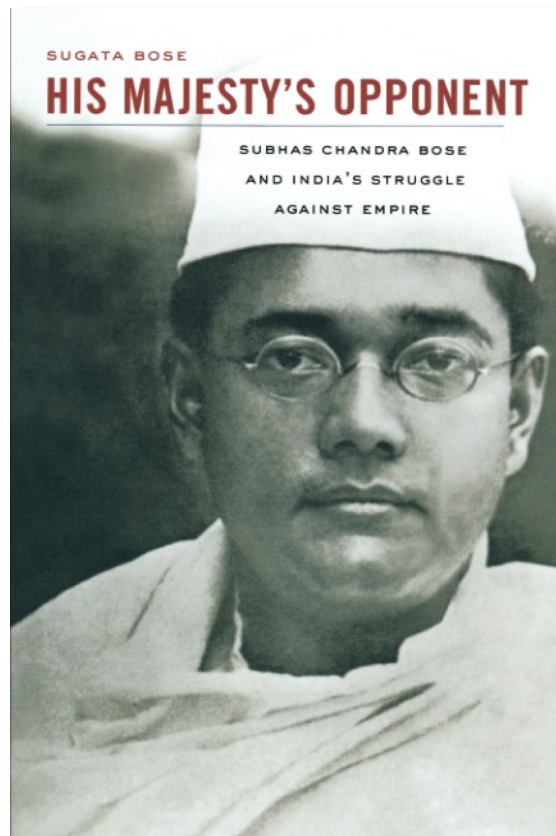




UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

# Social Studies

Invitational B • 2024



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**UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST**

**INVITATIONAL B • SPRING 2024**

**Part I: General Knowledge**

**Modern South Asia: The people, places, and politics of the subcontinent (1857-Present)  
(1 point each)**

1. Released and then rearrested several times for his suspected role in violent acts, \_\_\_\_\_ was finally allowed to proceed to Europe after he contracted tuberculosis and was released for ill health. While ill in his enforced exile, he wrote *The Indian Struggle, 1920–1934* and discussed India’s independence movement with European leaders.  

A. Jawaharlal Nehru	C. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
B. Mohandas Gandhi	D. Subhas Bose
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ have been known since a hymn in the Rigveda that portrays the Brahman, the Kshatriya, the Vaishya, and the Shudra as coming forth at creation from the mouth, arms, thighs, and feet of the purusha. The term itself comes from the Sanskrit term for color.  

A. varnas	C. jatis
B. castes	D. vedas
  
3. What little information there is about \_\_\_\_\_ life has been handed down mainly through legend and tradition. However, there is no doubt that he was born in 1469 in the village of Rai Bhoi di Talwandi.  

A. Siddhartha Gautama’s	C. Guru Nanak’s
B. Rishabhanatha’s	D. Muhammad’s
  
4. In order to assert his control, \_\_\_\_\_ staged a coup in 1960, dissolving the National Assembly, revoking the constitution, and imprisoning political leaders. He then had a new constitution enacted in 1962 that helped institute direct rule by the monarchy.  

A. King Tribhuvan	C. King Mahendra
B. King Birendra	D. King Dipendra

5. Like other high peaks in the region, \_\_\_\_\_ has long been revered by local peoples. Its most common Tibetan name, Chomolungma, means “Goddess Mother of the World” or “Goddess of the Valley.” The Sanskrit name Sagarmatha means “Peak of Heaven.”

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A. Annapurna    | C. K2            |
| B. Kanchenjunga | D. Mount Everest |

- Born in British India in 1895
- Educated at Oxford in England
- Became Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1947
- Assassinated in Rawalpindi in 1951

6. All of the statements above describe \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Liaquat Ali Khan    | C. Chaudhry Mohammad Ali |
| B. Mohammed Ali Jinnah | D. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto   |

7. \_\_\_\_\_ was raised in northern Gujarat. He joined the pro-Hindu Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) organization in the early 1970s and set up a unit of its students’ wing. He rose in the RSS hierarchy, which significantly benefited his subsequent political career in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| A. Manmohan Singh       | C. Narendra Modi |
| B. Atal Bihari Vajpayee | D. Rajiv Gandhi  |

8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital of West Bengal and former capital of British India. The city is centered on the east bank of the Hugli River and is the dominant urban center of eastern India.

