

ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12**Alternative Centres of Power**

Political Science · Chapter 4 · 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 — VSA (1 mark × 4)****Q1. Which treaty established the European Union? [1 mark]****Ans:** The Maastricht Treaty (1992).**Q2. Name the declaration that founded ASEAN. [1 mark]****Ans:** The Bangkok Declaration (1967).**Q3. Who launched China's economic reforms in 1978? [1 mark]****Ans:** Deng Xiaoping.**Q4. When was the ASEAN Regional Forum established? [1 mark]****Ans:** 1994.**Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)****Q5. Describe India-China relations since 1962. [3 marks]****Ans:** (1) The 1962 BORDER WAR over the Himalayan frontier left relations frozen for over a decade. (2) Full DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS were restored in 1976; RAJIV GANDHI's 1988 visit to Beijing was a turning point that institutionalised dialogue. (3) The 1993 and 1996 agreements on PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY along the LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL (LAC) stabilised the border, and bilateral trade has grown rapidly, even as friction remains over the boundary, Tibet and Pakistan.**Q6. What is the 'ASEAN Way'? Briefly explain. [3 marks]****Ans:** (1) The ASEAN WAY is a distinctive style of regional cooperation evolved by ASEAN. (2) It is INFORMAL, NON-CONFRONTATIONAL and CONSENSUS-BASED, with strong respect for national SOVEREIGNTY and NON-INTERFERENCE in members' internal affairs. (3) Unlike the EU's legalistic supranational model, ASEAN avoids binding majority votes — decisions are reached through quiet diplomacy and unanimity, which has allowed ten very diverse states to cooperate over five decades.**Section C — SA-II (5 marks × 3)****Q7. Examine the European Union as an alternative centre of power. [5 marks]****Ans:** Post-war Europe chose INTEGRATION as the path to peace and prosperity. (a) EVOLUTION: the MARSHALL PLAN (1948), the EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC, 1951), the TREATY OF ROME (1957) creating the EEC, and the MAASTRICHT TREATY (1992) creating the EU; the EURO followed soon after. (b) ECONOMIC INFLUENCE: at the time of writing, the EU was the world's SECOND-LARGEST ECONOMY with a single market and a major reserve currency. (c) POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC INFLUENCE: BRITAIN and FRANCE hold permanent UNSC seats, and the EU has the world's largest diplomatic corps and aid budget. (d) MILITARY INFLUENCE: the EU's combined defence budget is the SECOND-LARGEST after the US; Britain and France have NUCLEAR WEAPONS, plus growing space and intelligence capacity. (e) LIMITS + CONCLUSION: members disagreed over the 2003 Iraq war and on Russia, so a single 'European' voice on foreign policy remains elusive — but along economic, political and military dimensions the EU is a real, if imperfect, counterweight to US hegemony.

Q8. Discuss the objectives of ASEAN and explain the three pillars of the ASEAN Community. [5 marks]

Ans: ASEAN was founded by the BANGKOK DECLARATION (1967) by INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, the PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE and THAILAND — later expanding to ten members — to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development, and to promote peace and stability. It works through the ASEAN WAY of informal, non-confrontational, consensus-based cooperation. Under Vision 2020 it built the ASEAN COMMUNITY on THREE PILLARS. (1) THE ASEAN SECURITY COMMUNITY commits members to peaceful settlement of disputes and operates through the ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF, 1994), which brings together ASEAN with INDIA, CHINA, the US, RUSSIA, JAPAN and the EU for security dialogue. (2) THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY aims at a SINGLE MARKET and PRODUCTION BASE, with free trade agreements with India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and was central to RCEP. (3) THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY fosters PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE ties, cooperation in education, health, environment and culture, building a sense of 'ASEAN-ness'. CONCLUSION: ASEAN has become the principal hub of Asia-Pacific cooperation and a centrepiece of India's Act East policy.

Q9. Account for the rise of the Chinese economy after 1978. [5 marks]

Ans: After 1949 Mao Zedong's communist revolution built a state-planned economy but living standards remained low. The rise dates from DENG XIAOPING's reforms launched in 1978. (1) OPEN DOOR + SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY: Deng opened China to foreign trade and investment while keeping Communist Party political control, in a model named the 'SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY'. (2) AGRICULTURAL REFORM (1982): the household-responsibility system replaced collective farming, giving families autonomy and incentives; rural output and incomes surged. (3) SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZs): coastal cities like Shenzhen were turned into SEZs with tax breaks and infrastructure to attract FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, turning China into the world's manufacturing hub. (4) WTO ACCESSION (2001): membership of the World Trade Organisation locked in market access, accelerating exports. (5) RESULT + CONCLUSION: four decades of high growth made China the world's SECOND-LARGEST economy and a leading trade partner of most countries — making it the principal Asian alternative centre of power.

★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES

4 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Examine the European Union as an alternative centre of power.'

