West Bengal

Supplementary mains writing

16 original descriptive questions + model answers

Revised edition: expanded state GK + seven visual revision pages.

Sixteen supplementary analytical prompts, with roughly 150–190-word models and 10-mark practice guides. The cited WBCS scheme has both objective and conventional mains papers.

These are original practice questions, not previous-year questions or an official mock. This focused first collection does not replace an exam-specific syllabus.

Language: English. Core focus: history, geography, heritage, governance, development, environment and institutions.

This edition emphasises stable concepts. It is not a current-affairs digest; verify changing schemes, office-holders, district boundaries and budget figures separately.

How to use this book

Write your response before reading the model. Use the marking guide to check coverage, accuracy and structure. Marks and word targets are practice choices.

Research and scope – page 2
Visual revision – page 3
Start practice – page 10
Source register – page 26

What the exam research tells us

1 / Foundation context

WBPRB's Constables 2024 register was previously checked [EX2]; current direct retrieval again timed out. The detailed applicant PDF was not fully accessible. No current weights or full paper pattern are inferred. Basic means direct state knowledge and simple applications in this English supplement.

2 / Dated WBCS scheme

The previously retrieved WBCS 2024 scheme, published November 2025, includes objective prelims and both objective and conventional mains papers [EX1]. It informs topics; its route timed out in this pass. Later-cycle instructions and amendments require verification. Supplementary writing is not a replica of the complete WBCS mains.

3 / Expanded practice

80 basic MCQs, 64 advanced MCQs and 16 supplementary writing prompts. Added 40/40/8 items and improved ten retained advanced option sets. New coverage deepens institutions, reform, freedom-struggle participation, literature, agriculture, soils, industrial geography and dated data.

4 / Seven visual pages

Retained four illustrated revision pages and added institutional roles, a reform/movement timeline and Census 2001/2011 literacy comparisons. Diagrams are schematic, not precise maps. Existing memory illustrations are AI-generated. Historical chart values do not estimate present conditions.

5 / Evidence and limits

Checked 29 October 2026. Original questions, not PYQs or official mocks. Editorial difficulty is not learner-calibrated. Word targets and 10-mark rubrics are practice choices. No topic-frequency study or full syllabus coverage is claimed. Prepare required languages, national GS and current affairs separately.

Visual revision / 1



Darjeeling railway

Hill engineering
Opened 1881 [C3]

Bishnupur temples

Bankura district
Terracotta cue [C4]

Sundarbans

Tidal mangroves
Tiger habitat [N1]

AI-generated memory illustrations; not photographs or measured reconstructions.

Three visual cues / three different associations

Darjeeling: railway heritage and geographically defined tea. [C3, E1]
Bishnupur: temple architecture and Baluchari textiles. [C4, C6]
Sundarbans: a mangrove ecosystem across India and Bangladesh. [N1]

Recall drill: cover the captions, identify each scene and name its subject category. A place can have several associations without sharing the same recognition status.

Illustrations simplify form and scale; use the source register for factual descriptions.

Visual revision / 2

North to south / regional anchors, not a boundary map

NORTH / hills and foothills

Darjeeling: railway and tea. Teesta is a northern river anchor.
Hill planning needs local assessment of slopes, drainage and access.
[C3, E1, G3, D1; planning application]

↓

PLAINS / river and settlement corridor

Bhagirathi-Hooghly: Kolkata and other urban-industrial settlements.
Assess water quality through dated, comparable monitoring.
[G4; monitoring application]

↓

SOUTH / delta and coast

Sundarbans: tidal waterways and mangrove habitat.
Coastal preparedness: warnings, accessible shelter and local capacity.
[N1, D1; planning application]

Borders / keep countries and states separate [G1]

Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal.
Indian states: Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha.
Bay of Bengal: southern coast.
Arrows show reading order, not river flow or travel routes.

