📘 Class 9 Social Science – Chapter 8

Free Worksheets – Building Blocks in Economics: The Problem of Choice

Book: *Understanding Society: India and Beyond – Grade 9, Part 1*
Chapter 8: Building Blocks in Economics: The Problem of Choice

The official textbook chapter focuses on **needs and wants, scarcity, choices, opportunity cost, Production Possibility Curve (PPC), the three key economic questions, factors of production, economic systems, planned economy, market economy, mixed economy and India's economic evolution**.

📝 WORKSHEET 1 – Needs, Wants & Economic Choices

Name: ___________________________
Class: ___________ **Date:** ___________

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Human __________ are unlimited and keep changing.
2. Food, water and shelter are examples of __________.
3. Gadgets, vacations and luxury items are examples of __________.
4. Resources are __________ in quantity.
5. The problem of limited resources and unlimited wants creates the need for __________.
6. The value of the next best alternative given up is called __________ cost.
7. A place where buying and selling of goods and services takes place is called a __________.

B. Classify the Following

Write **Need** or **Want**.

Item	Need / Want
🍚 Food	___________
💧 Drinking water	___________
🏠 Shelter	___________
📱 New smartphone	___________
✈️ Vacation	___________
👟 Basic footwear	___________
🎮 Gaming console	___________
📚 School books	___________

The textbook distinguishes essential **needs** from **wants**, which may include gadgets, vacations and luxury items.

💰 WORKSHEET 2 – Scarcity & Opportunity Cost

A. Complete the Sentences

1. Resources are limited, but human wants are ___________.
2. When we choose one option, we give up another ___________.
3. The value of the option given up is called ___________ cost.
4. Scarcity forces individuals, businesses and governments to make ___________.

B. Situation-Based Questions

1. You have ₹100.

You can either:

- Buy a notebook 📓
- Save the money for a tennis racket 🎾

If you choose the notebook, what is the opportunity cost?

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2. A farmer can grow either wheat or barley on limited land.

If the farmer chooses to grow more barley, what may have to be sacrificed?

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3. Why does every economic choice involve an opportunity cost?

The textbook explains opportunity cost as the value of what is given up when one alternative is chosen over another.

📊 WORKSHEET 3 – Production Possibility Curve

A. Study the Table

Combination	Barley (kg)	Wheat (kg)
A	0	100
B	25	90
C	50	70
D	75	40
E	100	0

These combinations are given in the textbook's PPC example.

Answer:

1. At combination A, how much wheat is produced?

___________ kg

2. At combination E, how much barley is produced?

___________ kg

3. As barley production increases, what happens to wheat production?

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4. Why is wheat sacrificed when more barley is produced?

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5. What does the PPC show?

🧠 HOTS

Why does a PPC help individuals, enterprises and governments make better decisions?

The textbook describes the PPC as showing different combinations of goods that can be produced using available resources and illustrates the trade-off between barley and wheat.

🏭 WORKSHEET 4 – Factors of Production

A. Fill in the Blanks

The four factors of production are:

1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________
4. ______________________

B. Match the Following

Factor	Description
1. Land	a. Tools, machinery and financial resources
2. Labour	b. Human effort
3. Capital	c. Natural resources
4. Technology	d. Methods and technological knowledge

Answers:

1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________
4. ______________________

C. Short Answer

1. Why are factors of production necessary?

____

____

2. Give two examples of capital.

____

3. How can technology affect production?

❓ WORKSHEET 5 – The Three Key Questions in Economics

Every economy has to answer three fundamental questions:

1️⃣ What to Produce?

What goods and services should be produced, and in what quantities?

2️⃣ How to Produce?

Which resources, methods and technologies should be used?

3️⃣ For Whom to Produce?

Who should receive or benefit from the goods and services produced?

The textbook presents these three questions as arising from the mismatch between **unlimited wants and limited resources**.

A. Match

Question	Meaning
1. What to produce?	a. Who benefits?
2. How to produce?	b. Which goods and how much?
3. For whom to produce?	c. Which resources and technology?

Answers:

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______

B. Apply Your Knowledge

A farmer has limited land and water.

Should the farmer grow:

🌾 Water-intensive crops
OR
🌱 Drought-resistant crops?

What economic question is involved?

⚙️ WORKSHEET 6 – How to Produce?

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. Producers must choose the appropriate mix of __________, labour, capital and technology.
2. Production using more workers and less machinery is called __________-intensive production.
3. Production using more machines and technology is called __________-intensive production.
4. Agriculture and handicrafts often rely more on __________.
5. Steel and automobile industries generally depend more on __________.

