NCERT Archive

SOLUTIONS BOOK

CLASS 9

Social Science · Understanding Society

CHAPTER 1

Understanding Social Science

Complete Questions and Activities Solutions

In-text Questions

Contents

Class 9 Social Science · Understanding Society: India and Beyond · Chapter 1 — Understanding Social Science

1.1 **In-text Questions** 3

11 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11

Every question is followed by its answer. Question numbers above are clickable and the PDF bookmarks panel lets you jump to any question. Figures are reproduced from the NCERT textbook (© NCERT) for educational use.

NCERT ARCHIVE

1.1

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 1

In-text Questions

Solutions · 11 questions

Directions (Questions 1–11): These are the questions and activities that appear inside the chapter (the questions under “Now, look beyond your immediate surroundings”, Let’s Analyse, Let’s Explore and the questions in “Why Should We Study Social Science?”), numbered in the order in which they appear. Many are open-ended; model answers based on the chapter are given, and you may add examples from your own surroundings.

QUESTION 1 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

Why do some people live in crowded cities while others live in scattered villages?

ANSWER

Where and how people live is not a matter of chance. It depends on how settlements grew over time and on the environment, livelihoods, history and choices of each place.

a From villages to cities

Early human communities depended directly on nature for survival. Over 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.

b Factors behind the difference

- **Geography:** it studies where things are located, why they are found there, and how places influence human life. The environment influences settlement patterns and occupations.
- **Livelihoods:** some regions depend on farming, while others focus on industry or trade (see Question 3).
- **History and human choices:** society is shaped by history, geography, institutions, resources and human choices.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- **Movement of people:** events such as a drought can lead to migration to cities, as the chapter's own example shows.

Therefore, crowded cities and scattered villages result from how settlements developed and from geography, livelihoods, history and human choices.

QUESTION 2 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

Why do different communities speak different languages and follow different traditions?

ANSWER

Social Science explains such variations as outcomes of geographical, historical, cultural and economic factors.

a Four factors behind the variations

Factor	How it shapes differences
Geographical	The environment influences settlement patterns, occupations, architecture, food habits and health practices.
Historical	Over thousands of years, new ideas, inventions and cultural exchanges have gradually transformed ways of life.
Cultural	Traditions and ideas are passed down through generations.
Economic	People practise varied occupations, and regions differ in whether they depend on farming, industry or trade.

b Why this understanding matters

Understanding these variations builds respect and cooperation among communities. At the same time, Indian culture binds this diversity together through an underlying unity, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity.

Therefore, differences in language and traditions arise from geography, history, culture and the economy, and understanding them builds respect.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 3 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

Why do some regions depend on farming, while others focus on industry or trade?

ANSWER

The occupations of a region are linked to its location and environment, its history, and the decisions people and governments make about using resources. Geography and Economics together help explain the differences.

a Factors that shape a region's economy

Factor	Role	Example from the chapter
Location and environment	Geography asks where things are located and why they are found there.	India's long peninsular coastline facilitated contact with Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia.
Resources and needs	Societies decide how to use limited resources to meet their needs.	Producers determine what and how much to produce.
History	Past events can change the course of an economy.	Colonial rule disrupted India's progress and led to the decline of traditional industries.
Government policy	Governments frame policies to balance different goals.	Growth and stability, efficiency and fairness.

b An example from India

For centuries, India was one of the world's leading economies and an important centre of trade, industry and maritime activity.

Therefore, whether a region relies on farming, industry or trade depends on its geography, history, resources and economic decisions.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 4 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

How do governments make decisions that affect millions of people?

ANSWER

Political Science studies governance: how and why power is distributed, decisions are made and policies are implemented. Governments act through constitutions and the institutions of the State.

a How decisions are made

- Power is exercised, shared and regulated through constitutions, governments and institutions of the State.
- Policies are framed and implemented to balance goals such as growth and stability, and efficiency and fairness.
- In India's villages, the Panchayati Raj system embodies grassroots democracy by giving citizens a voice in local development planning.

b Ideas that guide decisions

- Indian political thought linked politics with economics, social life, morality and defence, and viewed power as a responsibility rather than merely a privilege.
- The *Arthaśhāstra* detailed how a state should be governed, how taxes should be collected, how the army should function and how rulers should ensure the welfare of the people.

c Role of citizens

In a democratic society, laws, rights and responsibilities guide how people live together. Understanding how governments function and how decisions are made helps citizens take part responsibly in civic life.