Visual revision / 3

History / distinguish events from institutions

1757 — **23 June / Plassey**

Siraj ud-Daulah and Company forces at Palashi. [H1]

1905 — **Partition of Bengal**

Curzon; opposition helped drive Swadeshi. [H2]

1911 — **Annulment**

The 1905 partition was reversed. [G2]

1913 — **Literature Nobel Prize**

Rabindranath Tagore. [C1]

1948 — **7 July / DVC**

Multipurpose river-valley institution established. [E2]

Swadeshi was more than boycott [H2]

Self-help + indigenous enterprise + national education + mobilisation.
Do not merge the 1905 partition, its 1911 annulment and the 1947 partition into one event. [G2]

Visual revision / 4

Recognition categories / dates are not interchangeable

World Heritage / NATURAL

Sundarbans National Park: 1987. [N1]

World Heritage / CULTURAL

Darjeeling railway component: 1999. [C3]
Santiniketan: 2023. [C2]

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Durga Puja in Kolkata: 2021. [C5]

Tentative List / not inscription

Temples at Bishnupur: submitted 1998. [U1]

Craft memory grid [C6, C7]

Panchmura / terracotta (fired clay)
Bikna / Dokra (lost-wax metal casting)
Bishnupur / Baluchari textiles
Purulia Chhau / masks; Mayurbhanj Chhau / no masks

Do not infer UNESCO status from popularity or from a district craft association.

Visual revision / 5

Institutions / separate roles and tiers

Legislative Assembly [P1]

Unicameral / 294 seats
Vidhan Sabha; no Legislative Council

Calcutta High Court [P2]

Principal seat: Kolkata
Letters Patent: 14 May 1862 / formal opening: 1 July 1862

SEC [P3]

Panchayat and
municipal elections

WBPSC [EX1]

State public-service
recruitment institution

Rural local-government ladder [P4]

Gram Panchayat

Local tier

→

Panchayat Samiti

Block tier

→

Zilla Parishad

District tier

Arrows show the tier sequence, not a complete statement of powers. Role names alone do not establish adequate staff, funding or reliable services.

Visual revision / 6

Reform and participation / a second timeline

- **1829** — Sati banned / Roy's reform context [H3]
- **1856** — Widow-remarriage law / Vidyasagar [H3]
- **1905** — Swadeshi / political and constructive work [H2]
- **1938** — Bose / Congress presidency at Haripura [H4]
- **1942** — Matangini Hazra / Quit India participation [H5]
- **1948** — DVC / post-independence institution [E2]

Literary anchor [C8, C9]

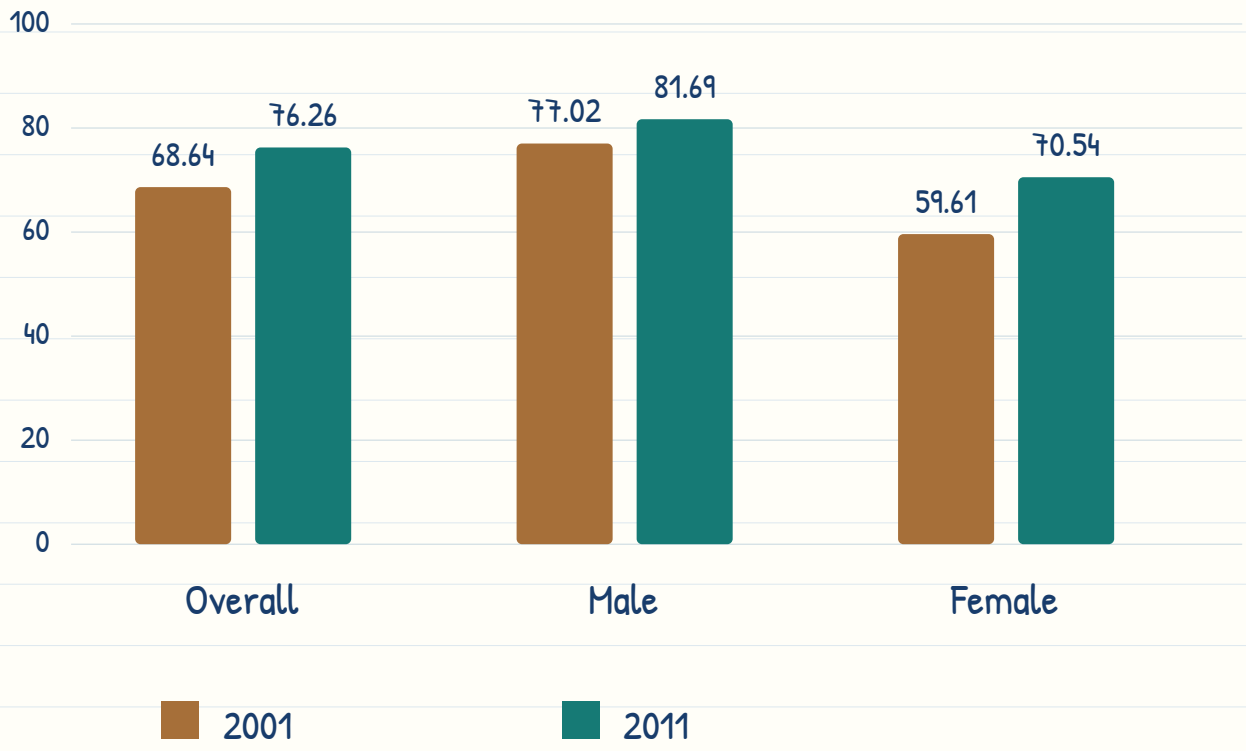
Bankim Chandra / Anandamath / Vande Mataram
Composition, serialisation and book publication are different events.

