

**ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12**

# Indian Economy 1950-1990

*Indian Economic Development · Chapter 2 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill*
**HOW TO USE**

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

**MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER**
**Section A — MCQ (1 mark each, 6 Qs)**

**Q1. The Planning Commission was established in the year \_\_\_\_ . [1 mark]**

**Ans:** 1950 (March, by Government resolution).

**Q2. The Mahalanobis Model formed the basis of the \_\_\_\_ Five-Year Plan. [1 mark]**

**Ans:** Second (1956-61).

**Q3. Operation Barga, a tenancy reform, was implemented in \_\_\_\_ state. [1 mark]**

**Ans:** West Bengal (1978-80s).

**Q4. Green Revolution centred on \_\_\_\_ varieties of seeds. [1 mark]**

**Ans:** HYV (High Yielding Varieties) — wheat + rice.

**Q5. Industrial Policy Resolution 1956 Schedule A reserved \_\_\_\_ industries for the public sector. [1 mark]**

**Ans:** 17.

**Q6. FCI stands for \_\_\_\_ . [1 mark]**

**Ans:** Food Corporation of India (est. 1965 for MSP procurement).

**Section B — Very Short Answer (2 marks each, 4 Qs)**

**Q7. State the four goals of planning in India. [2 marks]**

**Ans:** (1) GROWTH — steady increase in real GDP. (2) MODERNISATION — adoption of new technology + changing social attitudes. (3) SELF-RELIANCE — reducing dependence on imports (food + capital goods). (4) EQUITY — fair distribution of benefits across regions, classes, gender.

**Q8. Distinguish between Zamindari Abolition and Land Ceiling. [2 marks]**

**Ans:** Zamindari Abolition (1948-55) removed intermediary landlords (Zamindars) — the state took the land and made the tiller the owner. LARGELY SUCCESSFUL. Land Ceiling capped the maximum holding per family + redistributed surplus to landless. WEAKLY ENFORCED due to benami transfers + bureaucratic capacity gaps + court evasions.

**Q9. What are the FIVE inputs of the Green Revolution package? [2 marks]**

**Ans:** (1) HYV seeds (wheat + rice); (2) Assured irrigation (canals + tubewells); (3) Chemical fertilisers (urea, DAP); (4) Pesticides + herbicides; (5) Mechanisation (tractors, harvesters) — backed by MSP + FCI procurement (demand-side).

**Q10. What was the IDR Act 1951? [2 marks]**

**Ans:** Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951 — created the INDUSTRIAL LICENSING regime. Anyone wishing to start or expand a factory in a scheduled industry needed a central-government LICENCE specifying type, location, scale, and technology. Operational basis of 'License Raj'. Abolished for most industries in 1991 reforms.

**Section C — Short Answer (3 marks each, 3 Qs)**

**Q11. State three reasons why India adopted Import Substitution Industrialisation policy 1950-1990. [3 marks]**

**Ans:** (1) FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE: India had limited forex earnings from exports; protection conserved scarce forex for essential imports (capital goods, oil). (2) INFANT INDUSTRY ARGUMENT: domestic industries needed protection from established foreign producers until they could compete; classic trade-theory rationale. (3) SELF-RELIANCE GOAL: the four-goals framework of planning made import-dependence reduction a political commitment. Reduces vulnerability to external shocks (1965-67 PL-480 food aid was the precedent that scared planners).

**Q12. Why did Land Reforms achieve uneven results across India? [3 marks]**

**Ans:** Three structural reasons: (1) **POLITICAL ECONOMY** — large landlords had significant state-level political power that slowed legislation and enforcement; effective implementation occurred only where the ruling party had strong political will (West Bengal under Left Front; Kerala under Communists). (2) **BUREAUCRATIC CAPACITY** — rural land records were poor and patchy; identifying surplus land for ceiling enforcement required substantial local administrative capacity. (3) **LEGAL EVASIONS** — large landholders made **BENAMI** transfers to relatives + farm workers on paper; courts upheld many such evasions. Combined: limited Land Reforms to partial success.

