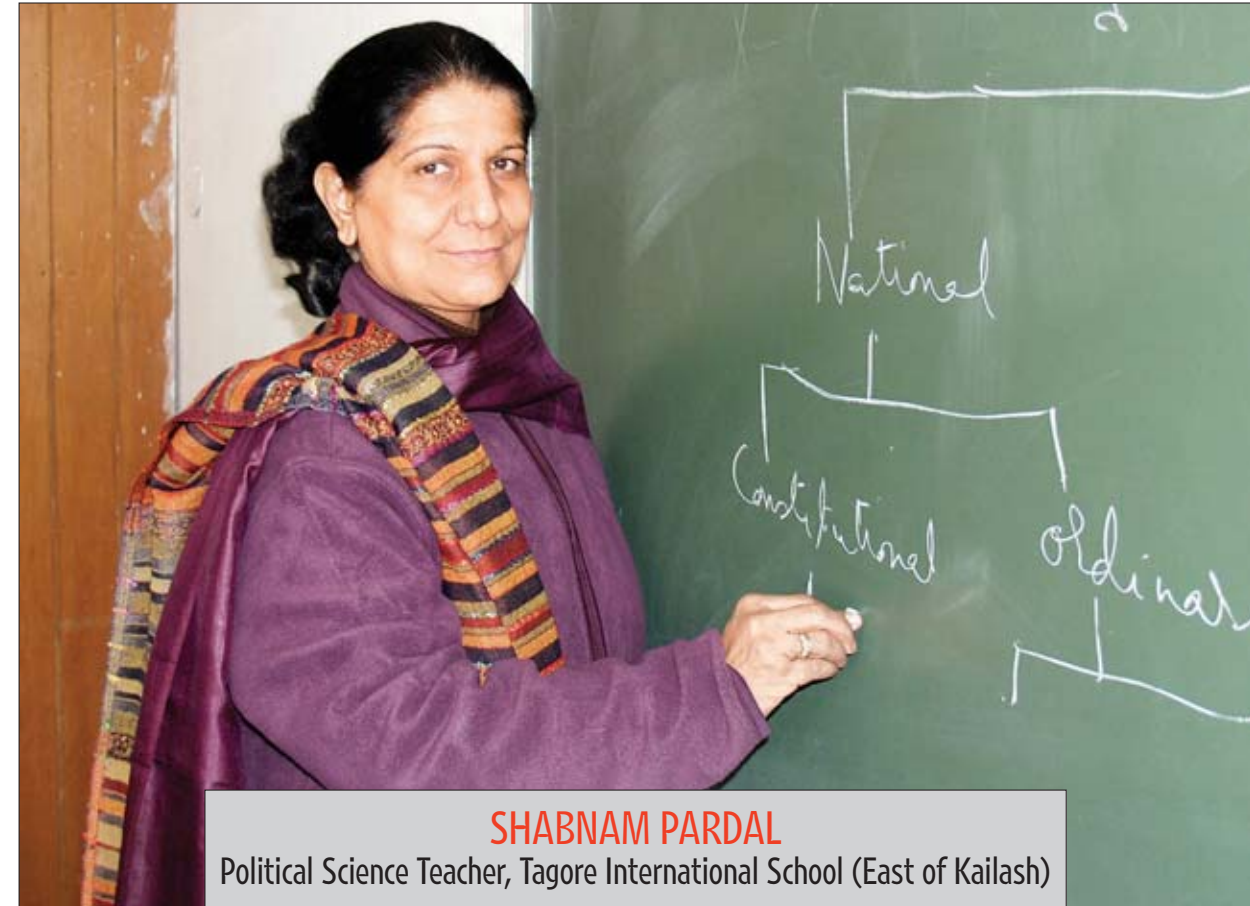


PHOTOS: S.P. CHOPRA



SHABNAM PARDAL
Political Science Teacher, Tagore International School (East of Kailash)

POLITICAL POINT

Crack the commonalities

Shabnam Pardal simplifies Marxism, socialism, liberalism, fascism and *dharma*

Marxism, *dharma* and liberalism — the philosophical component of the syllabus — can make any student groan. Before discussing those topics, one would like to highlight that the Class XII Political Science syllabus is very lengthy. Therefore, look at how much time you need to prepare a chapter and then the entire unit. It will take at least 10 days to absorb your Political Science course for the exam. Besides, you require time for the four other subjects as well. In Political Science, many topics have similarities. This essentially means that the learning points of

many topics are the same. You only have to change your initial language according to the question. Students find liberalism very difficult. If you are well versed in the “negative concept of liberty” from the book’s first unit, then you already know “classical liberalism” of the fourth unit and interestingly, you also know the features of a “laissez faire state” and “individualism” in the second unit. All the above concepts talk of the ‘minimum functions to the state and maximum liberty to the individual in every sphere’. Their characteristics are the same. There you go. Similarly, the “positive



