

CTET PAPER II

Social Science
Chapter-wise Study Material

English Medium · Classes 6–8 (Upper Primary Stage)

History · Geography · Political Science (Civics)
Economics · Pedagogy of Social Science

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Note: In CTET Paper II, Social Science carries 60 questions (40 History/Geography/Civics/Economics content + 20 pedagogy). Child Development & Pedagogy and Language I & II are covered in the Paper I study material.

SECTION 1

History

Sources, and the story of India from ancient to modern times · ~20 Questions (content + pedagogy)

Chapter 1: Sources & Ancient India

Sources of History

Primary sources	Original records of the period — inscriptions, coins, monuments, tools, manuscripts, artefacts.
Secondary sources	Later accounts based on primary sources — textbooks, history books, articles.
Archaeological sources	Material remains: excavated tools, pottery, buildings, seals, coins.
Literary sources	Written texts: Vedas, epics, travelogues (Fa-Hien, Hsuan Tsang), court chronicles.

Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization

- One of the world's earliest urban civilizations (c. 2500 BCE), in the north-west of the subcontinent.
- Famous for **town planning, grid streets, drainage systems**, the Great Bath (Mohenjo-daro) and the dockyard (Lothal).
- Bronze-age culture; script still undeciphered; trade and standardized weights.

Vedic Age, Empires & Religion

Period / Empire	Key facts
Vedic Age	Composition of the Vedas (in Sanskrit); Rig Veda is the oldest; society organised into varnas.
Mahajanapadas	16 large kingdoms; rise of Magadha as the most powerful.
Mauryan Empire	Founded by Chandragupta Maurya (321 BCE), guided by Kautilya (Arthashastra). Ashoka embraced Buddhism after the Kalinga War and spread Dhamma.
Gupta Empire	Founded by Chandragupta I; called the Golden Age — great progress in maths (zero, decimals), astronomy, art; Kalidasa in the court.
Religions	Buddhism (Gautam Buddha) and Jainism (Mahavira) arose in the 6th century BCE, stressing non-violence.

EXAM TIP: Inscriptions/coins/monuments = PRIMARY sources; textbooks = SECONDARY. Maurya founder = Chandragupta Maurya; Ashoka → Kalinga War → Buddhism. Gupta age = Golden Age.

Chapter 2: Medieval India

Dynasty / Ruler	Key facts
Delhi Sultanate	Series of dynasties (Slave, Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi) 1206–1526. Qutb-ud-din Aibak began the Qutub Minar .

Dynasty / Ruler	Key facts
Vijayanagara & Bahmani	Powerful southern kingdoms; Hampi was a great capital.
Mughal Empire	Founded by Babur (Battle of Panipat, 1526). Akbar — religious tolerance, Din-i-Ilahi; Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal ; Aurangzeb the last great Mughal.
Bhakti & Sufi	Bhakti saints (Kabir, Mira, Tulsidas, Guru Nanak) and Sufi saints preached devotion, equality and harmony.
Marathas	Founded by Shivaji; strong regional power against the Mughals.

- Architecture flourished: forts, mosques, temples, gardens; Indo-Islamic style developed.
- Travellers like Ibn Battuta recorded life in medieval India.

EXAM TIP: Mughal founder = Babur (1526 Panipat); Taj Mahal = Shah Jahan; Qutub Minar started by Qutb-ud-din Aibak. Bhakti–Sufi movements stressed equality and devotion.

Chapter 3: Modern India & the Freedom Struggle

Event / Movement	Year	Significance
Battle of Plassey	1757	British (Clive) defeated Bengal's Nawab — start of British political power.
Revolt of 1857	1857	First War of Independence; began at Meerut.
Indian National Congress	1885	First session in Bombay; platform of the freedom movement.
Partition of Bengal / Swadeshi	1905	Boycott of British goods; promotion of Indian goods.
Jallianwala Bagh	1919	Massacre at Amritsar under General Dyer.
Non-Cooperation	1920	Led by Gandhi; boycott of British institutions.
Dandi March / Salt Satyagraha	1930	Gandhi's march against the salt law.
Quit India	1942	"Do or Die"; final mass movement for freedom.
Independence	1947	India became free on 15 August 1947.

