

## Chapter 07

### Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following statements about India's geography and population is INCORRECT?
  - a. Although it is called a subcontinent, India is in fact larger than the United States.
  - b. Only India's northwest frontier is easily passable.
  - c. India has three distinctive topographic zones.
  - d. India is the third largest country in Asia.
2. Which of the following statements about India's population is CORRECT?
  - a. India has the third-largest Muslim population in the world behind Pakistan and Indonesia.
  - b. India has the largest Muslim population of any country outside the Middle East.
  - c. Although India has 22 official languages, the majority of its citizens speak Hindi.
  - d. India has the largest population in the world.
3. India has the third largest Muslim population after
  - a. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.
  - b. Turkey and Egypt.
  - c. Indonesia and Pakistan.
  - d. Indonesia and Turkey.
4. Sikhs are
  - a. a group within the caste system
  - b. the second-largest religious group in India
  - c. a small monotheistic religious minority
  - d. a small tribal group concentrated in Punjab
5. British colonialism contributed to the establishment of democracy in India by
  - a. significantly reducing the power of traditional elites.
  - b. creating effective political institutions such as the civil service.
  - c. eliminating the caste system.
  - d. allowing Indians to serve in the majority of administrative positions.
6. The Partition that led to the formation of the separate states of India and Pakistan
  - a. was supported by Mohandas Gandhi.
  - b. occurred without any kind of interethnic violence.
  - c. resulted in little migration and displacement, as the Muslim and Hindu populations were largely already settled in accordance to the Partition's boundaries.
  - d. was brought about, at least in part, due to tensions between the Hindu and Muslim populations.
7. After gaining independence, India established a
  - a. short-lived presidential system, modeled after the United States.
  - b. short-lived communist party system, modeled after the Soviet Union.
  - c. one-party authoritarian system.
  - d. parliamentary government, modeled after Britain, which has remained in use ever since.

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8. Following independence, the Congress Party owed much of its success to a system in which it rewarded its supporters with important governmental posts. This is known as
- a. sponsorship.
  - b. a party sponsorship system.
  - c. an affiliation system.
  - d. a patronage system.
9. Since the 1950s, India has created new states and redrawn state boundaries on the basis of
- a. caste.
  - b. language.
  - c. religion.
  - d. ethnicity.
10. During his tenure as prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru
- a. established close ties to the United States.
  - b. established a communist party rule in the country.
  - c. significantly reduced the size of the country's military.
  - d. successfully promoted rapid industrialization.
11. Which statement about the Congress Party is INCORRECT?
- a. Its ideological stance has varied over the years, but it is generally known today as a centrist secular party.
  - b. It has been fairly centralized since the term of Indira Gandhi.
  - c. It has been the dominant party in every coalition government.
  - d. It is associated with the Nehru–Gandhi dynasty.
12. From 1947 until 1989, virtually all of India's prime ministers came from a single family. They were
- a. Rajiv Gandhi, Feroze Gandhi, and Nehru
  - b. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Sanjay Gandhi
  - c. Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Sanjay Gandhi
  - d. Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi
13. Which of the following is NOT true of Indira Gandhi during her time as prime minister?
- a. She contributed to the growth of Hindu nationalism.
  - b. She aggravated ethnic and religious tensions.
  - c. In response to increasing popular opposition, she suspended many democratic rights and ruled by decree.
  - d. She redistributed agricultural land from large landowners to small farmers and agricultural laborers.
14. The period known as the *Emergency* refers to the time
- a. following the assassination of Mohandas Gandhi that left the Indian independence movement leaderless.
  - b. following the death of Jawaharlal Nehru that left the future direction of the Congress Party in question.
  - c. when many formal democratic rights were suspended, and the country was ruled in an authoritarian fashion.
  - d. between the two periods in which Indira Gandhi served as the prime minister.
15. The unique aspect about Manmohan Singh was that he was the