Historical laws do not by themselves prove immediate social acceptance. A timeline orders events; it does not prove causation.

Visual revision / 7

Literacy / Census 2001 and 2011 [D2]

Historical West Bengal rates, percent. All bars start at zero.



Derived differences / percentage points

Overall gain: 7.62 / male gain: 4.67 / female gain: 10.93.
Gender gap: 17.41 in 2001; 11.15 in 2011.
Gap narrowing: 6.26 points. Relative overall gain: about 11.10%.

Combining rates needs age-eligible population weights. These observations do not establish current literacy, learning scores or a recent programme's causal effect.

Write, compare, improve

01 / Sundarbans risk and livelihoods

Suggest an integrated approach to conservation and livelihood security in the Sundarbans.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The Sundarbans is a tidal mangrove landscape extending across India and Bangladesh, with the Indian national park forming a distinct protected property. Conservation and livelihood planning need to recognise ecological connections without confusing the national park with the entire region.

Begin with local evidence on exposure, access to services, resource use and household income. Different settlements face different constraints. Consultation should include fishers, women, vulnerable households and other affected users, while specialist assessment identifies ecological sensitivities and the suitability of proposed interventions.

Risk reduction can combine reliable warnings, accessible shelters, maintained infrastructure and appropriate ecosystem measures. Livelihood support should be based on feasible skills and market opportunities. Planting targets alone are weak evidence of restoration; species choice, tidal conditions, survival and habitat functioning require monitoring. No single intervention should be presented as eliminating all cyclone risk.

Evaluation should track warning reach, safe access, recovery of essential services, ecological condition and sustained household returns. Responsibilities and maintenance funding must be clear. An integrated approach makes trade-offs visible and treats community welfare and functioning ecosystems as connected objectives, while testing proposed benefits against observed results over time.

Self-assessment

Landscape accuracy: 2; inclusive diagnosis: 2; integrated measures: 4; evaluation: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: N1; D1; editorial planning model. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

02 / Regional development

Why does West Bengal need region-specific development planning within a common state framework?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

West Bengal extends from Himalayan hill landscapes in the north to a deltaic coast in the south. This physical range makes a single development template inadequate. The state disaster policy also recognises multiple hazards rather than treating every locality as equally exposed.

Planning should begin with comparable local evidence on terrain, settlement patterns, service access, livelihoods and infrastructure condition. Hill locations may require careful slope and drainage assessment, while coastal proposals need attention to tidal conditions and cyclone exposure. Urban areas also require evidence on water, waste, mobility and vulnerable populations.

A common state framework can establish minimum service standards, transparent project appraisal and mechanisms for coordination. Within it, local authorities should compare alternatives suited to their conditions. Investment choices need maintenance plans, assigned responsibilities and realistic assessments of costs and benefits, including who gains and who bears additional burdens.

Evaluation should compare outcomes across regions without assuming that identical expenditure produces equal improvement. Useful measures include reliable service access, reduced disruption, household costs and sustained livelihood opportunities. Regional differentiation is therefore compatible with statewide accountability: common goals can be pursued through locally appropriate measures supported by evidence and periodic review.

