **shared belonging**.
- This idea lies at the core of what Social Science studies about **global relationships**.

3. What does the Arthashastra tell us?

Ans.

- The Arthauhástra is attributed to **Kautilya**.
- It was composed about **2,300 years ago**.
- It examined **administration, economic management and taxation**.
- It also examined the **duties of rulers** toward their people.
- It shows **systematic thinking** about governance existed early.

4. How has society changed over thousands of years?

Ans.

- Society has **not always been** as it is today.
- Early communities depended directly on **nature**.
- People learnt to **grow crops and domesticate animals**.
- They learnt to **build settlements and develop tools**.
- They learnt to **exchange goods and organise governance**.
- **Villages became towns, and towns became cities**.

5. How is the spirit of inquiry rooted in India's traditions?

Ans.

- The spirit of inquiry has **deep roots** in India.
- Early thinkers valued **discussion**.
- They valued **questioning**, conducting Interviews and survey.
- They valued **logical reasoning**.
- Knowledge was explored through **observation and reflection**.
- It was also explored through **dialogue**.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain how the effort to understand society has a long history in India.

Ans. Deep roots of inquiry

- The spirit of inquiry has **deep roots** in India's knowledge traditions.
- Early thinkers valued **discussion, questioning, and reasoning**.

Key ideas

- The **Pañchamahâbhûtas** viewed nature as an **interconnected system**.
- **Vasudhaivakumbhakam** expressed that '**the world is one family**'.

Systematic thinking

- The **Arthauhástra** (Kautilya, ~2,300 years ago) examined **governance, economy, and taxation**.

Modern continuity

- Modern Social Science continues this legacy using **new tools and methods**.

Conclusion

- These traditions show that the effort to understand society through **observation and reasoning** has a **long history** in India.

2. How has society evolved over time, and how do social scientists study this?

Evolution of society

Ans.

- Early communities depended directly on **nature**.
- People learnt **farming, animal domestication, and tool-making**.



- They learnt **trade and governance**.
- **Villages grew into towns, and towns into cities.**

How social scientists study it

- They **observe people's lives**.
- They **conduct interviews and surveys**.
- They **examine documents**.
- They **compare different times and places**.

Result

- They develop explanations **supported by evidence**.

Conclusion

- Society has changed greatly over time, and social scientists study this change through **careful, evidence-based methods**.

3. Explain the ancient Indian ideas that reflect an understanding of society and nature. Pañchamahâbhûtas

- Ans.**
- Describes nature as an **interconnected system** of five elements.
 - Explains the environment's influence on **human life**.

Vasudhaivakumbhakam

- Means '**the world is one family**'.
- Expresses the **interconnectedness** of societies and cultures.

Arthauhâstra

- Attributed to **Kautilya**, composed ~2,300 years ago.
- Examined **administration, economy, taxation, and rulers' duties**.

Significance

- These show **systematic thinking** about society and nature existed early.

Conclusion

- Ancient Indian ideas reflect a deep and early understanding of the links between **people, society, and nature**.

4. How does modern Social Science continue the legacy of ancient knowledge traditions?

Ans. The ancient legacy

- Early Indian thinkers used **observation, reflection, and dialogue**.
- Ideas like the **Pañchamahâbhûtas** and texts like the **Arthauhâstra** showed systematic thinking.

How modern Social Science continues it :

- Modern Social Science continues this legacy using tools and methods.
- Social scientists **observe lives** and **conduct interviews and surveys**.
- They **examine documents** and **compare times and places**.
- They gather information from **multiple sources**, and develop explanation that are supported by evidence.

Conclusion

- Modern Social Science carries forward the ancient tradition of **inquiry and reasoning**, using new methods to understand how societies function and change.

SECTION 3

Social Science as a Study of Disciplines

Why Social Science is a group of disciplines

- Human society is **complex**, and no single field of study can fully explain it.
- **Example:** a drought affects **crops** (environment), **farmers' incomes** (economy), **government relief measures** (politics), **migration to cities** (society), and **traditional ways of coping** (culture).
- Social Science is therefore **not a single subject** but a **group of related disciplines**, each focusing on a different aspect of human life.

The core and other disciplines

- In Grades 9–10, Social Science draws mainly from **four core disciplines: Geography, History, Political Science, and Economics**.
- Other disciplines such as **Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Psychology** also form part of the broader Social Science family.
- **Geography** studies the Earth, its environments, and the relationships between people and their surroundings.
- **History** examines the human past and how societies change over time.
- **Political Science** analyses systems of governance, power, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- **Economics** explores how societies produce, distribute, and utilise resources to meet their needs.

Geography

- Studies the **location and distribution** of places, objects, materials, and people, and the relationships between human societies and their surroundings.