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- a. first person to serve as prime minister who was neither the leader of his own party nor that of a ruling coalition.
  - b. only non-Congress prime minister prior to 1989.
  - c. first prime minister not to come from the Nehru–Gandhi dynasty.
  - d. only prime minister to have curtailed economic liberalization.
16. Which of the following statements about India's initial economic strategy, which it adopted after Independence, is INCORRECT?
- a. India's strategy involved state planning, while allowing for a role for private entrepreneurs.
  - b. This strategy enabled the country to build up an impressive industrial base fairly quickly.
  - c. India's economic development strategy included the creation of large public enterprises.
  - d. To achieve economic development, India streamlined government red tape to increase the start-up and expansion of private industries.
17. Which of the following does NOT accurately describe India's economic performance since 2008?
- a. The country's economic growth rate has declined by about half.
  - b. Consumer spending has declined.
  - c. Inflation has increased.
  - d. Capital inflow into the country has increased significantly.
18. The *Green Revolution* was a strategy
- a. involving environmental planning in India.
  - b. for improving agricultural production involving improved seeds, heavy use of fertilizers, and irrigation.
  - c. for decreasing India's output of greenhouse gases.
  - d. for improving agricultural production through the creation of large publicly-owned collectives.
19. The effects of India's state-led economic development included all of the following EXCEPT
- a. the creation of a large middle class
  - b. the stagnation of private enterprise
  - c. uneven regional economic growth
  - d. a decrease in corruption
20. Which of the following statements about economic liberalization in India is INCORRECT?
- a. It began in the 1980s and intensified in the 1990s.
  - b. It required the borrowing of foreign capital, thus increasing the country's level of debt.
  - c. It has helped to integrate the country into the world economy.
  - d. It has helped to significantly expand the country's agricultural sector.
21. Which of the following is NOT an example of the poor's impact on Indian politics?
- a. In some states, the poor have organized to elect left-leaning governments.
  - b. Many parties and politicians adopt populist or socialist platforms.
  - c. The Naxalite movement has organized the landless poor to engage in land seizures.
  - d. The government recently banned child labor and has declared primary education to be a human right.
22. Which of the following is NOT an example of a recent attempt to alleviate poverty in India?

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- a. The National Healthcare Law, which provides basic healthcare at highly subsidized prices to the poor
  - b. The Food Security Bill, which provides rice and grain at highly subsidized prices to the poor
  - c. The Employment Guarantee Scheme, which provides off-season jobs
  - d. Increasing public spending on primary education
23. Which of the following is NOT true of population growth in India?
- a. India will very soon become world's largest-populated country. .
  - b. India has consistently had a lower percentage of females than males, indicating its societal prejudices against women.
  - c. Poverty, the lack of literacy among women, and the lack of clear governmental policy have all contributed to the country's high population growth rate.
  - d. India's democratic government, just as China's authoritarian system, has attempted to implement, albeit unsuccessfully, coercive population control policies.
24. Societal prejudices against women can be seen in all of the following ways EXCEPT
- a. the continued practice of giving and receiving a dowry.
  - b. the fact that the country has a lower percentage of females than males.
  - c. a lower survival rate of female versus male infants.
  - d. the imposition of the veil upon women.
25. All of the following are TRUE of the caste system EXCEPT
- a. people are assigned to a specific occupation based on their caste
  - b. caste is a powerful force around which electoral politics and voting blocs coalesce
  - c. the link between caste and occupation remains quite strong in urban areas
  - d. caste divides the lower classes, so it makes it difficult for the poor to organize
26. The *Untouchables* are also called
- a. scheduled castes.
  - b. kshatriya.
  - c. vaishyas.
  - d. shudra
27. Which of the following about environmental politics in India is NOT correct?
- a. Environmental issues rarely drive Indian politics, even though the country faces severe environmental problems.
  - b. India has strongly promoted the reduction of greenhouse gases at international forums because it recognizes that climate change will significantly impact the country.
  - c. The Indian Supreme Court has taken a very proactive role in protecting the environment.
  - d. India's environmental movement has only sometimes been successful in affecting the policies of the government.
28. Which statement about India's integration into the global economy is CORRECT?
- a. It has led to an increase in both imports and exports.
  - b. It has generally not been beneficial to country's agricultural sector.