- Key leaders: Mahatma Gandhi (non-violence, satyagraha), Nehru, Sardar Patel ("Iron Man"), Subhas Chandra Bose (INA), Bhagat Singh.
- Social reformers: Raja Ram Mohan Roy (Brahmo Samaj, against sati), Swami Dayananda (Arya Samaj), Vivekananda.

EXAM TIP: Memorise the date–event pairs: 1857 revolt, 1885 INC, 1919 Jallianwala, 1930 Dandi, 1942 Quit India, 1947 freedom. "Do or Die" = Quit India 1942.

SECTION 2

Geography

The Earth, its features, and the geography of India · ~10 Questions (content + pedagogy)

Chapter 4: The Earth, Latitudes & Longitudes

- The Earth is the third planet from the Sun; the only planet known to support life.
- It is slightly flattened at the poles — a **geoid**. A **globe** is its true small model.

Latitudes	Imaginary lines parallel to the Equator (0°). Tropic of Cancer 23.5°N, Tropic of Capricorn 23.5°S, Arctic & Antarctic Circles 66.5°, Poles 90°.
Longitudes	Lines from pole to pole. Prime Meridian = 0° (passes through Greenwich). Used to calculate time and time zones.
Equator	0° latitude; divides Earth into Northern & Southern hemispheres.
Rotation	Earth spins on its axis (24 hrs) → day and night.
Revolution	Earth orbits the Sun (365¼ days) → seasons; leap year every 4 years.

- Longest day in Northern Hemisphere ~21 June (summer solstice); shortest ~22 December (winter solstice).

EXAM TIP: Prime Meridian = 0° longitude through Greenwich; Equator = 0° latitude. Rotation → day/night; Revolution → seasons. Tropic of Cancer = 23.5°N.

Chapter 5: Landforms, Atmosphere & Water

Landforms

- Major landforms: **mountains** (fold, block, volcanic), **plateaus** (high flat land) and **plains** (flat, fertile, densely populated).
- Internal (endogenic) forces build land — earthquakes, volcanoes; external (exogenic) forces — weathering, erosion by rivers, wind, glaciers — wear it down.
- Earthquakes are measured on the **Richter scale**.

Atmosphere

- Layers: troposphere, stratosphere (ozone), mesosphere, thermosphere, exosphere.
- Composition: **Nitrogen ~78%**, Oxygen ~21%, others (CO₂, argon) ~1%.
- Weather = day-to-day condition; climate = average over a long period.

Hydrosphere (Water)

- Oceans cover ~71% of Earth; the **Pacific** is the largest and deepest ocean.
- The water cycle: evaporation → condensation → precipitation → collection.
- Movements of ocean water: waves, tides and currents.

EXAM TIP: Atmosphere = mostly Nitrogen (78%). Pacific = largest ocean. Earthquakes → Richter scale. Endogenic forces build, exogenic forces wear down landforms.

Chapter 6: India — Physical Features, Climate & Resources

Feature	Key facts
Physical divisions	Himalayas (north — fold mountains, Kanchenjunga highest in India), Northern Plains (fertile, formed by Ganga/Indus/Brahmaputra), Peninsular Plateau (Deccan — basalt), Thar Desert (Rajasthan — largest), Coastal Plains & Islands.
Rivers	Himalayan (perennial): Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra. Peninsular: Godavari (longest peninsular), Krishna, Kaveri, Narmada (west-flowing).
Climate	Monsoon type; south-west monsoon (June–Sept) brings most rainfall from Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal.
Soils	Alluvial (most widespread, plains), Black/regur (cotton, Deccan), Red, Laterite (high rain).
Natural vegetation	Tropical evergreen, deciduous (monsoon), thorn, mangrove (Sundarbans), mountain forests.
Resources	Renewable (solar, wind, water, forests) vs non-renewable (coal, petroleum, minerals).

