

CUET 2026 May 15 Shift 1 Sociology

Question Paper (Memory-Based) With Solutions

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. Which of the following is the largest tribal group in India?

- (A) Gonds
- (B) Bhils
- (C) Bodos
- (D) Andamanese Islanders

Correct Answer: (B) Bhils

Solution:

Concept:

India has a very large tribal population distributed across different states and regions. These tribal communities are officially recognized as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution of India. Some major tribal groups include Bhils, Gonds, Santhals, Bodos, Nagas, and many others. Among these tribes, population size is an important criterion often asked in examinations related to Indian Society, Sociology, Anthropology, and General Knowledge. The Bhils are considered the **largest tribal group in India** in terms of population. They are mainly concentrated in the western and central parts of India, especially in:

- Rajasthan

- Gujarat
- Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra

They have a rich cultural heritage, traditional art forms, folk dances, and strong historical significance.

Step 1: Understanding Option (A) — Gonds

The Gonds are one of the oldest and most important tribal communities of central India. They are mainly found in:

- Madhya Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh
- Maharashtra
- Telangana

Although the Gond tribe has a very large population and is among the major tribal groups of India, it is **not the largest**. Therefore, Option (A) is incorrect.

Step 2: Understanding Option (B) — Bhils

The Bhils are recognized as the **largest tribal community in India**. Historically, the Bhils are known for:

- Excellent archery skills
- Forest-based lifestyle
- Strong resistance against foreign rulers

The Bhil population is spread over several states, making them the most populous tribal group in the country.

Hence, Option (B) is correct.

Step 3: Understanding Option (C) — Bodos

The Bodos are an important tribal and ethnic group mainly residing in Assam and northeastern India. They are culturally significant and politically influential in the Northeast.

However, their population is much smaller compared to the Bhils and Gonds.

Therefore, Option (C) is incorrect.

Step 4: Understanding Option (D) — Andamanese Islanders

The Andamanese tribes are indigenous tribal groups living in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

These include:

- Jarawas
- Sentinelese
- Onges
- Great Andamanese

These tribes have very small populations and are among the most isolated tribal groups in the world.

Hence, Option (D) is incorrect.

Final Conclusion:

Since the Bhils constitute the largest tribal population in India, the correct answer is:

(B) Bhils

Quick Tip: Remember the important tribal groups of India:

- Largest tribal group — Bhils
- Major central Indian tribe — Gonds
- Major northeastern tribe — Bodos
- Isolated island tribes — Andamanese tribes

2. During the colonial period, weekly markets in tribal areas underwent significant changes. Which of the following changes took place?

- A. Tribals lost control over their land
- B. Roads and transport networks expanded

- C. Forest resources became more accessible to tribal communities
- D. Tribal communities were increasingly introduced to the use of money
- E. Traders and moneylenders entered tribal areas

Choose the correct answer:

- (1) A, B, D and E only
- (2) A, B, C and D only
- (3) A, C, D and E only
- (4) B, C, D and E only

Correct Answer: (1) A, B, D and E only

Solution:

Concept:

During British colonial rule, tribal societies experienced major economic, social, and administrative transformations. Weekly tribal markets, also called *haats*, became centers through which colonial economic systems penetrated tribal regions.

The British introduced:

- Roads and transport systems
- Commercial trade networks
- Money economy
- Revenue systems

These changes often harmed tribal autonomy and traditional lifestyles.

Step 1: Examining Statement A — Tribals lost control over their land

Under colonial administration:

- Forest laws restricted tribal access to land
- Zamindars and contractors acquired tribal lands
- Revenue policies forced many tribals into debt

As a result, tribal communities gradually lost control over their traditional landholdings. Therefore, Statement A is correct.

Step 2: Examining Statement B — Roads and transport networks expanded

The British expanded roads, railways, and transport facilities to:

- Extract forest products
- Transport minerals
- Increase commercial trade

This expansion connected tribal regions with outside markets and administrative centers. Hence, Statement B is correct.