Self-assessment

Geographical context: 2; differentiated diagnosis: 3; shared governance: 3; outcomes: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: G1; D1; editorial development model. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

03 / Damodar Valley coordination

Discuss the opportunities and coordination challenges of a multipurpose river-valley institution such as DVC.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Damodar Valley Corporation was established in 1948. The Ministry of Power describes objectives that include flood control, irrigation, water supply and electricity, with its region extending across West Bengal and Jharkhand. Its mandate illustrates the value of integrated river development.

The opportunity lies in considering connected uses together. Water decisions can influence farming, industry, households and power systems, while upstream actions may have downstream consequences. Coordination can improve information sharing and make competing requirements visible before individual investments are treated as isolated projects.

However, multiple objectives do not automatically align. Institutions need clear operating responsibilities, timely observations and arrangements for communicating decisions to affected authorities and communities. Evaluation should examine cumulative effects, maintenance needs and the distribution of benefits and costs. Consultation is particularly important where operational decisions affect downstream users or vulnerable settlements.

Performance should be assessed through evidence rather than inferred from the institution's stated aims. Indicators may include service reliability, timely communication, asset condition and changes in exposure under comparable conditions. A multipurpose framework is strongest when it combines technical capability with transparent decisions, intergovernmental coordination and a willingness to revise practices when monitoring reveals unresolved problems.

Self-assessment

Mandate and context: 2; integration benefits: 2; coordination and trade-offs: 4; evaluation: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: E2; editorial institutional analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

04 / Origin labels and artisans

How can origin-based branding and craft support improve producer welfare? Use West Bengal examples.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Darjeeling Tea demonstrates how a geographically defined name can be linked to certification and traceability. Bankura's terracotta, Dokra and Baluchari traditions offer a separate set of craft examples. Their materials and production methods differ, so support should reflect the needs of particular producers.

A useful programme begins with evidence on costs, skills, bargaining conditions and market demand. Origin claims require credible records and checks, while craft promotion needs accurate attribution and producer participation. Publicity alone cannot ensure that higher consumer spending reaches growers, workers or artisans.

Practical support can include quality services, transparent orders, timely payment, suitable packaging and market testing. Collective facilities may help where producers consider them viable and governance is clear. Training should connect to actual opportunities rather than count enrolments without following subsequent earnings. Cultural practitioners should influence how their work is presented and adapted.

Evaluation should track net returns, payment delays, repeat demand and the distribution of gains. Revenue growth can coexist with falling profit when costs rise. Branding and craft promotion are therefore useful instruments only when supported by trustworthy claims, fair commercial arrangements and evidence that producers benefit over time.

Self-assessment

Examples and distinctions: 2; diagnosis: 2; practical support: 4; welfare measures: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: E1; C6; editorial livelihood model. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

05 / Swadeshi and mobilisation

Explain how Swadeshi linked political resistance with constructive economic and educational work.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The 1905 partition of Bengal under Curzon prompted widespread opposition. The Swadeshi movement connected this political resistance with boycott, self-help, indigenous enterprise and national education. It should therefore be understood as more than a single consumer decision.

Boycott challenged dependence on British institutions and goods, while constructive activities offered ways to build alternative capacities. Public meetings and demonstrations widened participation. Educational and linguistic initiatives also linked political aspirations with the production and circulation of knowledge, giving everyday practices a place within a broader struggle.

A strong historical answer should distinguish the colonial government's stated administrative justification from the political criticisms described by NCERT. It should also recognise debate within the national movement rather than assume that all leaders supported identical methods. The annulment of the partition in 1911 is a separate milestone, and the later partition in 1947 belongs to another context.

The broader significance is the interaction between resistance and institution-building. Swadeshi helped connect nationalism to economic choices, education and collective mobilisation. Its history should be explained through contemporary aims, actions and disagreements, without treating every later development as an inevitable result of the movement.

Self-assessment

Context: 2; boycott and constructive work: 4; nuance and dates: 2; significance: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: H2; G2; editorial historical synthesis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

06 / Santiniketan and education

What does Santiniketan suggest about the relationship between education, culture and place?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Santiniketan provides an example of an educational project expressed through cultural practice and a physical setting. Tagore established the school in 1901, Visva-Bharati followed in 1921, and the heritage property was inscribed in 2023. These dates represent distinct stages rather than interchangeable milestones.