- Examines both the **physical features** of the Earth and the **human communities** that inhabit it.
- Seeks to understand **where** things are located, **why** they are found there, and **how** places affect one another over time.
- Views the world as a **system of interdependencies**, integrating **spatial perspectives** (location) with **temporal perspectives** (change over time).
- Helps answer questions like why India has historically been a **hub of global interaction** and how the Indian peninsula's long coastline facilitated contact with **Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia**.
- Uses tools such as **maps, globes, atlases, Geographical Information System (GIS), and infographics**.

History

- The **study of the human past**, through which societies understand people's experiences, values, and changes over time.
- The, **itihasa-purana tradition** is one of the oldest and most influential traditions of preserving cultural memory in Bharat; through stories, it shares historical information and gives **cultural meaning**, reinforcing ideals and values and offering a sense of **identity and purpose**.
- **Modern historiography** relies on **empirical evidence** and uses tools such as **human genetics, carbon-14 dating, archaeology, and other scientific methods**.
- History writing draws on a **wide range of sources**:
 - ❖ **Literary sources**: travelogues, memoirs, correspondence, genealogical records, folklore and oral traditions, and revenue documents.
 - ❖ **Archaeological (material) sources**: monuments, architectural structures, excavated sites, artefacts, objects, and art such as sculptures and paintings.

Types of historical sources

- **Literary Sources** — e.g., the Sāmaveda manuscript; a palm-leaf manuscript of the Tirukkural (Tamil Text).
- **Archaeological Sources** — e.g., a Terracotta figurine from the Sindhu-Sarasvatī Civilisation; a 12th-century Vishnu sculpture.
- **Epigraphic Sources** — texts, decrees, or records inscribed on durable materials like stone, metal plates, or rock (e.g., a Brahmi inscription of the Gupta period; a Kannada inscription of Emperor Krishnadeva Raya at Hampi).
- **Numismatic Sources** — coins, currency, or medals (e.g., a coin of King Samudragupta; a Mughal coin of Jahangir showing the zodiac sign 'Sagittarius').

Political Science

- The **study of governance** — how and why power is distributed, decisions are made, and policies are implemented.
- The study of **constitutions, governments, and institutions of the State**, as well as social movements, nation building, and foreign policy.
- In India's villages, the **Panchayati Raj system** embodies **grassroots democracy** by giving citizens a voice in local development planning.
- Political power exists not only in formal institutions but also in **social relationships, customs, and ideas of legitimacy**.
- The study of politics in India began early, linked to **dharma** (moral duty), **artha** (economic well-being), and **râjadharma** (the duties of the ruler).
- Early texts such as the **Vedas, Upanicads, and PurâGas** discuss justice, authority, and the responsibilities of kings and citizens; the **Mahâbhârata** and **Shukranîti** address governance and ethical leadership; the **Arthauhâstra** is a foundational text on politics and administration.
- Indian political thought was **holistic**, viewing power as a **responsibility rather than a privilege**.

Economics

- Helps us understand how individuals and societies decide how to use **limited resources** to meet their needs.
- Studies how goods and services are **produced, exchanged, and distributed**.
- Explores **decision-making** by consumers, producers, and governments: consumers decide **what to buy**, producers decide **what and how much to produce**, and governments frame policies to balance goals such as **growth and stability, efficiency and fairness**.
- Economics is not only about numbers and markets but also about **well-being, equity, and justice**.



- **India's economic history:** for centuries it was one of the world's leading economies and a centre of trade, industry, and maritime activity; **colonial rule** disrupted this, causing widespread poverty, famines, and the decline of traditional industries; after independence, India began rebuilding, and in recent decades has made progress in **infrastructure, education, technology, poverty reduction, and life expectancy**, though challenges remain.

Key Terms

- **Empirical evidence:** Information collected by actual observation or experimentation.
- **Genealogical records:** Documents or sources that trace family lineage and ancestry by recording relationships between generations and documenting events, such as births, marriages, and deaths.
- **Epigraphic Source:** A historical source consisting of texts, decrees, or records inscribed on durable materials such as stone, metal plates, or rock surfaces, providing direct evidence about past events, rulers, administration, and society.
- **Numismatic Source:** A historical source comprising coins, currency, or medals, which helps historians study the economy, chronology, rulers, trade, political boundaries, and culture of a civilisation.

Practice Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name the four core disciplines of Social Science studied in Grades 9–10.

Ans. The four core disciplines of Social Science are Geography, History, Political Science, and Economics.

2. Name any two other disciplines that form part of the Social Science family.

Ans. Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Psychology also form part of the broader Social Science family.

3. What does Geography study?

Ans. Geography studies the location and distribution of places, objects, and people, and the relationships between human societies and their surroundings.

