

ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12**Patterns of Social Inequality and Exclusion**

Sociology (Indian Society), CI-12 · Chapter 5 · 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 — Objective (4 × 1 = 4 marks)****Q1. Which Article of the Constitution abolishes untouchability? [1 mark]****| Ans:** Article 17.**Q2. Name the colonial Forest Act that first vested forests in the state. [1 mark]****| Ans:** The Indian Forest Act 1865.**Q3. What is the full form of PESA? [1 mark]****| Ans:** Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.**Q4. In which year was the RPwD Act passed? [1 mark]****| Ans:** 2016.**Section B — Short Answer (3 × 3 = 9 marks)****Q5. Distinguish between prejudice, stereotype and discrimination with one example each. [3 marks]****| Ans:** Prejudice is a pre-formed (usually negative) ATTITUDE about a group — e.g., assuming a Dalit student got through 'quota'. Stereotype is a fixed, oversimplified IMAGE — e.g., 'all tribals are illiterate'. Discrimination is an ACTION that disadvantages a group — e.g., refusing to rent a house to a Muslim family. Law can punish discrimination; it cannot directly punish prejudice or stereotype.**Q6. Distinguish between social exclusion and poverty. [3 marks]****| Ans:** Poverty is income-based, can affect individuals across groups, and is often temporary. Social exclusion is GROUP-based, involuntary, structural and long-term — built into how society organises access to resources, status, and opportunity. A Dalit barred from a village well is excluded; a retrenched IT worker is poor. The two can overlap (most excluded groups are also poorer) but they are conceptually distinct.**Q7. Briefly explain how the Mandal Commission changed Indian politics. [3 marks]****| Ans:** The Mandal Commission (1980) identified 3,743 castes as Socially and Educationally Backward (~52% of population) and recommended 27% reservation for OBCs in central jobs. Implementation in 1990 by the V.P. Singh government triggered widespread protests and re-aligned Indian politics around caste-based social justice. The Indra Sawhney case (1992) upheld the quota but capped total reservation at 50% and introduced the 'creamy layer' exclusion.

Q8. Explain the constitutional and legal safeguards available to Dalits in India. Also note one limitation. [6 marks]

Ans: Dalits (SCs, ~16.6% of population) historically faced untouchability — exclusion from temples, wells, schools, and intermarriage. Constitutional safeguards: (a) Article 17 ABOLISHES untouchability and makes its practice an offence punishable by law; (b) Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and permits special provisions for SCs/STs; (c) Article 46 (Directive Principle) directs the State to promote the educational and economic interests of SCs/STs; (d) Articles 330 and 332 reserve seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures. Legal safeguards: the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 operationalises Art 17; the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 criminalises specific atrocities with stringent punishments and special courts. Affirmative action also includes 15% reservation in central jobs and higher education, scholarships, and hostel schemes. LIMITATION: NCAER 2014 found 27% of rural households still practise untouchability; NCRB records ~50,000 atrocity cases annually. Law alone cannot dismantle a hierarchy that operates through everyday practice — genuine inclusion requires educational and economic transformation alongside legal protection.

Q9. How did colonial forest laws and post-Independence development projects affect Adivasi communities? What corrective legal measures have been adopted? [6 marks]

Ans: Pre-colonial Adivasis (~8.6% of population, ST under Art 342) practised shifting cultivation, hunting-gathering and NTFP collection; forests were community commons. The Indian Forest Act 1865 first vested forests in the colonial state. The Forest Act 1878 sharpened this into a three-tier classification (Reserved, Protected, Village), converting customary rights into revocable concessions. The Indian Forest Act 1927 consolidated state monopoly and criminalised shifting cultivation, enabling eviction of Adivasis from their own land. Post-Independence, big-dam projects continued the dispossession: the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada (2+ lakh displaced; the trigger for the Narmada Bachao Andolan led by Medha Patkar), Polavaram in Andhra Pradesh, and mining leases in Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Corrective measures: the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution provide tribal autonomy in scheduled areas; the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 — PESA — gives gram sabhas in Schedule-V areas control over minor forest produce, water bodies, and land alienation; the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 — FRA — formally recognises individual and community forest rights, reversing 140 years of dispossession. Implementation, however, is uneven: as of 2024, roughly half of FRA claims had been rejected, often without due process. The Adivasi question therefore is not merely cultural but a question of LAND, FOREST AND RESOURCE RIGHTS.

★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES

2 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Explain the constitutional and legal safeguards available to Dalits in India. (5 marks)

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — How have colonial forest laws affected Adivasi communities in India? (5 marks)

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
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MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES

- Section A (1-mark) answers must be exact — Article number, year, or full form. Half marks for partially correct.
- Section B (3-mark) requires THREE distinct points or a clean definition + example structure. One mark per clean point.
- Section C (6-mark) rubric: context/definition 1M · constitutional/legal substance 3M · concrete example or data 1M · critical limitation 1M.
- Award full marks for naming specific Articles (15, 17, 46) and Acts with year (SC/ST 1989, PESA 1996, FRA 2006, RPwD 2016). Vague references = half marks at most.
- Concrete examples expected: Sardar Sarovar, Mandal 1980, sex ratio 945→919, NCAER 27%. Answers without one concrete data point/example cap at 4/6.

- Penalise emotional or moralistic language without structural analysis (e.g., 'women are weak' or 'caste people are bad') — deduct 1 mark per such occurrence.
- Reward intersectional sensitivity (Dalit woman, Adivasi disabled child) with a bonus 0.5 mark within the rubric ceiling.