Its educational significance can be discussed through the relationship between learning, artistic activity and engagement with wider traditions. For contemporary educators, the useful question is how an institution's spaces and practices support its purposes. Buildings alone do not establish educational quality, just as a famous founder does not remove the need to examine learning outcomes.

A living heritage campus also needs coordination between conservation and current use. Proposed changes should be assessed for their effects on significant attributes, accessibility and educational needs. Maintenance skills, documentation and clear responsibilities matter alongside the visible appearance of monuments. Visitor management should consider the functioning institution and its users.

Evaluation can examine the condition of heritage attributes, continuity of relevant practices and the quality of access for learners. The lesson is to manage educational purpose and cultural stewardship together, with evidence guiding decisions and with respect for the distinctive history of the place.

Self-assessment

Chronology: 2; educational interpretation: 3; conservation and use: 3; evaluation: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: C2; editorial education and heritage model. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

07 / Durga Puja and city services

Propose an urban-management approach that supports Durga Puja while improving safety and artisan welfare.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Durga Puja in Kolkata was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2021. The recognition concerns a living festival with artistic and community participation. Urban management should support these practices while addressing practical demands on public space and essential services.

Planning should begin before peak activity, with coordination among organisers, service agencies, residents and workers. Local assessments can identify crowd pressures, accessible routes, sanitation needs and emergency access. Arrangements should account for people with disabilities and for residents whose daily movement or work may be affected.

Artisan welfare requires attention beyond festival visibility. Transparent orders, timely payments and reasonable working arrangements can improve commercial fairness. Waste collection and appropriate handling of materials need clear responsibilities and communication. Proposed measures should be tested for practicality rather than judged only by the number of announcements or installations.

Evaluation should examine crowd-flow problems, service reliability, complaints, payment timeliness and net producer earnings. Public attendance does not directly measure artisan welfare, and recognition alone does not prove effective management. A coordinated approach treats cultural continuity, accessibility, livelihoods and public services as related responsibilities that require preparation and review.

Self-assessment

Heritage category: 2; practical coordination: 3; artisans and inclusion: 3; evaluation: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: C5; editorial hypothetical management model. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

08 / Bhagirathi-Hooghly water

Design an evidence-based response to a hypothetical report of declining river-water quality near an urban stretch.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The Bhagirathi-Hooghly corridor includes Kolkata and other urban and industrial settlements. A cited 2021 government research summary discusses historical pollution observations. Those findings provide context, but they cannot establish present conditions without recent and comparable monitoring.

The first step is to define the problem using sampling locations, dates, methods and relevant indicators. Seasonal differences and river-flow conditions should be recorded. Investigators should examine potential sources rather than assume that one visible activity explains all contamination. Public reporting needs clear limits so historical measurements are not presented as live readings.

Interventions should follow the diagnosis. Authorities can assess sewage collection, treatment performance, industrial compliance and waste management, assigning responsibilities for correcting failures. Monitoring should examine whether facilities function reliably, not simply whether they were constructed. A basin perspective can help connect local actions with upstream and downstream conditions.

Evaluation should compare appropriate baseline and follow-up measurements and explain remaining uncertainty. Service functionality, verified discharge conditions and transparent reporting are useful complementary measures. An evidence-based approach connects scientific observations to feasible maintenance and enforcement decisions while avoiding claims of improvement based solely on spending, publicity or isolated samples.

Self-assessment

Historical scope: 2; monitoring design: 3; targeted response: 3; evaluation and uncertainty: 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: G4; editorial hypothetical response. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

09 / Institutions and local services

Explain how a West Bengal revision guide should distinguish the Assembly, High Court, SEC, WBPSC and rural local tiers.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

West Bengal's official Assembly page identifies a unicameral legislature with 294 seats. Vidhan Sabha should be distinguished from a Legislative Council and from local-government institutions. The High Court's principal seat is at Kolkata; its formal opening on 1 July 1862 is different from the Letters Patent date.

The State Election Commission concerns Panchayat and municipal elections, while WBPSC concerns public-service recruitment. These responsibilities should not be exchanged merely because both institutions operate at state level. The High Court's broad jurisdiction includes West Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but detailed procedural questions need applicable rules.

Rural local government distinguishes Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad tiers. A tier label alone does not prove that every service has been fully devolved or adequately resourced. Responsibilities need staff, funds, maintenance arrangements and accountability.