Step 3: Examining Statement C — Forest resources became more accessible to tribal communities

This statement is historically incorrect.

The British actually imposed:

- Forest Acts
- Restrictions on shifting cultivation
- Limits on forest usage

Traditional tribal rights over forests were reduced rather than expanded.

Therefore, Statement C is incorrect.

Step 4: Examining Statement D — Tribal communities were increasingly introduced to the use of money

Earlier, many tribal economies functioned through barter systems and local exchange networks. During colonial rule:

- Cash transactions increased
- Taxes had to be paid in money
- Trade became monetized

Thus, tribal communities became increasingly dependent on money.

Hence, Statement D is correct.

Step 5: Examining Statement E — Traders and moneylenders entered tribal areas

The expansion of colonial markets brought:

- Merchants
- Contractors
- Traders
- Moneylenders

Many tribals fell into cycles of debt and exploitation because of high-interest loans and unfair trade practices.

Therefore, Statement E is correct.

Final Conclusion:

Correct statements are:

A, B, D, and E

Thus, the correct option is:

(1) A, B, D and E only

Quick Tip: Colonial rule transformed tribal economies by introducing:

- Commercial trade
- Money economy
- Roads and railways
- Traders and moneylenders

But tribal control over forests and land decreased significantly.

3. The Chipko Movement is considered both a 'Red' (livelihood) and 'Green' (environmental)

issue. What made it a 'Green' issue?

- (A) It empowered powerless villagers
- (B) It stalled government timber profits
- (C) It highlighted villagers' respect for forest as wealth beyond money
- (D) It was supported only by villagers, not urban dwellers

Correct Answer: (C) It highlighted villagers' respect for forest as wealth beyond money

Solution:

Concept:

The Chipko Movement began in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand during the 1970s. Villagers, especially women, hugged trees to prevent commercial deforestation.

The movement had two dimensions:

- **Red Issue:** Protection of livelihood and local economic needs
- **Green Issue:** Protection of ecology, forests, and environment

The environmental dimension emphasized that forests are valuable not merely for commercial timber but for:

- Soil conservation
- Water preservation
- Ecological balance
- Sustainable living

Step 1: Understanding Option (A)

The movement certainly empowered villagers and gave local communities a voice against exploitation.

However, empowerment relates more to social justice and participation rather than directly explaining why the movement became a *Green* issue.

Therefore, Option (A) is incorrect.

Step 2: Understanding Option (B)

The movement did affect timber extraction and government commercial interests.

But merely stopping profits does not fully explain the environmental philosophy of the movement.

Thus, Option (B) is incorrect.

Step 3: Understanding Option (C)

This option correctly captures the environmental essence of the Chipko Movement.

The villagers believed forests were:

- Sources of life
- Protectors of ecology
- Providers of water and fertile soil

They viewed forests as wealth beyond monetary value.

This ecological awareness transformed the movement into a major environmental movement.

Hence, Option (C) is correct.

Step 4: Understanding Option (D)

The movement eventually gained support from:

- Environmentalists
- Activists
- Urban intellectuals

So it was not supported only by villagers.

Therefore, Option (D) is incorrect.

Final Conclusion:

The Chipko Movement became a Green issue because it emphasized ecological values and respect for forests beyond commercial profit.

Hence, the correct answer is:

(C) It highlighted villagers' respect for forest as wealth beyond money

Quick Tip: The Chipko Movement is remembered as:

- A livelihood movement (*Red*)
- An environmental movement (*Green*)

Its core message was that forests are essential for ecological survival, not merely timber resources.

4. Which of the following is NOT part of the tribal integration framework adopted after independence?

- (A) Tribal Sub-Plans
- (B) Tribal Welfare Blocks
- (C) Meghalaya Succession Act
- (D) Special Multipurpose Area Schemes

Correct Answer: (C) Meghalaya Succession Act

Solution:

Concept:

After independence, the Government of India adopted several measures to integrate tribal communities into national development while protecting their cultural identity.