4. Name any two tools used in Geography.

Ans. Geography uses tools such as maps, globes, atlases, Geographical Information System (GIS), and infographics.

5. What is the itihâsa-purâna tradition?

Ans. The itihâsa-purâna tradition is one of the oldest traditions of preserving cultural memory in Bharat, sharing historical information and cultural meaning through stories.

6. What is empirical evidence?

Ans. Empirical evidence is information collected by actual observation or experimentation, which modern historiography increasingly relies on.

7. What is an epigraphic source?

Ans. An epigraphic source is a historical source consisting of texts or records inscribed on durable materials like stone, metal plates, or rock surfaces.

8. What is a numismatic source?

Ans. A numismatic source is a historical source comprising coins, currency, or medals, which helps historians study the economy, rulers, and trade.

9. What does Political Science study?

Ans. Political Science is the study of governance — how power is distributed, decisions are made, and policies are implemented — including constitutions, governments, and State institutions.

10. What does Economics help us understand?

Ans. Economics helps us understand how individuals and societies decide how to use limited resources to meet their needs, and how goods and services are produced and distributed.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. What does Geography study, and what tools does it use?

Ans.

- Geography studies the **location and distribution** of places and people.
- It studies the **relationships** between societies and their surroundings.
- It examines both **physical features** and **human communities**.
- It views the world as a **system of interdependencies**.
- It uses tools like **maps, globes, and atlases**.
- It also uses **GIS and infographics**.

2. What is History, and how does modern historiography study the past?

Ans.

- History is the **study of the human past**.
- It helps understand people's **experiences, values, and changes** over time.
- Traditions like the **itihâsa-purâna** preserved cultural memory.
- Modern historiography relies on **empirical evidence**.
- It uses tools like **carbon-14 dating and human genetics**.
- It also uses **archaeology and scientific methods**.



3. Explain the different types of sources used in the study of History.

- Ans.**
- **Literary Sources** — manuscripts, travelogues, memoirs, and oral traditions.
 - **Archaeological Sources** — monuments, artefacts, and sculptures.
 - **Epigraphic Sources** — inscriptions on stone, metal, or rock.
 - **Numismatic Sources** — coins, currency, and medals.
 - These give **direct evidence** about the past and help study **rulers, economy, and society**.

4. What does Political Science study?

- Ans.**
- It is the **study of governance**.
 - It studies how power is **distributed and shared**.
 - It studies **constitutions, governments, and State institutions**.
 - It also studies **social movements and nation building**.
 - The **Panchayati Raj** system reflects grassroots democracy.
 - It shows power exists in **institutions, customs, and ideas of legitimacy**.

5. How is Indian political thought reflected in ancient texts?

- Ans.**
- Politics was linked to **dharma, artha, and rājadharma**.
 - The **Vedas, Upanicads, and Purānas** discussed justice and authority.
 - The **Mahābhārata and Ūhukranīti** addressed governance and ethical leadership.
 - The **Arthauhāstra** was a foundational text on politics.
 - Indian political thought was **holistic**.
 - It viewed power as a **responsibility, not a privilege**.

6. What does Economics study?

- Ans.**
- It studies how societies use **limited resources** to meet needs.
 - It studies how goods and services are **produced and distributed**.
 - It explores decisions of **consumers, producers, and governments**.
 - Consumers decide **what to buy**; producers decide **what to produce**.
 - Governments balance goals like **growth and fairness**.
 - It is also about **well-being, equity, and justice**.

7. Describe India's economic history briefly.

- Ans.**
- For centuries, India was one of the **world's leading economies**.
 - It was a centre of **trade, industry, and maritime activity**.
 - **Colonial rule** disrupted this progress.
 - It caused **poverty, famines, and decline of industries**.
 - After independence, India began **rebuilding** its economy.
 - Recent decades brought progress, though **challenges remain**.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain why Social Science is studied as a group of related disciplines, with an example.

Ans. Why it is a group of disciplines

- Human society is **complex**.
- **No single field** can fully explain it.

For example a drought

- Affects **crops** (environment), Affects **farmers' incomes** (economy), Involves **government relief** (politics), Causes **migration** (society), Involves **traditional coping** (culture).
- To understand such situation we must examine society from different perspective.

The core disciplines

- **Geography, History, Political Science, and Economics**.
- Also **Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Psychology**.

Conclusion

- Because society is many-sided, Social Science studies it through **several connected disciplines** for a comprehensive understanding. Together they help us understand society in better way.

2. Explain the sources used in the study of History.

Ans. Literary Sources

- Manuscripts, travelogues, memoirs, correspondence, and oral traditions.

Archaeological Sources

- Monuments, excavated sites, artefacts, and art like sculptures.