A useful guide pairs each institution with verified roles and sources. It dates changing instructions separately, uses archives only for the specific stable facts tested and checks actual service outcomes rather than inferring success from an office name.

Self-assessment

Institutional facts 4; functional distinctions 3; delivery and evidence limits 3. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: P1; P2; P3; P4; EX1. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

10 / Reform, law and social change

Compare Rammohun Roy and Vidyasagar, distinguishing legal reform from practical changes in society.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

NCERT identifies Rammohun Roy with the Brahmo Sabha, opposition to sati and advocacy of greater freedom and education for women. It links Vidyasagar with widow-remarriage advocacy and girls' schooling. The 1829 sati ban and 1856 widow-remarriage law are distinct historical milestones.

Comparison should examine the practices challenged, arguments used, audiences and resistance encountered. Reformers used public discussion and textual interpretation, while printed material helped circulate ideas. These shared methods do not establish identical programmes or immediate universal acceptance.

The textbook notes that widow remarriages remained relatively few despite legal permission and continuing opposition. This demonstrates why a legal change should not automatically be treated as proof of practical access, safety or social acceptance. Historical legislation also should not be presented as a complete summary of present law.

Contemporary analysis can draw questions about the gap between formal rules and everyday opportunity, while keeping that application separate from historical description. Evaluation needs evidence on participation, treatment and effective remedies. Clear chronology and attention to lived conditions make reform history more useful than a list of famous names alone.

Self-assessment

Accurate anchors 3; comparison 3; law/practice distinction 2; evidence method 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: H3; editorial interpretation. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

11 / National movement and participation

Suggest principles for presenting Bose, Matangini Hazra and Swadeshi in a state study resource.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

A state resource should recognise Bengal-linked contributions to the national movement while keeping distinct events and forms of participation clear. Subhas Chandra Bose's Haripura presidency in 1938, Matangini Hazra's leadership during Quit India in 1942 and Swadeshi following the 1905 partition belong to different contexts.

Each section should identify the verified event, relevant actors, aims and evidence. The resource should not imply that Haripura was in Bengal merely because Bose was associated with Bengal, or that every participant in a movement followed identical methods. Women should appear as historical actors rather than only as symbols.

Later commemorative accounts need dates and source labels. Publication in 2021 is not evidence that an event occurred then. A timeline organises sequence but does not establish that one episode alone caused every later development.

Practice can combine matching, chronology and short comparisons of mobilisation, leadership and constructive activity. More detailed claims require appropriate sources rather than expansion from a familiar name. This approach connects regional contributions with wider national history while preserving precision, diversity of participation and the limits of the available evidence.

Self-assessment

Correct anchors 3; contextual distinctions 3; participation 2; source method 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: H2; H4; H5; editorial historical method. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

12 / Agriculture, drainage and soils

Design an investigation of poor rice growth in a flood-affected West Bengal locality.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The ICAR profile lists rice among important West Bengal crops and identifies flooding, poor drainage, soil acidity and nutrient constraints. These are useful diagnostic possibilities, not proof of the cause in every affected field.

Begin with observations of water depth and duration, drainage routes, crop stage, visible damage and recent management. Appropriate soil tests can examine pH, conductivity, organic carbon and available nutrients. Sampling must be relevant to the field and interpreted with crop requirements and local conditions.

Consult growers about timing, input use, access to advice and recurring costs. Separate waterlogging effects from nutrient stress and other possible causes before selecting a response. Additional irrigation or a uniform fertiliser package may be inappropriate when the constraint is excess water or a different management problem.

Evaluate feasible drainage, agronomic and advisory measures with clear responsibilities and maintenance needs. Compare crop recovery, costs, net returns and resource use under relevant weather conditions. A phased investigation allows correction and avoids treating higher input distribution or equipment counts as sufficient proof that farmers' actual production and livelihood problems have been resolved.

Self-assessment

State context 2; field/soil diagnosis 4; feasible response 2; outcomes 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: G5; G6; original agricultural case. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

13 / Industrial development and inclusion

How should officials evaluate local welfare effects of an industrial project in a coal-and-steel region?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Durgapur Steel Plant and the Raniganj coalfield provide distinct industrial-geography anchors. Their presence suggests questions about production chains, jobs and infrastructure, but it does not establish a particular current supply contract or guarantee widespread household gains.