Therefore, governments decide through institutions, laws and policies, guided by public welfare and the participation of citizens.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 5 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

Why are certain regions more prone to floods?

ANSWER

This is a question for Geography, which studies where things are located, why they are found there, and how people and their surroundings affect one another. A model answer is given below.

a Reasons a region may be flood-prone

- **Location:** regions close to rivers or coasts, and low-lying land, are more exposed to flood waters.
- **Climate and rainfall:** heavy or seasonal rainfall can raise river levels and cause flooding.
- **Human choices:** where people settle and how land and water are managed can increase or reduce the risk, because society is shaped by geography and human choices.

b How to investigate

Geography uses maps, globes, atlases, Geographical Information System (GIS) and infographics to understand such questions. Use them to locate flood-prone regions and compare their physical features and rainfall.

Therefore, flood-proneness depends on a region's location, climate and the human choices made there.

QUESTION 6 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

Why does agriculture flourish in some regions but not in others?

ANSWER

Agriculture flourishes where the environment supports it and where people have the knowledge and resources to farm. Where these differ, farming differs too.

a Natural conditions

The idea of the *Pañchamahābhūtas* (earth, water, fire, air and space) describes the natural world as an interconnected system. It helps explain how the environment influences settlement patterns, occupations, food habits and health practices. For farming, this means that soil, water and climate matter.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Changing conditions

A drought affects crops (environment), farmers' incomes (economy), government relief measures (politics), migration to cities (society) and traditional ways of coping with scarcity (culture).

c Human knowledge and systems

- Over time, people learnt to grow crops, domesticate animals and exchange goods.
- Farming works within a wider system: food is harvested, processed, transported, bought and sold through the efforts of many people.

Therefore, agriculture flourishes where natural conditions, human knowledge and economic systems support it.

QUESTION 7 *Look Beyond · p. 2*

How does climate change influence our lives?

ANSWER

Climate change is one of the complex issues that Social Science helps societies address. Because it affects the environment, it also touches the economy, politics, society and culture.

a A connected picture (the chapter's drought illustration)

Aspect of life	How a climate-related event such as a drought affects it
Environment	Crops are affected.
Economy	Farmers' incomes are affected.
Politics	Government relief measures are needed.
Society	People migrate to cities.
Culture	Traditional ways of coping with scarcity come into use.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Why Social Science matters here

As societies change rapidly, new technologies, expanding cities, environmental concerns, migration and global connections are reshaping how people live and interact. Understanding these changes requires careful observation, asking questions, examining evidence and recognising connections. In the years ahead, Social Science will help societies address climate change, sustainable development, social harmony and equitable use of resources.

Therefore, climate change influences many aspects of life at once, and Social Science helps us understand and respond to it.

QUESTION 8 *Let's Analyse · p. 2*

Observe your surroundings and identify a change that has taken place in your locality over the past five years. It could be related to transport, housing, education, technology, or the environment.
Discuss in groups:
→ What was the situation earlier?
→ What has changed?
→ What might have caused this change?
→ How has it affected people's lives?
Prepare a short report and present it in class.

ANSWER

This is a group activity. Choose one change in your locality, discuss the four points using evidence, and present a short report in class. The steps and a model report format are given.

a Steps

- **Choose a change** from the last five years: transport, housing, education, technology or the environment.
- **Gather evidence** the way social scientists do: observe people's lives, conduct interviews and surveys, examine documents, and compare different times and places.
- **Discuss in groups** the four points given in the question.
- **Prepare a short report** and present it in class.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Model report format

Discussion point	What to write	Discipline that can help
What was the situation earlier?	Describe the place or service as it was about five years ago, using what elders, neighbours or records tell you.	History
What has changed?	State clearly what is different now, and where the change can be seen.	Geography
What might have caused this change?	Give reasons, such as government decisions, economic needs, new technology or changes in the environment.	Political Science, Economics
How has it affected people’s lives?	Say how different groups of people have been affected.	All disciplines together

c Linking it to Social Science

Your report shows how Social Science builds connections among people, places and systems, and helps you see society as one connected story rather than a collection of separate pieces.