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- c. It has resulted in an increase in foreign investment in the country, but most of this has been directed towards industries servicing the domestic market.
  - d. It has stabilized the Indian stock market.
29. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Indian constitution?
- a. It includes a directive to promote social and economic justice.
  - b. It is not particularly detailed and thus subject to interpretation.
  - c. It provides for religious freedom.
  - d. It allows for the temporary suspension of democratic rights in times of emergency.
30. *President's Rule*
- a. Refers to the constitutional provision by which the national government can suspend state government.
  - b. Has been invoked only a few times in India's history.
  - c. Refers to the idea that the president, rather than the prime minister, is the major political force in India.
  - d. Was removed from the constitution by a landmark Supreme Court decision.
31. The prime minister is selected by
- a. the party with the most seats in the Rajya Sabha.
  - b. the party with the most seats in the Lok Sabha.
  - c. the party with the most seats in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
  - d. the cabinet from among its members.
32. All of the following are TRUE about the Indian president EXCEPT
- a. S/he chooses the prime minister when parliamentary elections fail to produce a clear verdict as to which party should head a new government.
  - b. S/he must approve most parliamentary bills in order for them to become laws.
  - c. S/he is selected by an electoral college comprised of elected representatives from the national and state governments.
  - d. S/he chooses the members of the prime minister's cabinet.
33. The *Indian Administrative Service* refers to the
- a. entire national bureaucracy of India.
  - b. labor union to which national bureaucrats belong.
  - c. the elite corps of top bureaucrats in India's civil service.
  - d. personal staff of the prime minister and cabinet.
34. The modern dalit movement was inspired by
- a. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
  - b. Jai Prakash Narain.
  - c. Mayavathi.
  - d. Karamchand Gandhi.
35. Which of the following statements about India's Supreme Court is CORRECT?
- a. It has been successful in challenging the national, but not state, governments.
  - b. It has been successful in challenging the parliament, but not the executive.

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- c. Its members are appointed by the prime minister for life.
  - d. It has a significant backlog of cases due to its heavy workload.
36. State governors
- a. serve as the heads of state governments
  - b. are elected by popular vote
  - c. often become powerful independently of other political actors
  - d. have the power to appoint state-level ministers
37. Which of the following is NOT true about India's federal system?
- a. Under the Indian federal system, states formally control agriculture and education, although their actual power is limited as they are dependent upon the central government for funds in these areas.
  - b. States have demanded the devolution of power from the national government, a greater allocation of resources from the central government, and recognition of their distinctive cultural identities.
  - c. Economic liberalization has allowed states to pursue foreign investment independently of the national government, thus resulting in widening regional disparities.
  - d. Under India's federal system, the resources and planning and authority capabilities of local governments are very significant.
38. *Reservations* refers to
- a. A system in which a percentage of political and administrative positions are reserved for women and other underprivileged groups.
  - b. A tradition by which the parliament reserves the right to name the cabinet, although this role normally falls to the prime minister.
  - c. The constitutional allowance by which the national government reserves the right to intervene in state politics.
  - d. The traditional right of the Indian government to intervene in the affairs of firms that are deemed to be of national importance.
39. Which of the following does NOT characterize the Indian policy-making process?
- a. When the prime minister's party or bloc of parties controls the legislature, the passage of most legislation is ensured except in very controversial manners.
  - b. In order to get some major controversial legislation passed, the government often has to compromise and modify its position.
  - c. Civil servants, both in individual ministries and in cross-ministry offices, play a major role in presenting alternative solutions to political leaders.
  - d. Of the two legislative chambers, the Rajya Sabha can act as the major roadblock in the policy-making process, because its assent is required in the passage of all legislative bills.
40. The Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, is unable to play a significant role in policy-making for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- a. most legislation is introduced by the government.
  - b. most legislators are beholden to their party leaders.
  - c. parties maintain tight discipline.
  - d. parliament's social composition makes this difficult.
41. The main roles of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, include all of the following EXCEPT