Annual

Step 1 [1 mark]	Origin + evolution	After the Second World War, US aid through the MARSHALL PLAN (1948) and the OEEC began European economic reconstruction. Step-by-step integration followed: the EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC, 1951), the EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) created by the TREATY OF ROME (1957), and finally the EUROPEAN UNION established by the MAASTRICHT TREATY of 1992, with a common currency, the EURO, introduced soon after.
Step 2 [1 mark]	Economic influence	ECONOMICALLY, the EU became the world's SECOND-LARGEST ECONOMY in the early 2000s with a single market, free movement of goods, services, capital and people, and the euro as a major international reserve currency — a serious challenger to the US dollar.
Step 3 [1 mark]	Political + diplomatic influence	POLITICALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY, the EU has two permanent UNSC seats (BRITAIN and FRANCE) plus several non-permanent seats over time, a large global diplomatic corps and aid budget, and a collective voice in the WTO and climate negotiations.
Step 4 [1 mark]	Military influence	MILITARILY, the EU's combined defence budget is the SECOND-LARGEST after the United States; Britain and France possess nuclear weapons, and the EU has a growing space and intelligence capacity.
Step 5 [1 mark]	Conclusion + limits	Thus the EU is an 'alternative centre' along ECONOMIC, POLITICAL and MILITARY dimensions, though its members differ on foreign policy, which limits a single 'European' voice. It illustrates how regional integration can create real countervailing weight to US hegemony.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Calling the EU only an economic bloc.
- Confusing the Treaty of Rome 1957 with the Maastricht Treaty 1992.
- Missing UK + France UNSC seats.
- Not naming the euro.
- No concluding line.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Discuss the objectives and the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.'**

Annual

Step 1 [1 mark]	Founding	The ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) was founded by the BANGKOK DECLARATION of 1967 by five members — INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, the PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE and THAILAND — to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development, and to promote peace and stability in the region. Membership later grew to TEN.
Step 2 [1 mark]	ASEAN Way	ASEAN works through the distinctive 'ASEAN WAY' — INFORMAL, NON-CONFRONTATIONAL and CONSENSUS-BASED cooperation that respects national sovereignty and non-interference. This style is in contrast to the legalistic supranational model of the EU.
Step 3 [2 marks]	Three pillars	Under Vision 2020, ASEAN built the ASEAN COMMUNITY on THREE PILLARS: (1) the ASEAN SECURITY COMMUNITY — peaceful settlement of disputes, supported by the ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF, 1994) which brings together ASEAN with major powers including India, China, the US, Russia and Japan for security dialogue; (2) the ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY — a single market and production base, free trade agreements with India and others; (3) the ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY — people-to-people ties, education, culture and identity-building.
Step 4 [1 mark]	Significance + conclusion	ASEAN has become a significant alternative centre in Asia, mediating disputes in a strategically tense region and engaging India through the LOOK EAST / ACT EAST policy. Its consensus-based, economically-driven model offers a contrast to both US hegemony and Chinese assertion.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Wrong number of founders (saying 10 instead of 5).
- Listing only the Economic pillar.
- Missing the ARF as the security mechanism.
- Confusing ASEAN Way with EU-style majority voting.
- No conclusion.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Account for the rise of the Chinese economy after 1978.'**

Annual

Step 1 [1 mark]	Pre-1978 setting	After the 1949 communist revolution under MAO ZEDONG, China built a Soviet-style state-planned economy but remained relatively poor and isolated. Deng Xiaoping had already announced 'FOUR MODERNISATIONS' (agriculture, industry, science and technology, defence) in 1973.
Step 2 [1 mark]	1978 reforms + open door	In 1978, DENG XIAOPING launched sweeping market reforms — the 'OPEN DOOR' policy and the 'SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY' — combining the political control of the Communist Party with market-based production and trade.
Step 3 [1 mark]	Agriculture + SEZs	Agriculture was DECOLLECTIVISED in 1982, giving farming families autonomy and dramatically raising output. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZs) were created along the coast to attract FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT and integrate China into world trade.
Step 4 [1 mark]	WTO + global integration	China joined the WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION in 2001, accelerating exports and becoming the 'world's factory'. By the 2000s it had become the world's SECOND-LARGEST economy and a leading trade partner of most countries.
Step 5 [1 mark]	Conclusion	Thus China's rise rests on DENG'S 1978 REFORMS — open door + socialist market economy + SEZs + decollectivisation + WTO accession — producing four decades of high growth and making China the principal Asian alternative centre of power.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Dating the rise to 1949 not 1978.
- Omitting SEZs.
- Forgetting WTO 2001.
- Calling China purely capitalist (it is 'socialist market economy').
- No conclusion.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 3-mark: 'Describe India-China relations since 1962.'**

Periodic

Step 1 [1 mark]	1962 war + freeze	The 1962 BORDER WAR over the Himalayan frontier left relations frozen for over a decade; diplomatic ties were broken.
Step 2 [1 mark]	Normalisation	Full diplomatic relations were restored in 1976; RAJIV GANDHI'S 1988 VISIT to Beijing was a turning point that institutionalised dialogue.
Step 3 [1 mark]	Agreements + present	The 1993 and 1996 agreements on PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY along the LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL (LAC) stabilised the border; trade has grown rapidly, even as friction remains over the boundary, Tibet and Pakistan.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Wrong year of normalisation.
- Forgetting Rajiv 1988.
- Missing LAC peace agreements.
- Implying relations are still frozen.

MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES

- Specific dates + treaty names mandatory for full marks.
- EU staircase: 1948 Marshall · 1951 ECSC · 1957 Rome · 1992 Maastricht — get all four.
- ASEAN founders: name all five (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand).
- ASEAN three pillars must all be named: Security + Economic + Socio-Cultural.
- China rise: anchor to 1978 (not 1949). Mention SEZs and WTO 2001.
- Concluding statement on 5-markers = 1 mark.