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| A. Mumbai | C. Chennai |
| B. Delhi  | D. Kolkata |

9. The Boundary Commission was created by Lord Mountbatten in July of 1947 to recommend how the subcontinent would be divided into the future nations of India and Pakistan. Despite having never ventured east of Paris, \_\_\_\_\_ was named the chair of the commission.

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| A. Allan Octavian Hume | C. William Jones   |
| B. Cyril Radcliffe     | D. Thomas Macaulay |

10. \_\_\_\_\_ was the viceroy of India from 1898 until 1905. In 1904, he was recommended to stay in office, but his previously stellar reputation was quickly tarnished by infighting and unrest leading to his resignation being accepted by King Edward VII.
- A. Lord Irwin  
B. Lord Linlithgow  
C. Lord Wavell  
D. Lord Curzon
11. Among the best-received of \_\_\_\_\_'s 34 novels are *The English Teacher*, *Waiting for the Mahatma*, *The Guide*, and *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*.
- A. Sarojini Naidu  
B. Kazi Narul Islam  
C. R.K. Narayan  
D. Abdus Salam
12. \_\_\_\_\_ served as the first president of the Maldives and as the head of the government from January until August of 1953.
- A. Ibrahim Nasir  
B. Muhammad Amin Didi  
C. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom  
D. Mohamed Nasheed
13. Rokeya Day is celebrated every December 9<sup>th</sup> in \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate the life and accomplishments of the writer, feminist, and educationist Begum Rokeya.
- A. India  
B. Bangladesh  
C. Pakistan  
D. Sri Lanka
14. \_\_\_\_\_ literature covers a wide range of subjects. The earliest compositions are the Vedic texts, but it is not restricted to Hindu compositions. It has also been used by Jain and Buddhist scholars. It is also recognized in the constitution of India as both a classical language and an official language and continues to be used today.
- A. Urdu  
B. Hindustani  
C. Sanskrit  
D. Pashtun
15. The state of \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the smallest in India and yet is bordered by China, Bhutan, and Nepal. It became a protectorate of India in 1950 and a state in 1975. It is dominated by the Kanchenjunga massif where the legendary Abominable Snowman, or yeti, called Nee-gued by locals, is believed to roam.
- A. Kashmir  
B. Sikkim  
C. Puducherry  
D. Assam

- Helped the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) reorganize as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- Prime Minister of India for 13 days in 1996
- Prime Minister of India in 1998
- Awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2014

16. All of the statements above refer to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
B. Narendra Modi  
C. Manmohan Singh  
D. Rajiv Gandhi
17. The Quran is from the Arabic word for \_\_\_\_\_ and is the sacred scripture of Islam.
- A. surrender  
B. word of God  
C. scorching heat  
D. recitation
18. In 1783, \_\_\_\_\_ was knighted and sailed for Calcutta as a judge of the supreme court. In 1784, he founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal to encourage Oriental studies. In 1786, he postulated the common ancestry of Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek, and his findings helped develop comparative linguistics in the early 19th century.
- A. Robert Clive  
B. William Jones  
C. Allan Octavian Hume  
D. Cyril Radcliffe
19. After a campaign by Mohandas Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, prisoners from the Cellular Jail in \_\_\_\_\_ were sent back to the mainland until it was emptied in 1939. The Japanese occupied the site during World War II and it was declared a national memorial in 1979.
- A. Sri Lanka  
B. South Andaman Island  
C. Rangoon  
D. Swaraj Dweep
20. The province of \_\_\_\_\_ was established in Pakistan in 1970. Previously, it was part of the Indus Valley Civilization and contains the ruins of Mohenjo-daro. It was also under the control of Darius I, Alexander the Great, and Chandragupta Maurya at various parts of its long history.
- A. Punjab  
B. Balochistan  
C. Rajasthan  
D. Sindh