Epigraphic Sources

- Inscriptions on **stone, metal plates, or rock**; give direct evidence of rulers and administration.



Numismatic Sources

- **Coins, currency, and medals**; help study economy, trade, and chronology.

Source type	Examples
Literary	Sāmaveda manuscript, Tirukkuraḷ
Archaeological	Terracotta figurine, VicGu sculpture
Epigraphic	Brahmi inscription, Kannada inscription (Hampi)
Numismatic	Coins of Samudragupta and Jahangir

Conclusion

- By using these varied sources, historians build a **reliable, evidence-based** understanding of the past.

SECTION 4

Why Should We Study Social Science? And The Future of Social Science

Why we should study Social Science

- The house we live in, the water we use, the roads we travel on, the school we attend, the markets we visit, and even the **digital spaces** we use are part of systems created and managed by society.
- Social Science helps us understand **how these systems developed, how they function, and how they affect different groups** of people.
- We live among people who may **speak different languages, follow diverse customs, and practise varied occupations**.
- Social Science explains these variations as outcomes of **geographical, historical, cultural, and economic factors**.
- This understanding **builds respect and cooperation** among communities.
- It also helps us recognise how **Indian culture binds this diversity together** through an underlying unity, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity.

Social Science and citizenship

- In a **democratic society**, citizens play an active role in public life, guided by **laws, rights, and responsibilities**.
- Understanding how governments function prepares us to **participate responsibly** in civic life.
- Social Science strengthens our ability to think about **shared challenges** such as environmental protection, public health, employment, and urban growth.
- It teaches us to ask **informed questions** about their causes, effects, and possible solutions.
- Most importantly, Social Science **connects the past, present, and future** — by understanding how past decisions shaped the present, we can make **wiser choices for the future**.

The Future of Social Science

- As societies change rapidly, the importance of Social Science **continues to grow**.
- **New technologies, expanding cities, environmental concerns, migration, and global connections** are reshaping how people live and interact.
- Understanding these changes requires skills such as **careful observation, asking questions, examining evidence, and recognising connections**.
- Social Science will help address complex issues like **climate change, sustainable development, social harmony, and the equitable use of resources**.
- It will guide the **responsible use of new technologies**.
- It prepares us to **understand and shape the world** as informed citizens, while strengthening **national unity** and keeping us rooted in our rich cultural traditions.

A two-year journey (Grades 9–10)

- The study of Social Science is a **journey** — from understanding how societies evolved, to analysing how they function today, to imagining how they can become **better in the future**.
- The Grade 9 textbook gives a **broad and balanced introduction** to the four disciplines.
- Social Science is **not about memorising dates, maps, or definitions** — it is about understanding **people, places, society, culture, and power**.
- It helps us **think independently and act responsibly**.



Practice Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name any two systems created and managed by society.

Ans. The house, water supply, roads, school, markets, and digital spaces we use are systems created and managed by society.

2. How does Social Science explain the differences among communities?

Ans. Social Science explains variations among communities as outcomes of geographical, historical, cultural, and economic factors.

3. What binds India's diversity together?

Ans. Indian culture binds India's diversity together through an underlying unity, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity.

4. Why is Social Science important in a democratic society?

Ans. In a democratic society, understanding how governments function prepares citizens to participate responsibly in civic life, guided by laws, rights, and responsibilities.

5. Name any two shared challenges that Social Science helps us think about.

Ans. Social Science helps us think about shared challenges such as environmental protection, public health, employment, and urban growth.

6. What does Social Science connect?

Ans. Social Science connects the past, present, and future, helping us make wiser choices by understanding how past decisions shaped the present.

7. Name any two factors reshaping how people live and interact.

Ans. New technologies, expanding cities, environmental concerns, migration, and global connections are reshaping how people live and interact.

8. Name any two skills needed to understand social change.

Ans. Careful observation, asking questions, examining evidence, and recognising connections are skills needed to understand social change.

9. What is Social Science described as at the beginning of the two-year journey?

Ans. Social Science is described as a window into the world, not just a subject studied in school.

10. Is Social Science about memorising dates and definitions?

Ans. No, Social Science is not about memorising dates, maps, or definitions; it is about understanding people, places, society, culture, and power.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. How does Social Science build respect and cooperation among communities?

Ans.

- People **speak different languages** and follow **diverse customs**.
- They practise **varied occupations**.
- Social Science explains these as outcomes of **geographical, historical, cultural, and economic factors**.
- This understanding **builds respect**.
- It fosters **cooperation**.
- It shows how Indian culture binds diversity through **underlying unity**.

2. How does Social Science help us participate in a democracy?

Ans.

- In a democracy, citizens play an **active role**.
- Life is guided by **laws, rights, and responsibilities**.
- Social Science helps us understand **how governments function**.
- This prepares us to **participate responsibly**.
- It helps us ask **informed questions** about issues.
- It strengthens **civic life**.