Major tribal welfare and integration programs included:

- Tribal Welfare Blocks
- Tribal Sub-Plans
- Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Projects

These schemes aimed at:

- Economic development
- Education
- Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Social welfare

Step 1: Understanding Option (A) — Tribal Sub-Plans

Tribal Sub-Plans were introduced to ensure focused development in tribal-dominated regions. These plans allocated:

- Separate funds
- Welfare programs
- Area-specific development initiatives

Hence, this was part of the tribal integration framework. Therefore, Option (A) is incorrect.

Step 2: Understanding Option (B) — Tribal Welfare Blocks

Tribal Welfare Blocks were created for concentrated administrative and developmental efforts in tribal areas.

They focused on:

- Agriculture
- Education
- Rural development
- Healthcare

Thus, Option (B) was indeed part of the framework.

Step 3: Understanding Option (C) — Meghalaya Succession Act

The Meghalaya Succession Act is not recognized as a major component of India's tribal integration policy framework after independence.

It is unrelated to the central tribal welfare development programs listed in the other options.

Hence, this option is NOT part of the tribal integration framework.

Therefore, Option (C) is correct.

Step 4: Understanding Option (D) — Special Multipurpose Area Schemes

These schemes were introduced for integrated tribal development and included:

- Economic assistance

- Infrastructure
- Welfare services

Thus, this was part of the framework.

Hence, Option (D) is incorrect.

Final Conclusion:

The option that is NOT part of the tribal integration framework is:

(C) Meghalaya Succession Act

Quick Tip: Important post-independence tribal welfare initiatives:

- Tribal Sub-Plans
- Tribal Welfare Blocks
- Special Multipurpose Tribal Schemes

These focused on balanced tribal development and welfare.

5. Identify a positive impact of the interactional process between tribes and mainstream society:

- (A) Statehood of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh
- (B) Rise of middle class among tribes
- (C) Development of factories and mines in tribal areas
- (D) Change in family structure

Correct Answer: (B) Rise of middle class among tribes

Solution:

Concept:

Interaction between tribal communities and mainstream society has produced both positive and negative consequences.

Positive impacts include:

- Educational advancement
- Political participation
- Economic mobility
- Emergence of tribal middle class

Negative impacts include:

- Displacement
- Cultural erosion
- Exploitation
- Environmental destruction

Step 1: Understanding Option (A)

The creation of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh reflected political demands and regional aspirations.

Although significant politically, this is not generally identified as a direct social outcome of interactional processes in the sociological sense asked here.

Therefore, Option (A) is incorrect.

Step 2: Understanding Option (B)

Interaction with mainstream society increased:

- Access to education
- Government employment
- Urban exposure
- Economic opportunities

As a result, a tribal middle class emerged in many regions.

This is considered a positive developmental impact.

Hence, Option (B) is correct.

Step 3: Understanding Option (C)

Factories and mines in tribal areas often caused:

- Displacement
- Loss of forests
- Land alienation
- Environmental damage

Thus, this is not generally viewed as a positive impact for tribal communities.

Therefore, Option (C) is incorrect.

Step 4: Understanding Option (D)

Changes in family structure may occur due to modernization and urbanization.

However, such changes are not necessarily positive and may involve weakening of traditional social institutions.

Hence, Option (D) is incorrect.

Final Conclusion:

The most appropriate positive impact mentioned is:

(B) Rise of middle class among tribes

Quick Tip: A major positive effect of tribal interaction with mainstream society has been:

- Educational growth
- Political awareness
- Rise of tribal middle class

However, industrialization in tribal regions has also caused displacement and exploitation.