**Q13. What was the role of the Public Sector in Indian industrial development 1950-1990? [3 marks]**

**Ans:** Four roles: (1) **HEAVY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT** — built capital-intensive industries (Bhilai/Rourkela/Durgapur steel, BHEL, SAIL, ONGC) that the Indian private sector lacked capital to undertake. (2) **BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT** — public investments in remote/backward regions (Bhilai in MP, Bokaro in Jharkhand) that profit-seeking private firms would avoid. (3) **EMPLOYMENT GENERATION** — large workforce in PSUs provided organised-sector employment. (4) **PREVENTION OF MONOPOLY** — kept strategic industries in state hands, preventing private oligopolies from controlling essential inputs. IPR 1956 reserved 17 industries for the public sector.

**Section D — Long Answer / Case Study (4 marks each, 2 Qs)**

**Q14. Discuss the Green Revolution — strategy + achievements + criticisms. [4 marks]**

**Ans:** **STRATEGY:** 1965-66 onwards. Package of HYV seeds (Borlaug's Mexican wheat, IR-8 rice) + assured irrigation + chemical fertilisers + pesticides + mechanisation, demand-backed by MSP procurement via FCI (established 1965). **ACHIEVEMENTS:** (1) Foodgrain production rose from ~74 to ~176 million tonnes (1965-91); India became self-sufficient by early 1980s. (2) Wheat + rice yields roughly doubled. (3) Buffer stock of 25-30 million tonnes built. (4) Farm incomes in benefiting regions rose substantially. **CRITICISMS:** (1) **REGIONAL inequality** — Punjab/Haryana/Western UP benefited; Eastern India + dryland regions bypassed. (2) **CROP inequality** — pulses, oilseeds, coarse grains neglected (India still imports pulses + edible oils). (3) **ENVIRONMENTAL damage** — groundwater depletion (Punjab), soil salinisation, fertiliser/pesticide runoff. (4) **INTRA-RURAL inequality** — large/irrigated farmers gained more than small/dryland.

**Q15. Case study: Two states — Punjab (irrigated, well-institutionalised) and Bihar (rain-fed, weak institutions) — both received the Green Revolution package post-1965. Punjab's foodgrain output doubled within a decade; Bihar's barely budged. Discuss any THREE reasons for this divergence. [3 marks]**

**Ans:** (1) **IRRIGATION:** Punjab had 70%+ irrigated land via the Bhakra Nangal canal system + tubewells; Bihar had only ~30% irrigated land at the time. HYV seeds require assured water — without irrigation, the package fails. (2) **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:** Punjab had a strong cooperative banking system, an effective Agricultural University (PAU Ludhiana), well-functioning extension services, and politically active Kisan organisations. Bihar's rural institutions were weaker; credit, seeds, and information reached fewer farmers. (3) **LAND HOLDINGS:** Punjab had relatively larger irrigated holdings able to invest in mechanisation + inputs; Bihar's holdings were smaller and more fragmented, raising per-unit cost of the package. The Green Revolution's geography is the geography of pre-existing irrigation + institutions + scale.

**★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES**

**3 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT**

**★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 4-mark question: Explain the four goals of planning**

*Annual*

<b>Step 1</b> [1 mark]	<b>Name all four goals upfront</b>	The four goals of planning in India, as articulated in NCERT and successive Five-Year Plan documents, are: (1) <b>GROWTH</b> , (2) <b>MODERNISATION</b> , (3) <b>SELF-RELIANCE</b> , (4) <b>EQUITY</b> .
<b>Step 2</b> [2 marks]	<b>Define each goal in one line + one concrete example</b>	(1) <b>GROWTH:</b> steady increase in real GDP. Target: 5-7% annual GDP growth set in successive plans. (2) <b>MODERNISATION:</b> adoption of new technology + changing social attitudes (e.g. acceptance of female workforce participation). (3) <b>SELF-RELIANCE:</b> reducing dependence on imports, especially for food and capital goods (Green Revolution's foodgrain self-sufficiency by 1980s). (4) <b>EQUITY:</b> fair distribution of benefits across regions, classes, and groups (DPSP-rooted commitment to reduce inequality).
<b>Step 3</b> [1 mark]	<b>Trade-offs between goals + concluding note</b>	The four goals are sometimes in tension — rapid growth via heavy industry can worsen short-run equity; self-reliance through high tariffs can slow modernisation. Indian planning has tried to balance them across successive Five-Year Plans with varying success.

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Substituting sub-objectives (employment, literacy) for the four headline goals (-1 mark).
- Missing concrete examples (-0.5 per goal).