Appraisal should identify the proposed activity, affected area, workforce and linked suppliers. Examine employment quality, skills, wages, public services and opportunities for smaller businesses alongside operating costs and market uncertainty. Gross output and investment announcements are incomplete measures of welfare.

Environmental assessment should examine relevant land, water, waste and air effects, including cumulative pressures. Consultation must allow affected residents to question information and report problems. Exact project obligations require the applicable rules rather than assumptions drawn from a general practice model.

Monitoring should connect financial and physical delivery with observed household, worker and environmental outcomes. Report how benefits and burdens differ across groups, and assign responsibility for corrective action. An inclusive assessment therefore tests whether industrial activity improves capabilities and reliable livelihoods while recognising resource costs, uncertainty and effects that may fall outside the factory boundary.

Self-assessment

Industrial anchors 2; economic evidence 3; environment/distribution 3; monitoring 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: E3; E4; original industrial-appraisal case. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

14 / Literacy and historical comparisons

Interpret the Census 2001/2011 literacy chart and explain its limits for current education policy.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The parliamentary table reports West Bengal's overall literacy rising from 68.64 percent in 2001 to 76.26 in 2011, a gain of 7.62 percentage points. Male rates rose from 77.02 to 81.69, while female rates rose from 59.61 to 70.54.

Using these observations, the female gain was 10.93 points and the male gain 4.67 points. The male-female gap narrowed from 17.41 to 11.15 points, a reduction of 6.26 points. Relative growth answers a different question: the overall gain divided by its 2001 base is approximately 11.10 percent.

Aggregation requires the relevant age-eligible population weights and consistent definitions. A simple mean of male and female rates is not automatically the overall rate. Statewide rates also conceal variation within districts and communities.

These are historical census observations, not present estimates or learning scores. They cannot identify the causal effect of a recent programme. Evaluation needs newer comparable observations, appropriate baselines and examination of alternative explanations. The chart helps describe change and frame questions while keeping claims within its dates and coverage.

Self-assessment

Accurate reading 3; arithmetic 3; denominators 2; temporal/causal limits 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: D2; derived analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

15 / Literature and source discipline

How should a study resource present Anandamath and Vande Mataram when official summaries differ on publication chronology?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The corroborated association is that Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandamath and included Vande Mataram in it. A study resource can test that relationship while treating uncertain composition, serialisation and first-publication claims separately.

The first task is to define the event being dated. Composition, appearance in a periodical, publication of a novel in book form and a later commemoration are different events. Sources should be checked for which of these they actually describe. Repeating an official summary without examining its wording can preserve an apparent contradiction.

For a focused question bank, exclude a disputed detail when the evidence does not establish one unambiguous answer. Record the limitation and seek bibliographic or archival evidence before adding a chronology question. A modern anniversary date should not silently replace an original publication date.

Interpretive discussion can explain literary and nationalist associations without reducing a complex text to a slogan or treating all later uses as identical. Clear attribution, named editions and careful dates allow readers to distinguish verified facts from interpretation and unresolved historical detail.

Self-assessment

Corroborated association 2; event distinctions 4; question design 2; interpretation 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: C8; C9; editorial source-method discussion. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

16 / Integrated evidence for local planning

A locality proposes drainage works, satellite crop maps and service grants. Suggest a common accountability framework.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

A common framework should begin with the problems residents face while retaining measures appropriate to each intervention. Drainage works address water movement, satellite maps provide agricultural observations, and grants support specified services. Their outputs should not be treated as interchangeable evidence of success.

For drainage, map local routes and examine waterlogging before and after works under comparable rainfall and river conditions. Crop maps need suitable observation dates, resolution and validation; mapped area is distinct from yield or profit. Grants require clear functions, operating resources and maintenance responsibilities.

Financial records should be reconciled with functioning assets and completed services. Residents need understandable information, assistance and routes to correct records or report failures. Protect personal data and include people who may not participate through digital channels alone.

Evaluation should examine reliable access, disruption, resource use and net livelihood outcomes across settlements and groups. Record alternative explanations and remaining uncertainty. A shared dashboard can support coordination when it retains dates, definitions and evidence links. Accountability means traceable decisions and responsive correction, not simply combining expenditure and equipment counts into one large total.