- India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories; capital New Delhi. Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 states.
- Conservation: sustainable use, afforestation, protection of biodiversity (tiger — national animal; peacock — national bird; lotus — national flower).

EXAM TIP: Black soil = cotton; Alluvial = most widespread & most fertile. SW monsoon (Jun–Sep) = main rains. Largest desert = Thar. Map skills are essential.

SECTION 3

Political Science / Civics

The Constitution, the structure of government, and democracy · ~10 Questions (content + pedagogy)

Chapter 7: The Indian Constitution & Rights

- The Constitution was **adopted on 26 November 1949** and **came into force on 26 January 1950** (Republic Day).
- **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** — chairman of the Drafting Committee, called "Father of the Indian Constitution".
- The **Preamble** declares India a **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic** securing justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Fundamental Rights (Part III)	Six rights: Equality, Freedom, Against Exploitation, Freedom of Religion, Cultural & Educational, Constitutional Remedies (Art 32 — "heart and soul").
Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A)	Eleven duties of citizens (added by 42nd Amendment).
Directive Principles (Part IV)	Guidelines to the State for welfare; not enforceable in court.
Right to Education	Art 21A — free & compulsory education for ages 6–14 (RTE Act 2009).

- Article 14 = equality before law; Article 17 = abolition of untouchability; Article 21 = right to life.

EXAM TIP: Adopted 26 Nov 1949, enforced 26 Jan 1950. Ambedkar = drafting chairman. Six Fundamental Rights. RTE = Article 21A. Art 32 = "heart and soul" (Ambedkar).

Chapter 8: Government — Union, State & Local

Organ / Level	Essentials
Legislature (Parliament)	Lok Sabha (House of the People, term 5 yrs, min age 25) + Rajya Sabha (Council of States, 12 nominated members) + President. Makes laws.
Executive	President (head of State, elected by an electoral college) + Prime Minister & Council of Ministers (real power). Implements laws.
Judiciary	Supreme Court (New Delhi) → High Courts (state) → district/lower courts. Independent; interprets laws & protects rights.
State Government	Governor (constitutional head) + Chief Minister & Council; Vidhan Sabha.
Local Government	Rural: three-tier Panchayati Raj (Gram Panchayat → Block → Zila Parishad). Urban: Municipality / Municipal Corporation.

- Three organs separate powers: legislature makes, executive implements, judiciary interprets laws.
- President appoints the PM; the PM heads the real executive. The Vice-President chairs the Rajya Sabha.

EXAM TIP: Lok Sabha = House of the People (min age 25, term 5 yrs). President = nominal head, PM = real head. Panchayati Raj = 3 tiers. Supreme Court in New Delhi.

Chapter 9: Democracy, Elections & Diversity

- **Democracy** = government of, by and for the people; based on participation, equality, rule of law and accountability.
- Universal Adult Franchise: every citizen **18 years** and above can vote (61st Amendment lowered age from 21 to 18).
- The **Election Commission of India** conducts free and fair elections.
- India is a secular state — equal respect for all religions; "unity in diversity" of languages, religions and cultures.
- Issues of equality and social justice: rights of women, children, SC/ST, minorities; against discrimination and child labour.
- Citizens have both rights and duties; an informed, responsible citizen is the goal of civic education.

EXAM TIP: Voting age = 18 (61st Amendment). Elections run by the Election Commission. Democracy = participation + equality. Secularism = equal respect for all religions.

SECTION 4

Economics

Basic economic ideas, sectors of the economy and development · ~5 Questions (content + pedagogy)

Chapter 10: Basic Economic Concepts

Economics	Study of how people use limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants.
Scarcity & choice	Resources are limited, so we must choose — every choice has an opportunity cost.
Wants vs needs	Needs are essential (food, shelter); wants are desires beyond needs.
Goods & services	Goods are tangible (rice, books); services are intangible (teaching, banking).
Demand & supply	By the law of demand, as price falls demand usually rises (and vice-versa).