3. How does Social Science help us face shared challenges?

Ans.

- It helps us think about challenges like **environmental protection**.
- It covers **public health and employment**.
- It covers **urban growth**.
- It teaches us to ask about their **causes and effects**.
- It helps us find **possible solutions**.
- This habit of **questioning and reasoning** is essential.

4. Why is the importance of Social Science growing?

Ans.

- Societies are **changing rapidly**.
- **New technologies** are reshaping life.
- **Expanding cities and migration** are changing societies.
- **Environmental concerns and global connections** are growing.
- Understanding these requires **observation and reasoning**.
- So Social Science is becoming **more important**.



5. How will Social Science help in the future?

- Ans.**
- It will help address **climate change**.
 - It will help with **sustainable development**.
 - It will promote **social harmony**.
 - It will support the **equitable use of resources**.
 - It will guide the **responsible use of new technologies**.
 - It will help shape the world as **informed citizens**.

6. How does Social Science connect the past, present, and future?

- Ans.**
- It studies how societies **evolved** in the past.
 - It analyses how they **function today**.
 - It helps us **imagine a better future**.
 - It shows how **past decisions shaped the present**.
 - This helps us make **wiser choices**.
 - Thus, it links all three **time periods**.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Why should we study Social Science? Explain.

- Ans.** Understanding systems
- Houses, water, roads, schools, markets, and digital spaces are **created by society**.
 - Social Science shows how they **developed and function**.
- Understanding diversity**
- It explains differences in **language, customs, and occupations**.
 - It builds **respect and cooperation**.
- Responsible citizenship**
- It helps us understand **how governments function**.
 - It prepares us to **participate responsibly**.
- Connecting time**
- It links the **past, present, and future**.
- Conclusion**
- Studying Social Science helps us understand society, respect diversity, and become **responsible, informed citizens**.

2. Explain the future of Social Science.

- Ans.** Growing importance
- Societies are **changing rapidly**.
 - **Technology, cities, migration, and global connections** are reshaping life.
- Skills needed**
- **Observation, questioning, examining evidence, and recognising connections**.
- Future roles**
- Addressing **climate change and sustainable development**.
 - Promoting **social harmony**.

- Ensuring the **equitable use of resources**.
- Guiding the **responsible use of technology**.

Preparing citizens

- It prepares us to **shape the world** and strengthen **national unity**.

Conclusion

- The future of Social Science lies in helping societies **adapt wisely** to change while staying rooted in cultural traditions.

3. How does Social Science prepare us to be responsible citizens?

- Ans.** Understanding governance
- It helps us understand **how governments function** and how decisions are made.

Rights and responsibilities

- It teaches us about **laws, rights, and responsibilities**.

Active participation

- It prepares us to **participate responsibly** in civic life.

Questioning and reasoning

- It helps us ask **informed questions** about shared challenges.
- It strengthens **careful questioning and reasoning**.

Shaping the future

- It helps us make **wiser choices** for the future.

Conclusion

- By building understanding, awareness, and reasoning, Social Science prepares us to be **thoughtful and responsible citizens**.

4. Explain how Social Science helps us understand diversity and unity in India.

- Ans.** Understanding diversity
- People **speak different languages** and follow **diverse customs**.
 - They practise **varied occupations**.
 - Social Science explains these as outcomes of **geographical, historical, cultural, and economic factors**.

Building respect

- This understanding **builds respect and cooperation** among communities.

Recognising unity

- It shows how **Indian culture binds this diversity** through an underlying unity.
- It fosters a **sense of belonging and shared identity**.

Conclusion

- Social Science helps us appreciate India's **rich diversity** while recognising the **underlying unity** that holds it together.