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concept of liberty” is the same as “positive liberalism” and they have the same features of a “welfare state” that is, the state performs more functions and creates the necessary conditions for people to enjoy their various liberties and provides security to the weaker sections. Socialism is a further elaboration of state activities for the fair and equal distribution of means of production for the maximum benefits to people at large. The various kinds of liberties imply political, economic, civil and the social rights of citizens. The whole chapter is repeated in the ‘kinds of rights’ in the second unit. Similarly, the chapter on rights has a full description of political, civil and socio-economic rights. The chapters on “Equality” and “Justice” are related to *dharma*. *Dharma* generally means ‘righteousness’ and the gist of the full chapter is that in any stage or sphere of your life, just perform your duties righteously. This has been described mainly with the Indian concept of *swadharma* which, again, bears similarities to Plato’s concept of justice. So, these are all inter-related. If you study your chapters objectively, you will realise that in the latter part, it is almost the application and further examples of various concepts studied in the first unit. The seventh unit on

socio-economic development in India is the application of principles learnt in “Justice” and “Equality” in detail. The main objective of planning in India is socio-economic justice, and then the development of scheduled castes and tribes, other backward classes as well as women in the application of social justice and examples of protective discrimination in the country. The chapter describes the measures taken to uplift these groups. The above information can easily make you answer the question on what makes India a welfare state. The chapter on “Political Participation, Political Socialisation and Political Development” covers the basics for the one on “Election, Electoral Participation” in the fifth unit. Political participation is primarily electoral participation. Political socialisation is what makes you participate in political matters. So, the agencies and factors influencing political socialisation are more or less the same as short and long term factors affecting electoral participation. The same agencies are responsible for forming healthy “Public opinions” in the sixth unit. To understand fascism, you only need to keep in mind the features of dictatorship taught in Class XI (as it is a negation of democracy) and about how the fascists controlled the total society. All the principles of fascism describe this. To grasp *Gandhism*, just remember that “*Gandhism* = Marxism – Violence + Religion”. For “India and the World,” the last unit, if you read the principles of Indian foreign policy, you will observe that they are the same as those imbibed by or which guided the Non-Aligned Movement and United Nations Organisation. The role that India has played to achieve the objectives of NAM and UNO. Regarding relations between India and other countries, you need to learn the points of tension between the nations and then the things that bring them together. All the best!



SEEMA BANERJEE
Postgraduate Teacher, Sociology
Laxman Public School

SOCIAL TIPS

Socially speaking

Seema Banerjee guides you through the Sociology syllabus

- The NCERT’s prescribed textbooks are exhaustive. Thus, read the text thoroughly.
- Hours of study and preparation should be based on the unit-wise weightage as per the CBSE curriculum. The unit on ‘Institutional Structure’ carries the maximum weightage of 24 marks, followed by ‘Structure of Society’ with 16 marks and ‘Economic Development and Social Change’ with 10 marks. The rest of the units are divided into 8, 6 and 4 marks.
- Refer to the CBSE website for sample papers. These will give you a detailed knowledge regarding the pattern of question paper.
- For 2-mark questions, precise answers should be written where terms and definitions are asked.
- For 4-mark questions, prepare answers by making points and elaborate on them accordingly. An internal choice is given in every question.
- For 8-mark questions, it is important to first understand the question and then answer it accordingly. The answer can be supplemented with recent examples from related newspaper articles.
- Do not forget that time management is important while attempting the question paper.
- Leave ample time for revision.

hthorizons@hindustantimes.com



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ANU MATHUR
Geography Teacher, Air Force Bal Bharti School

GEO MATTERS

Map your geography grades

If you want to score well in the Geography Board exam, read these guidelines by Anu Mathur

Structure of exam paper: The Class XII Geography paper comprises 19 questions. The break-up of marks is as follows: Q.1 to 10 – Very short answer type (3 marks each) Q.11 to 15 – Short answers type (4 marks each) Q.15 to 18 – Long answers type (5 marks each) Q.19 – Consists of two parts: (a) Map of the World (for identification only) – (2 marks) (b) Map of India (for marking and labelling) – (3 marks) Marks wise weightage: Chapter numbers of NCERT textbooks are given against each unit within brackets. **Part-A- Fundamentals of Human Geography** – (35 marks) 1. Human Geography: nature and scope (Chapter 1) – 3 marks 2. People (Chapters 2 and 3) – 5 marks 3. Human Activities (Chapter 4 to 7) – 10 marks 4. Transport, Communication and Trade (Chapters 8 and 9) – 10 marks