**Part II: Supplemental Readings**  
**(2 points each)**

21. \_\_\_\_\_ has a total area of nearly 800,000 sq. kilometers. It has more than twice the area of California and five times that of Georgia.
- A. India  
B. Bangladesh  
C. Nepal  
D. Pakistan
22. The highest point in \_\_\_\_\_ is Pidurutalagala at 2,524 meters. It is also known as Mount Pedro and is situated near the town of town of Nuwara Eliya.
- A. Sri Lanka  
B. Bhutan  
C. Bangladesh  
D. India
23. In 1981, President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated during an attempted military coup and General \_\_\_\_\_ assumed power the next year. He suspended the constitution and political parties and Bangladesh would not return to parliamentary government until 1991.
- A. Pervez Musharraf  
B. Hussain Muhammad Ershad  
C. Ghulum Azam  
D. Yahya Khan
24. The name of the capital city \_\_\_\_\_ is associated with various myths and legends. The name could be a corruption of the Hindustani words meaning "threshold" or "gateway" which could refer to the city being a gateway to the Gangetic Plain.
- A. Mumbai  
B. Dhaka  
C. Male  
D. Delhi
25. \_\_\_\_\_ controls the Khyber Pass and the Bolan Pass, which have served as traditional invasion routes between Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent.
- A. India  
B. Kashmir  
C. Balochistan  
D. Pakistan
26. Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi and \_\_\_\_\_ spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language.
- A. Bengali  
B. Urdu  
C. Gujarati  
D. Punjabi

- Bomb blasts killed and injured dozens in the Terai plains where activists were demanding regional autonomy
- Maoists won the largest bloc of seats in the Constituent Assembly
- The nation became a republic
- Ram Baran Yadav became the first president

27. All the events above took place during 2008 in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Bhutan  
B. Sri Lanka  
C. Nepal  
D. Bangladesh
28. Tensions flared in mid-2017 after Bhutan accused \_\_\_\_\_ of building a road in a strategic area on their border. Bhutan sought India's aid which resulted in a three-month standoff between the countries' militaries.
- A. Pakistan  
B. Tibet  
C. China  
D. Myanmar
29. Major waterways and rivers in \_\_\_\_\_ include the mouths of the Indus, Sutlej, and Chenab rivers.
- A. India  
B. Bangladesh  
C. Nepal  
D. Pakistan
30. The official monetary unit of Bhutan is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. rupee  
B. taka  
C. ngultrum  
D. rufiyaa
31. The first direct universal voting since independence in Pakistan was held in 1970 to elect a National Assembly. The Awami League, under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won an overwhelming majority by taking 153 of the 163 seats allotted to \_\_\_\_\_. The opening session of the National Assembly was then repeatedly postponed.
- A. East Pakistan  
B. West Pakistan  
C. Bangladesh  
D. Bengal
32. Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, and Peshawar are all major cities in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. India  
B. Bangladesh  
C. Pakistan  
D. Sri Lanka

33. In May 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. special forces in Abbottabad. The government of \_\_\_\_\_ then faced scrutiny over a leaked memo alleging senior officials sought U.S. aid against a possible military coup after the killing. This “memogate” scandal led to the resignation of the ambassador to the U.S. and increased tensions with military leadership.
- A. Pakistan  
B. Bhutan  
C. Nepal  
D. India
34. In February 2005, King Gyanendra dismissed the government of \_\_\_\_\_ and restored an absolute monarchy. He then declared a state of emergency, citing the need to defeat rebels.
- A. Nepal  
B. Bhutan  
C. Sri Lanka  
D. Maldives
35. In August 2008, President \_\_\_\_\_ resigned after the two main governing parties in Pakistan agreed to launch impeachment proceedings against him.
- A. Asif Ali Zardari  
B. Pervez Musharraf  
C. Nawaz Sharif  
D. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

**Part III: Primary Source Material**

*His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire* by Sugata Bose  
**(3 points each)**

36. In March 1940, the Muslim League passed a resolution at \_\_\_\_\_, stating that the Muslim-majority provinces in the northwest and east of the subcontinent should be grouped to constitute independent states. The resolution mentioned neither Pakistan nor partition.
- A. Lahore  
B. Simla  
C. Delhi  
D. Poona
37. The \_\_\_\_\_, who were the harshest Indian critics of Bose and derided him as Hideki Tojo's stooge during World War II, have changed their mind since the late 1970s. Now every January 23rd, they garland his statues as a great patriot.
- A. Muslims  
B. INC  
C. RSS  
D. communists