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- a. passing legislation.
  - b. electing the prime minister.
  - c. debating government action.
  - d. policy-making.
42. Which of the following is TRUE about the Rajya Sabha, India's upper house of parliament?
- a. Most members of the Rajya Sabha are chosen through direct elections.
  - b. The Rajya Sabha must approve all spending measures.
  - c. The Rajya Sabha cannot amend bills.
  - d. Most parliamentary bills require the assent of both houses of parliament.
43. A major change in the social composition of parliament has been the increasing representation of
- a. women.
  - b. the poor.
  - c. the middle caste
  - d. Muslims.
44. Which of the following statements about Indian parties since 1989 is TRUE?
- a. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has replaced the Congress Party as the dominant party and thus has been able to form governments fairly easily.
  - b. Despite some losses, the Congress Party remains the dominant party and is still able to form governments fairly easily.
  - c. No party has been able to form a government on its own; coalition governments have become the norm.
  - d. The two major parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress Party, have consistently formed coalition governments.
45. Which of the following statements about state parties is INCORRECT?
- a. They have largely determined the outcome of the last three elections.
  - b. Some are regional powerhouses and control state governments.
  - c. National parties have become dependent upon them to form coalition governments.
  - d. Despite the rise in state parties, it has not deterred the government from acting decisively.
46. The two parties considered to be the main contenders in India's multiparty democracy are the
- a. BJP and the Congress Party.
  - b. Janata and the Congress Party.
  - c. BJP and the communists.
  - d. AAP and the Janata.
47. The Mandal Commission was formed to
- a. consider seat reservations and quotas to redress caste discrimination.
  - b. investigate charges of corruption within the Indian government.
  - c. develop an environmentally sustainable economic growth and development policy in India.
  - d. establish a comprehensive national healthcare system.
48. Which statement is CORRECT about the Janata and Janata Dal parties?

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- a. The Janata Dal is successor to the Janata Party.
  - b. Neither the Janata Party nor the Janata Dal has ever been a member of a governing coalition at the national level.
  - c. When the Janata Dal merged with the BJP in 2013, some of its members formed the new Janata Party.
  - d. The Janata Dal is the state-level counterpart to the national Janata Party.
49. Which of the following statements about the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is INCORRECT?
- a. It was the first major Indian party to mobilize on the basis of religious identity.
  - b. The BJP is a highly centralized and well-disciplined political party.
  - c. It was the first major Indian party to adopt an openly anti-Muslim stance.
  - d. The BJP has been the ruling party only once in the history of the country.
50. The Communist Party of India
- a. advocates nationalization of key industries and a return to centralized economic planning.
  - b. is a loosely organized party with little discipline among its members.
  - c. objects to the creation of Special Economic Zones, in which multinational corporations are offered tax breaks and other incentives.
  - d. is a social democratic party that supports the market economy while seeking to gain greater benefits for the poor.
51. The Aam Admi Party (AAP) is
- a. India's only Muslim party.
  - b. associated with anticorruption and some populist issues.
  - c. an environmentalist, or "green," party.
  - d. a state party that has been in the last three national coalition governments.
52. Which statement about Indian elections and electoral system is INCORRECT?
- a. Members of parliament are elected using a single-member district, first-past-the-post system.
  - b. Because of the high level of illiteracy among Indians, parties have adopted symbols that appear on the ballot.
  - c. India's independent Election Commission has been highly successful in protecting the integrity of the country's elections.
  - d. Electoral campaigning has become increasingly reliant on television and other forms of mass media including social media.
53. Which of the following statements about Indian political culture is NOT correct?
- a. Because the public and private spheres are not separate, corruption can result.
  - b. Because the Indian elite are highly factionalized, political consensus is difficult to achieve.
  - c. Because the public and private spheres are not separate, there is a high level of citizen involvement in politics.
  - d. Because the public and private spheres are not separate, citizen political involvement is low.
54. Which of the following is NOT true about India's interest groups and social movements?
- a. Although they are highly fragmented, labor unions have occasionally played a major role in Indian politics.
  - b. There has never been any government effort to restrict the activities of social movements and organizations in India.