Self-assessment

Distinct objectives 2; technical measures 3; accountability 3; comparison/limits 2. Total 10.

Evidence / basis: S1; P4 context; original integrated case. Editorial model answer.

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

EX1 / WBPSC: WBCS 2024 official scheme and syllabus, published November 2025

psc.wb.gov.in

EX2 / WBPRB: Constables 2024 recruitment notices and applicant-information link

prb.wb.gov.in

G1 / West Bengal Industries Department: location, capital and borders

www.wbindustries.gov.in

G2 / National Portal of India: West Bengal history and geography

knowindia.india.gov.in

G3 / Irrigation and Waterways Department: Annual Flood Report 2014, basin framework

wbiwd.gov.in

G4 / PIB / IISER Kolkata: Bhagirathi-Hooghly water-quality research, December 2021

www.pib.gov.in

H1 / Nadia district: Palashi and the Battle of Plassey

nadia.gov.in

H2 / IIT Kanpur SATHEE: NCERT chapter on the national movement and Swadeshi

sathee.iitk.ac.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

C1 / Nobel Prize: Rabindranath Tagore, Literature 1913

www.nobelprize.org

C2 / UNESCO World Heritage: Santiniketan

whc.unesco.org

C3 / UNESCO World Heritage: Mountain Railways of India

whc.unesco.org

C4 / Bankura district: Bishnupur temples and textiles

bankura.gov.in

C5 / UNESCO Intangible Heritage: Durga Puja in Kolkata

ich.unesco.org

C6 / Bankura district: terracotta, Dokra and Baluchari crafts

bankura.gov.in

C7 / Purulia district: Chhau styles and mask traditions

purulia.gov.in

N1 / UNESCO World Heritage: Sundarbans National Park

whc.unesco.org

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

E1 / Tea Board India: Darjeeling certification and geographical origin

teaboard.gov.in

E2 / Ministry of Power: Damodar Valley Corporation and its objectives

www.powermin.gov.in

D1 / West Bengal Disaster Management Policy: multi-hazard framework

wbdmd.gov.in

U1 / UNESCO Tentative List: Temples at Bishnupur, submitted 1998

whc.unesco.org

P1 / West Bengal Legislative Assembly: structure and strength

assembly.wb.gov.in

P2 / Calcutta High Court: history, opening and principal seat

calcuttahighcourt.gov.in

P3 / West Bengal SEC: archived FAQ, local-election mandate

archive.wbsec.org

P4 / Indian Economic Service: PRI structure and West Bengal diagram

www.ies.gov.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

H3 / IIT Kanpur SATHEE / NCERT: Women, Caste and Reform

sathee.iitk.ac.in

H4 / PIB: Subhas Chandra Bose and Haripura, 1938

www.pib.gov.in

H5 / PIB: Quit India and Matangini Hazra's participation

www.pib.gov.in

E3 / SAIL: Durgapur Steel Plant and West Bengal location

sail.co.in

E4 / Ministry of Coal: ECL and Raniganj coalfield records

coal.nic.in

G5 / ICAR: West Bengal crop profile and production constraints

icar.gov.in

G6 / PIB / ICAR: soil-health test parameters

www.pib.gov.in

D2 / Lok Sabha answer, 7 December 2015: Census 2001/2011 literacy

sansad.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

S1 / ISRO: agriculture and soil remote-sensing applications

www.isro.gov.in

C8 / PIB: Bankim Chandra, Anandamath and Vande Mataram

www.pib.gov.in

C9 / PIB: Vande Mataram commemoration; chronology cross-check

www.pib.gov.in

Read sources in context

EX1 is the dated WBCS 2024 scheme, not proof of unchanged later instructions. EX1/EX2 routes timed out during revision. The archived SEC source is used only for its stable local-election role, not all old eligibility or procedural details.

D2 reports Census 2001/2011 rates. Overall: 68.64/76.26%; male: 77.02/81.69%; female: 59.61/70.54%. Differences, relative percentages and aggregation have different meanings. Historical rates are not current estimates.

G3 is historical; G5 timed out on opening but its indexed crop/constraint description was available. No current rankings or production totals are adopted. C8/C9 corroborate the book-author-song association but differ on first-publication wording; that disputed detail is excluded. Schematics, models and proposed policies are editorial.