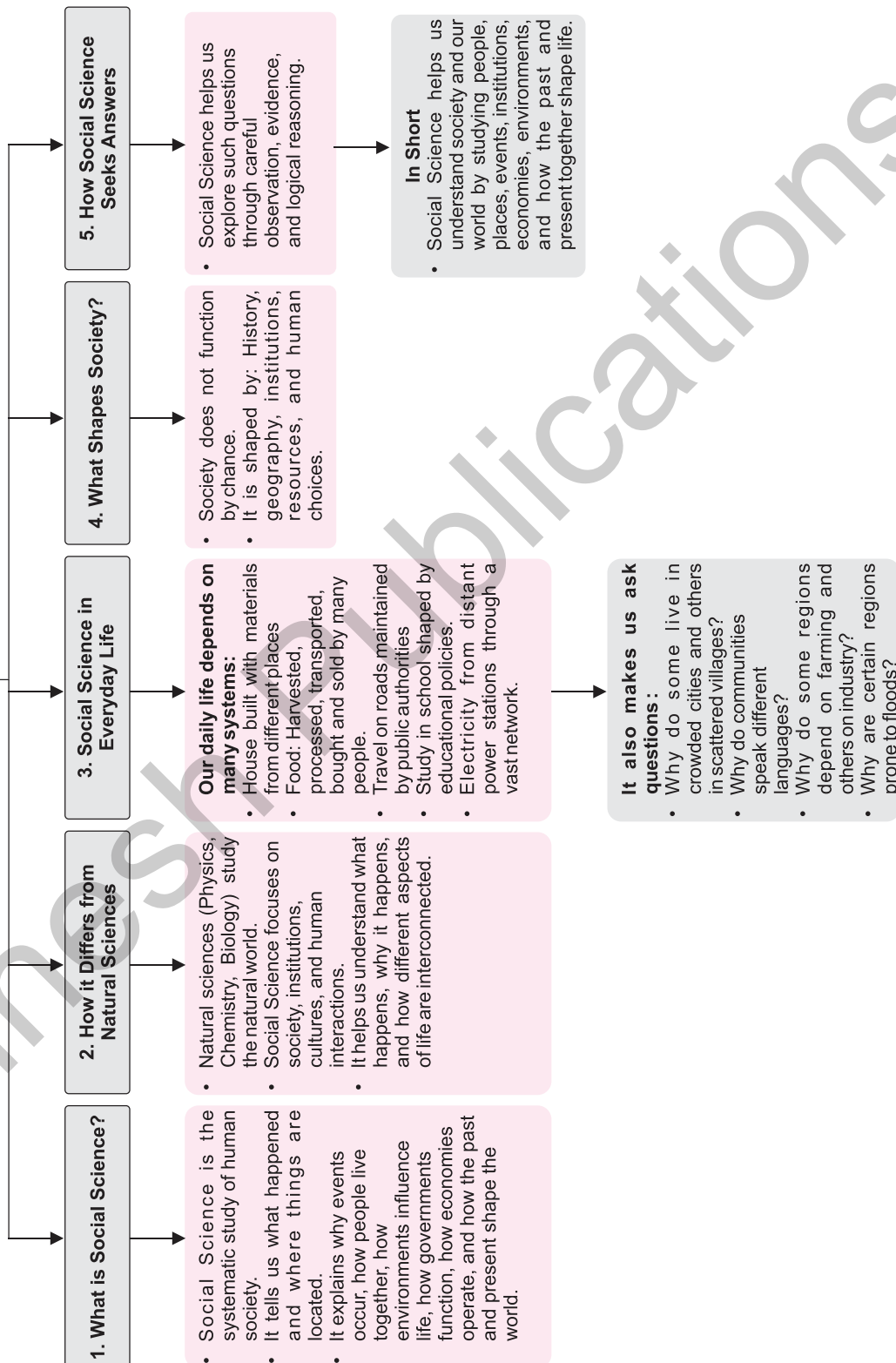


Terms to Remember

No.	Term	Simple Meaning / One-line Explanation
1	Social Science	The systematic study of human society — how people live together, why events happen, and how everything is connected.
2	Society	A group of people who live together and depend on one another in many ways.
3	Discipline	A separate branch or field of study (for example, History is a discipline).
4	Geography	The study of the Earth, its landscapes, and the relationship between people and their surroundings.
5	History	The study of the human past and how societies change over time.
6	Political Science	The study of governance — how power is shared, decisions are made and policies are carried out.
7	Economics	The study of how people and societies use limited resources to meet their needs.
8	Interdisciplinary	Using two or more subjects together to understand one problem. Example: a drought is studied through geography, economics and politics together.
9	Empirical evidence	Information collected through actual observation or experiment, not just belief.
10	Vamshavali	Records or documents that trace a family's line of descent and ancestry over generations.
11	Panchamahabhutas	The idea from Indian philosophy that the world is made of five great elements — earth, water, fire, air and space.
12	Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam	A Sanskrit idea meaning “the whole world is one family,” expressing the connectedness of all human societies.
13	Arthashastra	An ancient text on statecraft, administration, taxation and the duties of rulers, attributed to Kautilya (about 2,300 years ago).
14	Itihasa-Purana	An old Indian tradition of preserving cultural memory and values through stories about the past.
15	Literary sources	Written materials used to study the past — manuscripts, travelogues, memoirs, letters, folklore, revenue records, etc.
16	Archaeological	Material remains of the past — monuments, buildings, excavated sources sites, artefacts, sculptures and paintings.
17	Epigraphic sources	Inscriptions carved on stone, pillars or metal that give information about the past.
18	Numismatic	The study of old coins, which reveal rulers, dates, religion and sources trade.
19	GIS (Geographical Information System)	A digital tool that stores and displays location-based data on maps.
20	Panchayati Raj	India's system of local self-government at the village level that gives ordinary citizens a voice in local decisions.