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- c. In India, organizations associated with the religious right sometimes form tactical alliances with left-wing organizations.
  - d. Most Indian social movements have increasingly ceased to focus on poverty and class inequality.
55. Which of the following is NOT true about India and nuclear weapons?
- a. India developed nuclear weapons in part because of electoral considerations.
  - b. India developed nuclear weapons after Pakistan did.
  - c. India developed nuclear weapons in part because of tense relations with China.
  - d. India has refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
56. Which of the following does is NOT a cause of the conflict in Kashmir?
- a. Indo-Pakistani relations
  - b. India's undemocratic practices in Kashmir
  - c. Britain's policy of divide and rule
  - d. The presence of a mixture of Hindu and Muslim populations in Kashmir
57. Which of the following statements about India's relations with its neighbors is NOT true?
- a. Since the mid-2000s, India and China have increasingly focused on building closer economic relations.
  - b. India and Nepal have generally had strong economic and political ties.
  - c. Indian troops intervened in the Sri Lankan civil war on the side of the Sri Lankan government.
  - d. With the exception of Pakistan, India has never fought a war with any of its neighbors.
58. The impact of the 2008 global economic crisis on India was such that the country('s)
- a. was largely unaffected by the crisis due to being fairly insulated from the global financial networks
  - b. growth rate declined and its deficit grew
  - c. growth rate declined, although its exports continued to be strong
  - d. growth rate declined, but foreign investment in the country grew
59. Which of the following statements about India's youth politics is INCORRECT?
- a. Over half of all Indians are under the age of 25.
  - b. India's youth are inactive politically.
  - c. Youth unemployment is almost triple that of the population as a whole.
  - d. Youth unemployment is higher in rural areas than in urban ones.

## Essay

60. India is typically cited as a large, successful democracy. What historical factors have contributed to the country's generally stable democracy? What current factors threaten the country's democracy?
61. Discuss the ways in which India's numerous bases of stratification - along lines of caste, class, gender, religion, and ethnicity - have both undermined and enhanced democratic processes in the country. Please cite specific examples in your answer.
62. Discuss the major underpinnings to secularism in India. Explain why the challenges to secularism have grown, and yet why India remains a secular state.

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63. What is the balance sheet (advantages and shortcomings) of India's two principal economic orientations - state-led industrialization and economic liberalization? Which would you argue has been superior? Please cite specific evidence in your argument.
64. To what extent has federalism contributed to democracy in India, and to what extent has it endangered democracy? On balance, has it contributed more to promoting democracy or endangering it? What factors in contemporary Indian politics will likely shape the impact of federalism in this regard?
65. What lessons does India offer those studying the challenges of developing democracy in multiethnic societies? To what extent does India offer a positive role model? To what extent has the recent surge in ethnic violence suggested that India may not be such a positive role model?
66. Although India is often seen as being a growing economy on the verge of becoming a major force in global economics, the fact remains that the country also has a large portion of poor people. First, explain how the poor represent both a political and economic problem for India. Second, address how the country has sought to address this problem, both historically and in contemporary times.
67. One major problem facing India is institutional decay. Citing examples, explain what is meant by this and why it is a problem.
68. A major desire of India since independence has been to become a significant regional and global power. Describe how this desire has affected the country's internal policies.
69. Describe how India's relations with the United States have evolved over the years. What factors do you think have contributed to this evolution?