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CLASS 12 · CBSE GEOGRAPHY (029)

Geography Solved Board Papers

Chapter-wise and year-wise CBSE board questions with complete answers

9 years · 2016–2026

- ✓ Part A: every question sorted chapter-wise, grouped by marks, with full answers
- ✓ Part B: complete board papers, each followed by its answers
- ✓ Board weightage table and most-asked topics for every chapter
- ✓ Map, graph, table and passage questions answered with the map or figure shown
- ✓ Questions on chapters no longer in the board syllabus are flagged

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WHAT YOU GET

CBSE Geography papers 2016–2026. Every question answered. Sorted chapter-wise.

129	1908	9	17	261
board papers	solved questions	years · 2016–26	chapters	map questions

✗ Questions scattered across years	→ ✓ All in one place, chapter-wise
✗ Don't know what to study first	→ ✓ Weightage + most-asked topics
✗ Map questions cost easy marks	→ ✓ Every map item answered
✗ Old books carry deleted chapters	→ ✓ Only the 2026-27 syllabus

PART A — A — Chapter-wise

- ✓ Weightage table
- ✓ Most-asked topics
- ✓ Every question + solution

PART B — B — Full papers

- ✓ Exactly as set by CBSE
- ✓ Solutions after each paper
- ✓ Timed 3-hour practice

2026 · 64/1/1	**2026** · 64/1/2	**2026** · 64/1/3	**2026** · 64/2/1	**2025** · 64/1/1
2025 · 64/2/1	**2025** · 64/4/1	**2024** · 64/1/1	**2024** · 64/2/1	**2023** · 64/1/1
2022 · 64/1/1 (Term 2)	**2019** · 64/1/1	**2018** · 64/1	**2017** · 64/1	**2016** · 64/1

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CLASS 6–12 · ALL SUBJECTS

100% QUESTIONS SOLVED

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How to use this book

Part A puts every board question of a chapter together, from 1-mark MCQs to 5-mark long answers and map items. Finish a chapter in your notes, then answer its Part A questions without looking at the answers. Check, mark the ones you got wrong, and repeat them a week later.

Each question shows where it was asked, for example **CBSE 2026 · 64/1/1 · Q24**. Use the weightage table and the most-asked topics chart at the start of each chapter to decide what to revise first.

Part B gives full papers. In the last month before the exam, sit with a clock and write one paper in 3 hours, then check it with the answers that follow the paper.

Answers are written the way the board awards marks: one point per mark, each point stated and then explained with a fact, figure or example. For map questions, practise on a blank outline map of India and the world until every item is quick.

Contents

Part A · Chapter-wise questions with solutions

1. Human Geography: Nature and Scope 92 Qs
2. The World Population: Distribution, Density and Growth 120 Qs
3. Human Development 113 Qs
4. Primary Activities 130 Qs
5. Secondary Activities 110 Qs
6. Tertiary and Quaternary Activities 112 Qs
7. Transport and Communication (World) 154 Qs
8. International Trade (World) 88 Qs
9. Population: Distribution, Density, Growth and Composition 146 Qs
10. Human Settlements 119 Qs
11. Land Resources and Agriculture 96 Qs
12. Water Resources 77 Qs
13. Mineral and Energy Resources 121 Qs
14. Planning and Sustainable Development in Indian Context 61 Qs
15. Transport and Communication (India) 126 Qs
16. International Trade (India) 102 Qs
17. Geographical Perspective on Selected Issues and Problems 141 Qs

Part B · Full board papers, each followed by its solutions

1. CBSE 2026 · 64/1/1 solutions
2. CBSE 2026 · 64/1/2 solutions
3. CBSE 2026 · 64/1/3 solutions
4. CBSE 2026 · 64/2/1 solutions
5. CBSE 2025 · 64/1/1 solutions
6. CBSE 2025 · 64/2/1 solutions
7. CBSE 2025 · 64/4/1 solutions
8. CBSE 2024 · 64/1/1 solutions
9. CBSE 2024 · 64/2/1 solutions
10. CBSE 2023 · 64/1/1 solutions
11. CBSE 2022 · 64/1/1 (Term 2) solutions
12. CBSE 2019 · 64/1/1 solutions
13. CBSE 2018 · 64/1 solutions
14. CBSE 2017 · 64/1 solutions
15. CBSE 2016 · 64/1 solutions

1908 questions in all. Questions are taken from the CBSE Class 12 Geography board papers (every set, including compartment papers) and the answers are our own, checked against the official marking schemes wherever the board published one. The 2020 papers are not included: CBSE lists them, but the board's download links are broken. Older papers carried topics since removed from the syllabus (Manufacturing Industries of India, industrial regions and steel plants, and others). These questions are left out of Part A and marked in Part B, where they are still fully answered. Population composition, human settlements and migration stay in Part A: in the 2026-27 syllabus CBSE assesses them in school rather than in the board exam, but they remain part of the course and were asked in recent papers.