6. Match the land tenure systems with their descriptions:

List-I

- (A) Zamindari System
- (B) Raiyatwari System
- (C) Tenancy Abolition & Regulation
- (D) Land Ceiling

List-II

- (I) Benami Transfer
- (II) Radical restructuring in Kerala & Bengal
- (III) Less tax burden; more prosperous farmers
- (IV) Agricultural production stagnated/declined

- (A) A-III, B-I, C-IV, D-II
- (B) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I
- (C) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV
- (D) A-IV, B-III, C-I, D-II

Correct Answer: (2) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I

Solution:
Concept:

Land tenure systems in India refer to the methods through which land ownership, land revenue collection, and agricultural relations were organized. During British rule and after independence, several land systems and reforms were introduced to improve agricultural productivity and reduce exploitation.

The important systems involved in this question are:

- **Zamindari System** – A system where intermediaries called zamindars collected revenue from peasants.
- **Raiyatwari System** – A direct settlement system between the government and cultivators.
- **Tenancy Abolition and Regulation** – Reforms introduced to protect tenants and provide land rights.
- **Land Ceiling** – Laws imposing maximum limits on land ownership to reduce inequality.

The question requires correctly matching these systems with their outcomes or associated features.

Step 1: Matching Zamindari System with its description

The **Zamindari System** was introduced mainly by Lord Cornwallis under the Permanent Settlement of 1793.

Under this system:

- Zamindars acted as intermediaries between peasants and the British government.
- Farmers had little ownership security.
- Zamindars were mainly interested in extracting revenue rather than improving agriculture.
- Peasants were heavily exploited.

As a result:

- Agricultural investment remained low.
- Productivity suffered.
- Agricultural growth stagnated in many regions.

Therefore:

$$(A) \rightarrow (IV)$$

That is,

Zamindari System $\rightarrow$ Agricultural production stagnated/declined

Step 2: Matching Raiyatwari System with its description

The **Raiyatwari System** was introduced by Thomas Munro in parts of South India.

Important features were:

- Direct settlement between cultivators (raiya) and government.
- No zamindar intermediaries.
- Cultivators received ownership rights over land.
- Tax burden was comparatively lower than exploitative zamindari areas.

This resulted in:

- Better incentives for cultivation.
- More prosperous farmers in several regions.

Hence:

$$(B) \rightarrow (III)$$

That is,

Raiyatwari System $\rightarrow$ Less tax burden; more prosperous farmers

Step 3: Matching Tenancy Abolition and Regulation

After independence, tenancy reforms were introduced to:

- Remove exploitative intermediaries.
- Protect tenants from eviction.
- Provide ownership rights to cultivators.

The most significant and radical tenancy reforms occurred in:

- Kerala
- West Bengal

These states implemented major restructuring of agrarian relations.

Thus:

$$(C) \rightarrow (II)$$

That is,

Tenancy Abolition & Regulation $\rightarrow$ Radical restructuring in Kerala & Bengal

Step 4: Matching Land Ceiling

Land ceiling laws imposed upper limits on land ownership. However, many landlords tried to avoid these laws through:

- Fragmentation of holdings
- Fake ownership records
- Transfers in the names of relatives or others

Such illegal or indirect transfers are called:

Benami Transfers

Therefore:

$$(D) \rightarrow (I)$$

That is,

Land Ceiling $\rightarrow$ Benami Transfer

Step 5: Writing the complete matching sequence

Combining all correct matches:

$$A \rightarrow IV$$

$$B \rightarrow III$$

$$C \rightarrow II$$

$$D \rightarrow I$$

Thus, the correct sequence is:

A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I

Hence, the correct option is:

(2)

Quick Tip: Remember these important associations:

- **Zamindari** → Exploitation and stagnation
- **Raiyatwari** → Direct settlement with farmers
- **Tenancy reforms** → Major reforms in Kerala and Bengal
- **Land Ceiling** → Benami transfers to evade laws

These are frequently asked concepts in Indian agrarian reforms and rural development.