- Human Settlements (Chapter 10) – 5 marks
- Map work – world map (for identification only relating to units 1 to 4) – 2 marks
- Part-B – Indian: People and Economy** – (35 marks)
- People (Chapter 1 to 4) – 5 marks
- Human Settlements (Chapters 5 and 6) – 4 marks
- Resources and Sustainable Development (Chapter 7 to 12) – 12 marks
- Transport, Communication and International Trade (Chapters 13 and 14) – 7 marks
- Geographical Perspective on Selected issues and Problems (Chapter 15) – 4 marks
- Map work – map of India (relating to units 7 to 11) – 3 marks

Here are some helpful hints for students on how to prepare for the Geography exam. Since in the CBSE examinations, questions are set from each unit/sub-unit exactly as per the marks assigned to each unit, students must arrange the

topics in order of the marks allotted to each topic.

For long answer questions of (5 marks each), students must read the chapters on Human Population, Human Settlements, Agriculture, Communication, carefully and prepare answers for the questions on: 1. Reasons for the uneven distribution of population (world/India) 2. Reasons for immigration of people (at the regional /international level) 3. Factors affecting the type of rural settlements 4. Factors affecting the pattern of ru-



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5. Geographical conditions required for the growth of crops (rice, wheat, cotton, jute, sugarcane, tea and coffee, and their distribution (in the world/India)
 6. The factors affecting the location of industries at specific places
 7. The functional classification of towns and cities
 8. The factors affecting the growth of the population and phases of population growth (in the world/India)
- For short answer questions (of 4 marks each), students should prepare answers for the following questions: 1. The difference between rural and urban settlements 2. The difference between pastoral, nomadic heading and commercial livestock rearing 3. The need for sustainable development 4. Bases of international trade and the components of trade 5. The advantages and disadvantages of the railways, roadways and pipeline transportation.

For very short answer type questions of (3 marks each), learn the following definitions with suitable examples of each: human development index, determinism, possibilism, neo-determinism, positivism, humanism, working and dependent population, poverty, malnutrition, food security, pollution, crop intensity and rainwater harvesting. The interpretation of all the tables and maps given in the textbook is required. Do that carefully. Students must revise and practise map work strictly accordingly to the list prescribed by the CBSE.

hthorizons@hindustantimes.com



MADHUMEETA CHATTERJEE
Postgraduate Teacher, Psychology, Laxman Public School

PSYCHO ANALYSIS

Looking inside the paper

Madhumeeta Chatterjee offers handy tips to students on how to crack the Psychology paper

The theory paper is of 70 marks. Students have to pass separately in the theory as well as in the practicals. There are 12 chapters in the theory paper: Chapters on ‘Intelligence’ and ‘Self and Personality’ carry a maximum weightage of 8 marks each, followed by ‘Social Influence and Group Processes’, ‘Psychological Disorders’ and ‘Statistics in Psychology’ that carry 7 marks each. There will be 21 questions. Part A consists of 7 questions – 2 marks each, expected length 30 words. Part B consists of 6 questions – 3 marks each, expected length 60 words. Part C – has 6 questions – 4 marks each, expected length 100 words. Part D – has questions that are 7 marks each, expected length 200 words, with internal choice in either or both questions. ● To score high marks, students must study the chapters thoroughly. If the student is not able to cope with all the chapters then concentrate on the following chapters – Intelligence, Self and Personality, Social Influence and Group Processes, Attitude and Social Cognition, Coping with Life Challenges, Psychological Disorders and Statistics thoroughly. ● Use the learning technique of PQRST i.e. Preview, Question, Read, Self-study and Test. ● Learn with the help of flow charts, diagrams and tabular forms. ● Long answer type questions are expected from Psychological Disorders, Statistics, Intelligence, Self and Personality and Social Influence and Group Processes. ● Divide learning materials into sub-topics or units to be able to re-

- call better.
- Revise sample papers and the CBSE Board papers.
- Relate topics with examples and names of psychologists.
- Write your answers according to the marks allotted.
- While computing mean, median etc. always write the formula first and solve the questions stepwise.
- Answer the questions in proper order i.e. either A to D or D to A. Write neatly and highlight the important points.
- Attempt the questions in a neat handwriting and leave space after each answer with a correct answer number.
- Follow time management stringently and keep at least 10 minutes for revision.

hthorizons@hindustantimes.com



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