The textbook explains the distinction between labour-intensive and capital-intensive production.

B. Choose the Correct Answer

1. A garment factory uses many workers and relatively few machines. This is:

A. Capital-intensive
B. Labour-intensive
C. Technology-free
D. Planned production

2. A highly automated automobile factory is more likely to be:

A. Labour-intensive
B. Capital-intensive
C. Agriculture-based
D. Household production

🏪 WORKSHEET 7 – Economic Systems

A. Complete the Table

Economic System	Who Mainly Makes Economic Decisions?
Market Economy	____________________
Planned Economy	____________________
Mixed Economy	____________________

B. Match the Following

Column A	Column B
1. Market economy	a. Government makes major economic decisions
2. Planned economy	b. Government and private sector coexist
3. Mixed economy	c. Market forces mainly guide decisions

Answers:

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________

🏛️ WORKSHEET 8 – Planned Economy

A. True or False

1. A central planning authority makes major decisions in a planned economy. ________
2. Private ownership is generally extensive in a planned economy. ________
3. Government may determine what and how much is produced. ________
4. Competition among private enterprises may be restricted. ________
5. Planned economies rely primarily on demand and supply. ________

B. Short Answer Questions

1. What is a planned economy?

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2. What role does the government play in a planned economy?

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3. Why may innovation be limited in a highly planned economy?

The textbook describes planned economies as systems where government authorities determine major decisions regarding resource allocation, production and prices.

🛒 WORKSHEET 9 – Market Economy

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. In a market economy, economic decisions are mainly influenced by __________ and __________.
2. Ownership of many resources rests with __________ individuals and companies.
3. Competition can encourage better __________ and lower prices.

4. Competition may also encourage __________.
5. The government provides public goods and physical __________.

B. Short Answer Questions

1. What is a market economy?

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2. How does competition benefit consumers?

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3. What role does the government play in a market economy?

The textbook explains that market economies rely mainly on demand and supply, while government still has important responsibilities such as safety, law and order, public goods and infrastructure.

⚖️ WORKSHEET 10 – Mixed Economy

A. Choose the Correct Answer

1. A mixed economy combines features of:

A. Only planned economies
B. Only market economies
C. Market and planned economies
D. Traditional economies only

2. In a mixed economy:

A. Only government makes decisions
B. Only private companies make decisions

C. Government and private sector both play important roles
D. No one regulates businesses

3. India is described in the textbook as having:

A. A purely planned economy
B. A mixed economy
C. A purely market economy
D. No economic system

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. A mixed economy allows private __________.
2. The government continues to regulate certain aspects of the __________.
3. Public goods and welfare programmes are important parts of the government's __________.
4. Private businesses contribute through production, competition and __________.

The textbook describes a mixed economy as combining market and planned features, with government and private players both involved in economic decisions.

🇮🇳 WORKSHEET 11 – India's Economic Evolution

A. Complete the Timeline

After Independence
⬇️
More __________-led approach
⬇️
Government controlled/regulatory role
⬇️
1991 Economic Difficulties
⬇️
Major __________ reforms
⬇️
Greater private enterprise and global integration

⬇️
More __________-oriented system while retaining an important government role

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B. Short Answer Questions

1. What type of economic approach did India follow in the decades after Independence?

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2. Why were economic reforms introduced in 1991?

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3. What changes followed the reforms?

The textbook explains that India initially followed a more state-led approach and introduced major economic reforms in **1991**, which reduced excessive regulations, encouraged private enterprise and opened the economy to global trade and investment.

📈 WORKSHEET 12 – Economic Survey

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. The Economic Survey of India is prepared by the __________ of Finance.
2. It is presented in Parliament before the Union __________.
3. It reviews the country's economic __________.
4. It analyses sectors such as agriculture, industry and __________.
5. It discusses future challenges and __________.

B. Short Answer

Why is the Economic Survey useful?

The textbook describes the Economic Survey as an annual document that reviews India's economic performance, analyses major sectors and helps policymakers and citizens understand economic data.

🧠 WORKSHEET 13 – HOTS & Application

1. You have ₹500.

You can either buy a school bag now or save the money for a bicycle.

What is your choice? What is the opportunity cost?

2. A government has limited funds.

Should it spend more on:

🏥 Healthcare and education
OR
🛡️ Defence and space exploration?

Give reasons for your choice.

The textbook itself asks students to think about this allocation problem.

3. A factory can either hire 100 workers or buy automated machines.

What factors should it consider before making the decision?