7. Arrange the sequence of events in the Green Revolution in correct order:

- (A) Dry region spread
- (B) New technology introduced
- (C) Displacement of service castes
- (D) Increasing commercialization

- (A) B, C, A, D
- (B) A, B, C, D
- (C) D, C, A, B
- (D) B, C, D, A

Correct Answer: (1) B, C, A, D

Solution:

Concept:

The Green Revolution refers to the introduction of modern agricultural technology in India during the 1960s and 1970s to increase food grain production.

Major components included:

- High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds
- Irrigation facilities
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Mechanization

The Green Revolution produced both economic and social changes in rural India. To answer this question correctly, we must identify the chronological order in which these developments occurred.

Step 1: Introduction of new technology

The first major event of the Green Revolution was the introduction of:

- HYV seeds
- Tractors
- Tube wells
- Chemical fertilizers

Therefore, the process clearly started with:

(B) New technology introduced

Step 2: Displacement of service castes

As mechanization increased:

- Tractors replaced animal labour.
- Machines reduced dependence on traditional village artisans.
- Many service castes lost traditional occupations.

Thus, after technology came:

(C) Displacement of service castes

Step 3: Spread to dry regions

Initially, the Green Revolution was concentrated in regions with:

- Good irrigation
- Fertile land

Later, technological expansion and irrigation development helped spread agriculture into relatively drier areas.

Hence the next stage was:

(A) Dry region spread

Step 4: Increasing commercialization

As production increased:

- Farmers produced more for markets.
- Agriculture became profit-oriented.
- Commercial farming expanded.

This resulted in:

(D) Increasing commercialization

Step 5: Writing the correct sequence

Thus, the chronological order becomes:

$B \rightarrow C \rightarrow A \rightarrow D$

Therefore:

B, C, A, D

Hence, the correct option is:

(1)

Quick Tip: For sequence-based questions on the Green Revolution, remember the logical progression:

Technology → Social Change → Expansion → Commercialization

This pattern helps solve chronology questions quickly in examinations.

8. Seasonal migrant workers have been termed as:

- (A) Begar
- (B) Peasants
- (C) Footloose Labourers
- (D) Farmers

Correct Answer: (3) Footloose Labourers

Solution:

Concept:

Seasonal migration refers to the temporary movement of workers from one region to another in search of employment during particular seasons.

Such workers generally:

- Move frequently from place to place
- Lack permanent employment security
- Work mainly in agriculture, construction, brick kilns, or informal sectors
- Return home after seasonal work ends

In sociology and labour studies, these mobile labourers are commonly called **Footloose Labourers**.

Step 1: Understanding the meaning of “Footloose Labourers”

The term “footloose labourers” refers to workers who:

- Are not permanently tied to one employer or one place
- Move according to employment opportunities
- Work under insecure and temporary conditions

Seasonal migrant workers perfectly fit this description because they migrate according to agricultural or industrial demand.

Step 2: Examining the other options

Option (A): Begar

Begar refers to:

- Forced unpaid labour
- Labour extracted without wages

This does not describe seasonal migration.

Hence, Option (A) is incorrect.

Option (B): Peasants

Peasants are small agricultural cultivators or farmers.

Seasonal migrant workers may or may not be peasants, so this term is not appropriate.

Hence, Option (B) is incorrect.

Option (D): Farmers

Farmers are land cultivators.

Seasonal migrant workers are primarily wage labourers rather than land-owning farmers.

Hence, Option (D) is incorrect.

Step 3: Identifying the correct term

The sociological term specifically used for highly mobile temporary labourers is:

Footloose Labourers

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(3)

Quick Tip: “Footloose Labourers” are labourers who migrate frequently in search of temporary work and are not permanently attached to one employer or region.