Understanding Social Science





COMPETENCY BASED QUESTIONS



Multiple Choice Questions

- Social Science is the systematic study of:
 - the natural world
 - human society
 - chemical reactions
 - living organisms
- Which of the following subjects study the natural world?
 - History and Economics
 - Geography and Political Science
 - Physics, Chemistry, and Biology
 - Sociology and Anthropology
- Society is shaped by history, geography, institutions, resources, and:
 - luck
 - human choices
 - chance
 - weather alone
- The Pañchamahābhūtas describes the world as composed of:
 - four elements
 - five elements
 - seven elements
 - three elements
- Which of the following is NOT one of the five great elements (Pañchamahābhūtas)?
 - earth
 - water
 - metal
 - air
- 'Vasudhaivaakumbhakam' means:
 - knowledge is power
 - the world is one family
 - duty above all
 - truth alone triumphs
- The Arthashastra is attributed to:
 - Varāhamihira
 - Kālidāsa
 - Kaumilya
 - Pāṇini
- The Arthashastra was composed about:
 - 1,000 years ago
 - 2,300 years ago
 - 500 years ago
 - 5,000 years ago
- In Grades 9-10, Social Science draws mainly from how many core disciplines?
 - two
 - three
 - four
 - five
- Which discipline studies the Earth and its environments?
 - History
 - Geography
 - Economics
 - Political Science
- Which discipline examines the human past?
 - Geography
 - History
 - Economics
 - Political Science
- Which discipline analyses systems of governance and power?
 - Geography
 - History
 - Political Science
 - Economics
- Which discipline explores how resources are produced and distributed?
 - Geography
 - History
 - Political Science
 - Economics
- Information collected by actual observation or experimentation is called:
 - genealogical records
 - empirical evidence
 - oral tradition
 - folklore
- Texts or records inscribed on stone, metal plates, or rock are:
 - numismatic sources
 - literary sources
 - epigraphic sources
 - oral sources
- Coins, currency, and medals are examples of:
 - epigraphic sources
 - literary sources
 - numismatic sources
 - archaeological monuments
- The Panchayati Raj system embodies:
 - foreign policy
 - grassroots democracy
 - industrial growth
 - maritime trade
- Which of the following is a foundational text on politics and administration?
 - Meghadūtam
 - Arthashastra
 - Tirukkural
 - Sāmaveda
- The itihāsa-purāṇa tradition is important for preserving:
 - coins
 - cultural memory
 - rainfall records
 - trade routes
- Social Science connects the past, present, and:
 - nature
 - future
 - mathematics
 - technology only



Answer Key

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (b) | 4. (b) | 5. (c) | 6. (b) | 7. (c) | 8. (b) | 9. (c) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (c) | 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (c) | 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (b) | 19. (b) | 20. (b) |





Assertion-Reason Type Questions

Options :

- 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.

1. **Assertion (A):** Social Science is not a single subject but a group of related disciplines.

Reason (R): Human society is complex and no single field can fully explain it.

2. **Assertion (A):** The Pañchamahâbhûtas represents an early attempt to understand nature.

Reason (R): It describes the world as an interconnected system of five elements.

3. **Assertion (A):** Modern historiography relies on empirical evidence.

Reason (R): It uses tools such as carbon-14 dating, human genetics, and archaeology.

4. **Assertion (A):** Geography uses only literary sources to study places.

Reason (R): Geography uses tools such as maps, globes, atlases, and GIS.

5. **Assertion (A):** Indian political thought was holistic.

Reason (R): It linked politics with economics, social life, morality, and defence.



Answer Key

1. A 2. A 3. A 4. D 5. A



Statement-I, Statement-II Type Questions

Options :

- A. Both statements are correct.
 B. Only Statement I is correct.
 C. Only Statement II is correct.
 D. Both statements are incorrect.

1. **Statement I:** Social Science focuses on society, institutions, and cultures.

Statement II: Physics and Biology study the natural world.

2. **Statement I:** 'Vasudhaivakumbhakam' means 'the world is one family'.

Statement II: The five great elements include earth, water, fire, air, and metal.

3. **Statement I:** History examines the human past.

Statement II: Geography analyses systems of governance and power.

4. **Statement I:** Epigraphic sources are texts inscribed on durable materials like stone.

Statement II: Numismatic sources comprise coins, currency, and medals.

5. **Statement I:** Economics is only about numbers and markets.

Statement II: Economics is also about well-being, equity, and justice.