Therefore, a good report states the earlier situation, the change, its causes and its effect on people’s lives.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 9 *Let's Explore · p. 5*

With the help of NCERT's School Bhuvan portal, you can also map your own village/city. You can access and explore the NCERT's School Bhuvan portal by visiting the website: https://bhuvan-app1.nrsc.gov.in/mhrd_ncert/

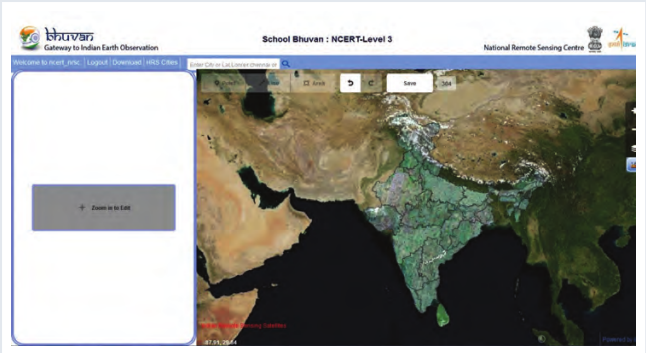

Fig. 1.1. School Bhuvan: NCERT-Level 3 portal

ANSWER

This is a hands-on activity. Use the School Bhuvan portal (Fig. 1.1) to map your own village or city, following the steps below.

a Steps

- **Open the portal** at https://bhuvan-app1.nrsc.gov.in/mhrd_ncert/ (School Bhuvan: NCERT-Level 3, National Remote Sensing Centre).
- **Find your place:** Fig. 1.1 shows a search box for a city or latitude and longitude; move and zoom the map to your village or city.
- **Zoom in to edit:** the figure shows the message "Zoom in to Edit". Zoom in until editing is possible.
- **Mark and save:** use the toolbar (it includes Area, undo, redo and Save) to mark features of your locality and save your map. Check it with your teacher.

b Why mapping helps

Geography uses maps, globes, atlases, Geographical Information System (GIS), infographics and other instruments to understand where things are located and why. Mapping your own village or city shows how these tools enhance your understanding of the discipline.

Therefore, the School Bhuvan portal lets you map your own village or city and see geography at work in your locality.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 10 *Why Study Social Science? · p. 10*

After exploring how Social Science helps us observe events, ask questions, and examine evidence, an important question arises: how does this knowledge help us in our lives?

ANSWER

Social Science helps us understand the systems around us, respect diversity, take part in civic life, think about shared challenges and make wiser choices for the future.

a Understanding the systems around us

The house we live in, the water we use, the roads we travel on, the school we attend, the markets we visit and even digital spaces 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.

b Respect for diversity

It explains differences in languages, customs and occupations as outcomes of geographical, historical, cultural and economic factors. This builds respect and cooperation among communities.

c Responsible citizenship

In a democratic society, laws, rights and responsibilities guide how people live together. Knowing how governments function and how decisions are made prepares us to take part responsibly in civic life.

d Informed questioning

When we hear about issues such as environmental protection, public health, employment or urban growth, we learn to ask informed questions about their causes, effects and possible solutions.

e Past, present and future

By understanding how past decisions shaped the present, we become better equipped to make wiser choices for the future.

Therefore, Social Science helps us understand society, act as responsible citizens and make wiser choices for the future.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 11 *Why Study Social Science? · p. 11*

You also live among people who may speak different languages, follow diverse customs, and practise varied occupations. Why do such differences exist within the same country? How do they continue over time?

ANSWER

Such differences exist because geographical, historical, cultural and economic factors have shaped communities in different ways. They continue because ideas and traditions are passed on through generations.

a Why the differences exist

- **Geographical:** the environment influences occupations, architecture, food habits and health practices.
- **Historical:** new ideas, inventions and cultural exchanges have gradually transformed ways of life over thousands of years.
- **Cultural and economic:** communities follow different traditions and practise varied occupations.

b How they continue over time

Traditions and ideas are passed down through generations. Social Science explains both what endures and what changes, showing how the past shapes the present.

c Unity within diversity

Indian culture binds this diversity together through an underlying unity, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity.

Therefore, differences within a country arise from geography, history, culture and the economy, and continue as traditions pass from one generation to the next.

NCERT ARCHIVE