9. Which of the following best describes ‘Badli Workers’ in Indian industrial context?

- (A) Workers who substitute regular permanent workers & are contract workers
- (B) Permanent workers with full benefits
- (C) Workers with equal status as permanent workers
- (D) Home-based piece-rate workers

Correct Answer: (1) Workers who substitute regular permanent workers & are contract workers

Solution:

Concept:

In Indian industrial labour terminology, “Badli Workers” are substitute workers employed temporarily in place of permanent workers who may be absent due to leave, illness, or other reasons.

The term “Badli” literally means “replacement” or “substitute.”

Step 1: Understanding Badli Workers

Badli workers are:

- Temporary substitute workers
- Employed in place of permanent workers
- Usually not entitled to the same benefits as regular employees
- Common in factories and industrial establishments

Thus, they act as replacement labour whenever needed.

Step 2: Analyzing Option (A)

Option (A) states:

Workers who substitute regular permanent workers & are contract workers

This correctly describes the role of Badli workers because:

- They are substitute labourers.
- Their employment is temporary and conditional.

Hence, Option (A) is correct.

Step 3: Examining the incorrect options

Option (B): Permanent workers with full benefits

Badli workers are not permanent employees and generally do not receive complete employment benefits.

Hence, this option is incorrect.

Option (C): Workers with equal status as permanent workers

Badli workers do not enjoy equal status, security, or privileges.

Therefore, this option is incorrect.

Option (D): Home-based piece-rate workers

Home-based piece-rate workers are individuals paid according to units produced at home.

This is unrelated to Badli labour.

Hence, this option is incorrect.

Step 4: Final conclusion

Thus, the most appropriate definition is:

Workers who substitute regular permanent workers & are contract workers

Therefore, the correct option is:

(1)

Quick Tip: The word “Badli” means “replacement.” So, Badli workers are substitute industrial workers employed temporarily in place of regular workers.

10. Which of the following statements about Panchayati Raj is INCORRECT?

- (A) ‘Panchayat Raj’ means ‘Governance by five individuals’
- (B) At the base stands the Gram Sabha
- (C) The 73rd Amendment provided three-tier system
- (D) Elections conducted every five years

Correct Answer: (1) ‘Panchayat Raj’ means ‘Governance by five individuals’

Solution:

Concept:

Panchayati Raj refers to the system of rural local self-government in India. It was constitutionally strengthened through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.

Its objectives include:

- Democratic decentralization
- Local participation
- Rural development
- Grassroots governance

The system operates through elected local bodies at different administrative levels.

Step 1: Understanding Panchayati Raj

The term “Panchayat” historically refers to an assembly of village elders.

Although the word “Panch” literally means “five,” modern Panchayati Raj does not mean governance by exactly five individuals.

Instead, it refers to:

- Local self-government institutions in rural areas
- Democratic decentralized administration

Therefore, the statement:

“Panchayat Raj means Governance by five individuals”

is inaccurate in the modern constitutional context.

Hence, Option (A) is incorrect.

Step 2: Verifying Option (B)

The **Gram Sabha** forms the foundation of the Panchayati Raj system.

It consists of:

- All registered voters in a village

Thus, the statement:

“At the base stands the Gram Sabha”

is correct.

Hence, Option (B) is not incorrect.

Step 3: Verifying Option (C)

The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act** established a three-tier Panchayati Raj structure:

- Gram Panchayat at village level
- Panchayat Samiti at block level
- Zila Parishad at district level

Therefore, Option (C) is correct.

Step 4: Verifying Option (D)

According to constitutional provisions:

- Panchayat elections are held every five years.

Hence, Option (D) is also correct.

Step 5: Final conclusion

Only Option (A) contains an incorrect statement.

Therefore:

'Panchayat Raj' means 'Governance by five individuals'

is the incorrect statement.

Hence, the correct option is:

(1)

Quick Tip: Key facts about Panchayati Raj:

- Constitutional status through 73rd Amendment
- Three-tier rural governance structure
- Gram Sabha forms the foundation
- Elections held every five years