Answer Key

1. A 2. B 3. B 4. A 5. C



Match the Following

1. Match the disciplines with what they study.

Column A	Column B
1. Geography	a. The human past
2. History	b. Governance and power
3. Political Science	c. The Earth and its environments
4. Economics	d. Production and distribution of resources

2. Match the source types with their examples.

Column A	Column B
1. Literary source	a. Coin of Samudragupta
2. Archaeological source	b. Sâmaveda manuscript
3. Epigraphic source	c. Terracotta figurine
4. Numismatic source	d. Brahmi inscription

3. Match the terms with their meanings.

Column A	Column B
1. Empirical evidence	a. Coins, currency, medals
2. Epigraphic source	b. Records of family lineage
3. Numismatic source	c. Inscriptions on durable materials
4. Genealogical records	d. Information from observation or experiment

4. Match the five great elements with their Sanskrit names.

Column A	Column B
1. Earth	a. Âpah
2. Water	b. Agni
3. Fire	c. Pithvî
4. Air	d. Vâyû
5. Space	e. Akâsa

5. Match the ideas/texts with their descriptions.

Column A	Column B
1. Pañchamahâbhûtas	a. 'The world is one family'
2. Vasudhaivakumbhakam	b. Foundational text on politics
3. Arthâûhâstra	c. Five great elements
4. Itihâsa-purâna	d. Tradition preserving cultural memory



Answer Key

1. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d 2. 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a
 3. 1-d, 2-c, 3-a, 4-b 4. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d, 5-e
 5. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d





Case Based/Source Based Questions

Source 1

In simple words, Social Science is the systematic study of human society. It not only tells us what happened or where things are located, but also explains why events occur, how people live together, how environments influence life, how governments function, how economies operate, and how the past and the present together shape the world.

1. What is Social Science?

Ans. Social Science is the systematic study of human society.

2. Besides telling us what happened, what else does Social Science explain?

Ans. It explains why events occur, how people live together, and how environments influence life.

3. Name any two things Social Science helps us understand about society.

Ans. Social Science helps us understand how governments function, how economies operate, and how the past and present shape the world (any two).

Source 2

The concept of the Pañchamahābhūtas describes the natural world as an interconnected system in which human life is embedded. It helps explain how the environment influences settlement patterns, occupations, architecture, food habits, and health practices—an idea that remains relevant as societies respond to environmental challenges.

1. How does the Pañchamahābhūtas describe the natural world?

Ans. It describes the natural world as an interconnected system in which human life is embedded.

2. Name any two things the environment influences according to this idea.

Ans. The environment influences settlement patterns, occupations, architecture, food habits, and health practices (any two).

3. Why does the idea of the Pañchamahābhūtas remain relevant today?

Ans. It remains relevant as societies respond to environmental challenges, since it explains the deep link between the environment and human life.

Source 3

Human society is complex, and no single field of study can fully explain it. For example, a drought affects crops (environment), farmers' incomes (economy), government relief measures (politics), migration to cities (society), and traditional ways of coping with scarcity (culture). To understand such situations, we must examine society from different perspectives.

1. Why can no single field fully explain human society?

Ans. Because human society is complex, no single field of study can fully explain it.

2. How does a drought relate to the economy?

Ans. A drought affects farmers' incomes, which relates to the economy.

3. Using the drought example, name the different aspects that Social Science examines.

Ans. It examines the environment (crops), economy (incomes), politics (relief measures), society (migration), and culture (traditional coping).

Source 4.

Modern historiography, by contrast, increasingly relies on empirical evidence and uses tools, such as human genetics, carbon-14 dating, archaeology, and other scientific methods to establish timelines and understand the past. History writing draws on a wide range of sources to understand the social realities of the past.

1. On what does modern historiography increasingly rely?

Ans. Modern historiography increasingly relies on empirical evidence.

2. Name any two scientific tools used by modern historiography.

Ans. Human genetics, carbon-14 dating, and archaeology are tools used by modern historiography.

Q3. Why does history writing draw on a wide range of sources?

Ans. History writing draws on a wide range of sources to understand the social realities of the past and to build a reliable, evidence-based account.

Source 5

In a democratic society, citizens play an active role in public life. Laws, rights, and responsibilities guide how people live together. When you understand how governments function and how decisions are made, you are better prepared to participate responsibly in civic life. Social Science also strengthens your ability to think about shared challenges.

1. What guides how people live together in a democratic society?

Ans. Laws, rights, and responsibilities guide how people live together in a democratic society.

2. What prepares us to participate responsibly in civic life?

Ans. Understanding how governments function and how decisions are made prepares us to participate responsibly in civic life.

3. How does Social Science help us with shared challenges?

Ans. Social Science strengthens our ability to think about shared challenges and helps us ask informed questions about their causes, effects, and possible solutions.