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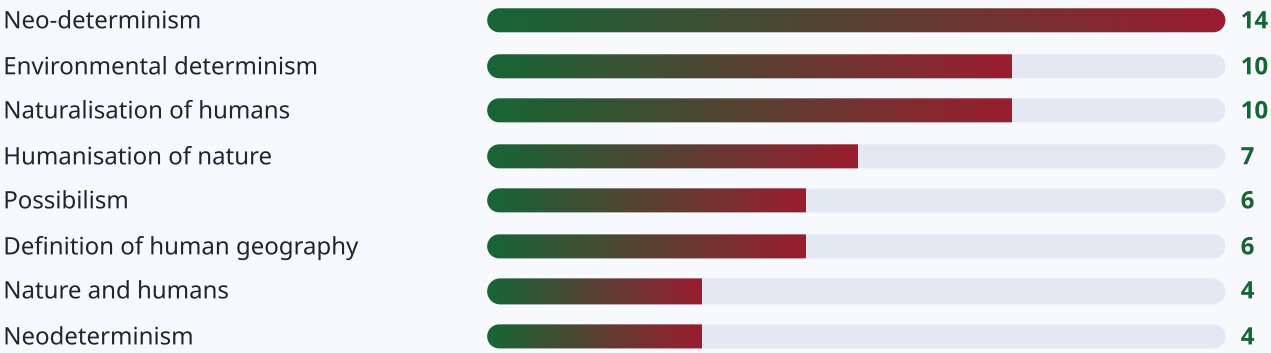
CHAPTER 1

Human Geography: Nature and Scope

Board weightage 2016–2026

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Questions per paper	1	1	1	1.4	–	1.5	1.5	2.3	1.3
Marks per paper	3	3	3	3	–	4	5	4	3

Most asked topics



92 different questions from 111 papers. Repeated questions are shown once with every year they were asked.

1 mark: MCQ and Assertion–Reason

CBSE 2026 · 64/2/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2026 · 64/2/2 · Q9 | CBSE 2026 · 64/2/3 · Q9 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both statements carefully and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : There is a strong dichotomy between physical elements and human beings.

Reason (R) : Nature and human are intricately interwined.

Options :

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is **not** the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.

(D) (A) is correct but (R) is incorrect.

Solution

Answer: (C) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.

Nature and humans are inseparable and intricately intertwined, so there is no strong dichotomy between physical and human elements; human geography studies them holistically.

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CBSE 2026 · 64/2/1 · Q2 — 1 mark

"Neither there is absolute necessity nor there is absolute freedom." The given statement is related to which one of the following concepts ?

(A) Determinism
(B) Neo-determinism
(C) Possibilism
(D) Individualism

Solution

Answer: (B) Neo-determinism

Griffith Taylor's neo-determinism ('stop and go determinism') is a middle path: there is neither absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor absolute freedom (possibilism).

CBSE 2026 · 64/2/1 · Q3 | CBSE 2026 · 64/2/2 · Q10 | CBSE 2026 · 64/2/3 · Q7 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Read the following sub-fields of social geography carefully and choose the correct option :

I. Resource Geography II. Leisure Geography
III. Gender Geography IV. Marketing Geography

Options :

(A) I and III are correct.
(B) I and IV are correct.
(C) II and III are correct.
(D) II and IV are correct.

Solution

Answer: (C) II and III are correct.

Leisure geography and gender geography are sub-fields of social geography. Resource geography and marketing geography are sub-fields of economic geography.

CBSE 2026 · 64/2/2 · Q2 — 1 mark

The concept, 'understanding the parts in totality would lead to understanding of the whole' is concerned with which one of the following approaches of geography ?

(A) Regional analysis
(B) Spatial organisation
(C) Areal differentiation
(D) Exploration and description

Solution

Answer: (A) Regional analysis

In the regional analysis approach, the world is divided into regions and each region is studied in totality, so that understanding the parts leads to understanding of the whole. Areal differentiation compares areas; spatial organisation studies the distribution of phenomena.

CBSE 2026 · 64/2/3 · Q2 — 1 mark

The concept 'identifying the uniqueness of any region and understanding how it is different from others', is concerned with which one of the following approaches of geography ?

(A) Post-modernism
(B) Behaviouralism
(C) Regional analysis
(D) Areal differentiation

Solution

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Answer: (D) Areal differentiation

The areal differentiation approach identifies the uniqueness of a region and tries to understand how it differs from other regions. Regional analysis studies a region in totality; post-modernism and behaviouralism are other approaches.

CBSE 2025 · 64/2/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2025 · 64/2/2 · Q2 | CBSE 2025 · 64/2/3 · Q1 asked 3 times 1 mark

"Human geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface." This definition of human geography is given by _____.

(A) Vidal-de-la-Blache
(B) Richard Hartshorne
(C) Ritter
(D) Ratzel

Solution

Answer: (D) Ratzel

Friedrich Ratzel, the founder of modern human geography, defined it as the synthetic study of the relationship between human societies and the earth's surface.

CBSE 2025 · 64/2/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2025 · 64/2/2 · Q3 | CBSE 2025 · 64/2/3 · Q2 asked 3 times 1 mark

Which one of the following is the core concern of geography as a discipline ?