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 6-mark question: Explain land reforms in India 1950-1990 + critical evaluation**

70% of years

<b>Step 1</b> [1 mark]	<b>Define land reforms + three components upfront</b>	Land reforms in India aimed to restructure the agrarian economy left by the colonial Zamindari system. They had three main components: (a) ABOLITION of intermediaries (Zamindars), (b) TENANCY REFORMS (security of tenure + fair rent), and (c) CEILING on agricultural land holdings.
<b>Step 2</b> [2 marks]	<b>Explain each component with mechanism</b>	(a) ZAMINDARI ABOLITION: state acquired land from Zamindars and made the tiller the owner. Largely successful by mid-1950s across most states. (b) TENANCY REFORMS: security of tenure for tenants + regulation of fair rent + right to purchase land. Uneven — effective in West Bengal (Operation Barga 1978+), Kerala, weak elsewhere. (c) LAND CEILING: maximum permitted holding per family. Surplus to be redistributed to landless.
<b>Step 3</b> [2 marks]	<b>Critical evaluation — successes + failures</b>	SUCCESSSES: Zamindari Abolition completed; some tenancy security; small Operation Barga gains in West Bengal. FAILURES: Land Ceiling weakly enforced — large landlords made BENAMI transfers to relatives to evade ceilings; redistribution to landless was minimal except in WB and Kerala. Most states saw cosmetic compliance.
<b>Step 4</b> [1 mark]	<b>Final assessment + transition to Green Revolution</b>	Land Reforms were MIXED — Zamindari was abolished but the resulting agrarian structure remained unequal in most states. The disappointing equity outcome led planners to shift focus from land redistribution to PRODUCTIVITY GAINS through the Green Revolution (1965-66 onwards).

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Listing the three components without explaining each (-2 marks).
- Missing the implementation-gap critique (-1 mark).
- Confusing tenancy reforms with land ceiling (-1 mark).

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-6 mark question: Green Revolution — strategy + achievements + criticisms**

80% of years

<b>Step 1</b> [1 mark]	<b>Define + state strategy</b>	The Green Revolution was the package of agricultural improvements introduced in India from 1965-66 onwards, centred on HIGH-YIELDING VARIETIES (HYV) of seeds, combined with assured IRRIGATION, CHEMICAL FERTILISERS, PESTICIDES, and MECHANISATION — with MSP (Minimum Support Price) procurement as the demand-side backing.
<b>Step 2</b> [2 marks]	<b>Achievements</b>	(a) FOODGRAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY — by 1980s India was no longer dependent on US PL-480 food aid imports. (b) RICE + WHEAT YIELDS DOUBLED — wheat from ~850 to 1850 kg/ha in two decades; similar gains in rice. (c) BUFFER STOCK BUILT — FCI procurement at MSP built a strategic food reserve that ended recurrent famine fears. (d) FARM INCOMES ROSE substantially in the benefitting regions.
<b>Step 3</b> [2 marks]	<b>Criticisms</b>	(a) REGIONAL INEQUALITY — Punjab, Haryana, Western UP benefited; Eastern India, dryland regions bypassed. (b) CROP INEQUALITY — focused on rice + wheat; pulses, oilseeds, coarse grains neglected (India still imports pulses + oilseeds). (c) INTRA-RURAL INEQUALITY — large/irrigated farmers gained more than small/dryland farmers. (d) ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE — groundwater depletion in Punjab, soil salinisation, fertiliser/pesticide runoff. (e) DEPENDENCE on subsidised inputs created fiscal burden.
<b>Step 4</b> [1 mark]	<b>Concluding assessment</b>	Green Revolution achieved the headline goal of foodgrain self-sufficiency but at significant equity + environmental costs. The post-1991 challenge has been to extend its benefits beyond the original belt while addressing its sustainability problems.

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Listing only positives without criticisms (-2 marks).
- Missing Punjab/Haryana geographic concentration point (-1 mark).
- Missing environmental criticisms (-0.5 mark).

**MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES**

- Long-answer questions: 0.5 mark per major fact (named project, state, year) + 1-2 marks for the argument structure.
- Half-mark deductions for: missing specific years/figures, confusing IPR years (1948 vs 1956), conflating Operation Barga with Land Ceiling.
- Critique questions: must include 2-3 distinct criticisms with named examples (regional, environmental, etc.).