38. The Communist party of India, founded in 1920, was working in concert with Congress as part of the \_\_\_\_\_ group, much the way communist parties in Europe were working with their social democratic allies.
- A. Swadeshi  
B. People’s Voice  
C. Purna Swaraj  
D. National Front
39. In April 1921, Subhas informed Sarat, “The die is cast and I earnestly hope that nothing but good will come out of it.” Sarat sent “warmest felicitations on whatever course,” but Subhas knew he had disobeyed his father and acted against his brother’s advice when he \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. decided to attend Cambridge  
B. resigned his appointment to the ICS  
C. applied to join the defense league  
D. withdrew from school before final exams
40. Upon his arrival in London in 1938, Subhas Bose had been described by one newspaper as “India’s de Valera.” Bose met de Valera and discussed the political destinies of India and \_\_\_\_\_ in detail. Bose was constantly trying to learn from the positive and negative examples of de Valera’s country.
- A. Spain  
B. Italy  
C. Ireland  
D. Egypt
41. A number of issues contributed to tensions between Hindu and Muslim communities. One of these was the singing of “Bande Mataram” on formal political occasions. Bose suggested to Nehru that it would be a good idea to seek advice from \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue before taking it to Congress in 1938.
- A. Rabindranath Tagore  
B. Aurobindo Ghose  
C. Mohandas Gandhi  
D. C.R. Das
42. As early as 1934, Bose had described \_\_\_\_\_ as “the British of the East.” He said the nation had been a beacon of inspiration at the dawn of the twentieth century and welcomed their stance against the Western imperial powers. But, he asked, could not their aims be achieved without imperialism?
- A. the Soviet Union  
B. Japan  
C. Germany  
D. China

43. Mohandas Gandhi had addressed \_\_\_\_\_ as “Dear Friend” in a letter he had written on July 23, 1939. He wrote, “It is quite clear that you are today the one person in the world who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to its savage state.”
- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Winston Churchill | C. Adolf Hitler       |
| B. Joseph Stalin     | D. Franklin Roosevelt |
44. On July 4, 1943, representatives of the Indian Independence League assembled to witness Subhas Bose’s acceptance of the leadership of the movement from \_\_\_\_\_, who described Subhas as symbolizing all that is “best, noblest, the most daring, and the most dynamic in the youth of India.”
- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Rashbehari Bose  | C. Sibbier Appadurai Ayer |
| B. Abdul Kalam Azad | D. Dilip Kumar Roy        |
45. The path prescribed by \_\_\_\_\_ led a teenaged Subhas toward a combination of individualistic yoga and social service in the form of voluntary work in the villages.
- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| A. C.R. Das        | C. Mohammad Zaman Kiani |
| B. Prabhavati Bose | D. Swami Vivekananda    |

**ESSAY PROMPT:**

NOTE: Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified. Any essay that does not demonstrate a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic will be disqualified. The rankings of essays will be based primarily on how well the topic has been addressed. A focused, concise and specific essay beats a vague and rambling essay. Proper grammar and organization should be used to aid clarity, but should not be considered a major factor in scoring. Cover as many corners of the issue as practical. Avoid including personal editorialized opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published.

*Leadership studies have long attempted to explore the extent to which leadership is dictated by structure, culture, and overall environment. ...Thus, with regard to gender, it is worth exploring why countries so long associated with patriarchy and the subordination of women should be the focus for so many politically prominent females. ... The biographies of such women enrich our understanding of...a complex mosaic that refines but does not define the term “leadership.”*

*-excerpt from Female Leadership of Democratic Transitions in Asia by Mark R. Thompson*

**South Asia is known for its diverse array of ancient traditions, but despite being home to social structures that have been used to limit progress by some, it has also been at the forefront of producing women in leadership roles. Discuss the roles and impacts of significant female political leaders from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.**