- Production uses factors: land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship.
- Barter = exchange of goods for goods; money removes the problems of barter.

EXAM TIP: Scarcity forces choice → opportunity cost. Law of demand: price up → demand down. Goods = tangible; services = intangible.

Chapter 11: Sectors, Money & Development

Sector	Activities
Primary	Agriculture, fishing, mining — using natural resources directly. Employs the most people in India.
Secondary	Manufacturing — converting raw materials into goods (factories).
Tertiary	Services — banking, transport, education, trade. Its share in GDP is rising.
Quaternary	Knowledge/information services.

Money, banking & development

- Money functions: medium of exchange, store of value, unit of account.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issues currency and is the "banker's bank"; SEBI regulates the stock market.
- Taxes: direct (income tax — on income) vs indirect (GST — on goods/services).
- Development indicators: per capita income, literacy rate, health; the **Human Development Index (HDI)** combines health, education and income.
- **Sustainable development** meets present needs without harming future generations.

EXAM TIP: Primary = farming; Secondary = manufacturing; Tertiary = services. RBI issues currency. Direct tax = income tax; Indirect = GST. HDI = health + education + income.

SECTION 5

Pedagogy of Social Science

How to teach Social Science effectively at the upper primary stage · 20 Questions in CTET Paper II

Chapter 12: Nature, Aims & Methods

Nature & aims

- Social Science is an **integrated** study of History, Geography, Political Science and Economics — best taught in a connected, interdisciplinary way.
- Main aim: develop **informed, responsible and active citizens** with values of democracy, equality, justice and respect for diversity — not mere memorisation of facts and dates.
- Develops critical thinking, perspective-taking, map and time sense, and the ability to question sources.

Methods of teaching

Method	Use
Source-based / inquiry	Learners examine primary sources and draw evidence-based conclusions (best for History).
Project method	Investigation of a real problem; develops research, teamwork and application.
Discussion & debate	Builds reasoning, expression and multiple viewpoints on social issues.
Storytelling & dramatization	Makes events vivid and memorable; develops empathy.
Field trips & surveys	Direct observation and data collection from the real world.
Constructivist approach	Learners actively build understanding from prior knowledge; teacher is a facilitator.

EXAM TIP: Social Science = INTEGRATED; aim = responsible citizenship, not rote facts. Inquiry/source-based and project methods are the preferred answers; "lecture/rote" options are wrong.

Chapter 13: Teaching Aids, Projects & Assessment

Teaching aids

- **Maps & globes** develop spatial understanding; outline maps for locating/markings; thematic maps (population, rainfall); physical vs political maps.
- **Timelines** develop chronology and the sense of change and continuity in History.
- Charts, models, pictures, flow charts (process), bar graphs (comparison), pie charts (parts of a whole).
- Prefer low-cost, locally available aids; connect lessons to the learner's real environment and current events.

Assessment

- Use varied tools: projects, field reports, map work, portfolios, observation, open-ended and higher-order questions.
- Higher-order questions ("why", "what if", "how would you feel if...") develop critical thinking and empathy — not just recall of dates.
- Assessment should be continuous, comprehensive and aimed at improving understanding and citizenship skills.
- A good Social Science teacher is a **facilitator** who encourages questioning of sources and social issues, respects diversity and links learning to life.

EXAM TIP: Maps → spatial sense; timelines → chronology/change. Pie chart = parts of a whole; bar graph = comparison. Favour open-ended, source-based, project assessment.

How to Use This Material

- Pair each chapter with the matching questions in the Zenith Educare CTET Paper II mock tests.
- Revise the EXAM TIP boxes the day before the exam — they hold the highest-frequency facts.
- Practise map work (India physical/political) and timelines regularly — they appear every year.
- Remember: CDP and Language I & II are common to both papers — study them from the Paper I material.
- Attempt all 10 Paper II mock tests at zenitheducare.com under timed conditions (150 questions · 2.5 hours).

Best wishes for CTET September 2026!

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