4. Why can a country not satisfy all the wants of its people?

5. Why is a mixed economy often more practical than a completely market-based or completely planned system?

🔎 WORKSHEET 14 – Case Study

Case Study: A School Library

A school library has only **5 copies** of a new storybook, but **20 students** want to read it.

Answer:

1. What economic problem does the library face?

2. Why can all 20 students not receive a copy at the same time?

3. Suggest two possible solutions.

1.
2.

4. What concept does this situation demonstrate?

5. What is the opportunity cost of giving the books to one group of students first?

The textbook uses the limited-library-books example to introduce economic choices arising from scarcity.

🎯 WORKSHEET 15 – Quick Revision Quiz

Choose the Correct Answer

1. Economics deals with:

A. Unlimited resources
B. Choices involving limited resources and unlimited wants
C. Only money
D. Only businesses

2. The value of the next best alternative given up is:

A. Profit
B. Opportunity cost
C. Revenue
D. Capital

3. Which is NOT a factor of production?

A. Land
B. Labour
C. Capital
D. Inflation

4. Which is one of the three key economic questions?

A. What to produce?
B. Where to vote?
C. Who should govern?
D. Who should teach?

5. A PPC shows:

A. Different possible combinations of goods produced
B. Population growth
C. Election results
D. Government budgets only

6. In a planned economy, major decisions are mainly made by:

A. Consumers
B. Government
C. Foreign companies
D. NGOs

7. Market economies rely mainly on:

A. Demand and supply
B. Central planning
C. No production
D. Fixed government targets

8. A mixed economy combines:

A. Market and planned features
B. Only traditional practices
C. Only government ownership
D. Only private ownership

9. India's major economic reforms mentioned in the chapter took place in:

A. 1947
B. 1965
C. 1991
D. 2005

10. Which document reviews India's economic performance annually?

A. Economic Survey
B. Election Report
C. Census Report
D. Finance Textbook

🔥 BONUS – Assertion & Reason

1. Assertion:

Scarcity forces people to make choices.

Reason: Resources are limited while human wants are unlimited.

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2. Assertion:

Every choice involves an opportunity cost.

Reason: Choosing one alternative means giving up another alternative.

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3. Assertion:

A PPC represents a trade-off.

Reason: Producing more of one good may require sacrificing some quantity of another good when resources are limited.

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4. Assertion:

Different economic systems answer economic questions differently.

Reason: Market economies rely mainly on demand and supply, planned economies on government control, and mixed economies combine both approaches.

✅ ANSWER KEY

Worksheet 1

1. **wants**
2. **needs**
3. **wants**
4. **limited**
5. **choices**
6. **opportunity**
7. **market**

Classification:

- Food – **Need**

- Drinking water – **Need**
- Shelter – **Need**
- New smartphone – **Want**
- Vacation – **Want**
- Basic footwear – **Need**
- Gaming console – **Want**
- School books – **Need**

Worksheet 2

1. The opportunity cost is **the tennis racket/saving for the tennis racket**.
2. Some wheat production may have to be sacrificed.
3. Because resources are limited and choosing one alternative means giving up another.

Worksheet 3

1. **100 kg**
2. **100 kg**
3. **Wheat production decreases.**
4. Because resources are limited.
5. It shows possible combinations of goods that can be produced using available resources.

Worksheet 4

1. **Land**
2. **Labour**
3. **Capital**
4. **Technology**

Match:

1 – **c**
2 – **b**
3 – **a**
4 – **d**

Worksheet 5

1 – **b**
2 – **c**
3 – **a**

Worksheet 6

1. **land**
2. **labour**
3. **capital**
4. **labour**
5. **machinery/capital**

MCQs:

1. **B**
2. **B**

Worksheet 7

1. Market Economy – **market forces/private decisions**
2. Planned Economy – **government/central planning authority**
3. Mixed Economy – **government and private sector**

Match:

1 – **c**
2 – **a**
3 – **b**

Worksheet 8

1. True
2. False

3. True
4. True
5. False

Worksheet 9

1. **demand; supply**
2. **private**
3. **quality**
4. **innovation**
5. **infrastructure**

Worksheet 10

MCQs:

1. **C**
2. **C**
3. **B**

Fill in:

1. **ownership**
2. **market**
3. **role**
4. **innovation**

Worksheet 11

Timeline:

state → economic → market

Key idea: India moved towards a more market-oriented system while retaining an important role for government.

Worksheet 12

1. **Ministry**
2. **Budget**
3. **performance**
4. **services**
5. **opportunities**

Worksheet 15 – Quick Quiz

1. **B**
2. **B**
3. **D**
4. **A**
5. **A**
6. **B**
7. **A**
8. **A**
9. **C**
10. **A**