(A) To understand population distribution and the factors affecting the same.
(B) To understand the relationship between resource distribution and its utilisation.
(C) To understand the earth as the home of human beings and its sustainability.
(D) To understand the earth as the home of natural resources and their estimation.

Solution

Answer: (C) To understand the earth as the home of human beings and its sustainability.

Geography studies the earth as the home of human beings and all the other life forms that sustain it, so the core concern is the earth as a home of humans and its sustainability.

CBSE 2025 · 64/2/1 · Q3 | CBSE 2025 · 64/2/2 · Q1 | CBSE 2025 · 64/2/3 · Q3 asked 3 times 1 mark

The concept of 'Neodeterminism' was introduced by _____.

(A) Ehrlich
(B) C. Semple
(C) Griffith Taylor
(D) Humboldt

Solution

Answer: (C) Griffith Taylor

Griffith Taylor put forward 'Neodeterminism' (also called 'stop and go determinism'), a middle path between environmental determinism and possibilism.

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CBSE 2025 · 64/6/1 · Q15 | CBSE 2025 · 64/6/2 · Q17 | CBSE 2025 · 64/6/3 · Q16 asked 3 times 1 mark

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions no. 15 to 17.

Relation Between Humans and their Physical Environment

You are already aware of the fact that the core concern of geography as a discipline is to understand the earth as home of human beings and to study all those elements, which have sustained them. Thus, emphasis is on study of nature and human beings. You will realise that geography got subjected to dualism and the wide-ranging debates started whether geography as a discipline should be a *law making/theorising* (nomothetic) or *descriptive* (idiographic).

Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology. It is not important what human beings produce and create but it is extremely important 'with the help of what tools and techniques do they produce and create'.

Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society. Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws.

To understand the earth surface in geography, which one of the following is inseparable ?

(A) Regional and Systematic
(B) Nature and Human
(C) Determinism and Possibilism
(D) Possibilism and Neo-determinism

Solution

Answer: (B) Nature and Human

Geography studies the earth as the home of human beings; nature and humans are so intertwined that they cannot be separated and must be seen holistically.

CBSE 2025 · 64/6/1 · Q16 | CBSE 2025 · 64/6/2 · Q15 | CBSE 2025 · 64/6/3 · Q17 asked 3 times 1 mark

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions no. 15 to 17.

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Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society. Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws.

The core concern of geography as a discipline is which one of the following ? Choose the most appropriate option.

(A) Earth as home of human beings
(B) Earth as home of plant kingdom
(C) Earth as home of animal world
(D) Earth as home of landforms

Solution

Answer: (A) Earth as home of human beings

The passage states it directly: the core concern of geography is to understand the earth as the home of human beings.

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CBSE 2025 · 64/6/1 · Q17 | CBSE 2025 · 64/6/2 · Q16 | CBSE 2025 · 64/6/3 · Q15 asked 3 times 1 mark

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions no. 15 to 17.

Relation Between Humans and their Physical Environment

You are already aware of the fact that the core concern of geography as a discipline is to understand the earth as home of human beings and to study all those elements, which have sustained them. Thus, emphasis is on study of nature and human beings. You will realise that geography got subjected to dualism and the wide-ranging debates started whether geography as a discipline should be a *law making/theorising* (nomothetic) or *descriptive* (idiographic).

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Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society. Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws.

Which one of the following helped human beings to develop high order of technology ? Choose the most appropriate option.

(A) Invention of fire
(B) Invention of wheel
(C) Better understanding of natural laws
(D) Better interaction with nature by advanced technology

Solution

Answer: (C) Better understanding of natural laws

The passage says human beings were able to develop technology after they developed a better understanding of natural laws (e.g. friction and heat led to fire; understanding DNA led to cures for diseases).

CBSE 2025 · 64/S/1 · Q1 | CBSE 2025 · 64/S/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2025 · 64/S/3 · Q5 asked 3 times 1 mark

"Human geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth." This definition of human geography was given by _____.

(A) Paul Vidal-de-la Blache
(B) Ratzel
(C) Ellen C. Semple
(D) Richard Hartshorne

Solution

Answer: (C) Ellen C. Semple

Ellen Churchill Semple defined human geography as "the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth".

CBSE 2025 · 64/S/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2025 · 64/S/2 · Q11 | CBSE 2025 · 64/S/3 · Q3 asked 3 times 1 mark

Which of the following statements indicate non-environmental determinism ?

(A) Adoption to the dictates of nature
(B) Harmonious relation with nature
(C) Creation of cultural landscapes
(D) Naturalisation of humans

Solution

Answer: (C) Creation of cultural landscapes

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Humans are not passive: with technology they create cultural landscapes by modifying nature (possibilism). Adoption to the dictates of nature and the naturalisation of humans describe environmental determinism (answer as per the CBSE marking scheme).

CBSE 2025 · 64/S/1 · Q3 | CBSE 2025 · 64/S/2 · Q10 | CBSE 2025 · 64/S/3 · Q4 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Which of the following metaphors do ***not*** describe the relation of humans with nature ? Choose the correct option.

(A) Eye of a cyclone
(B) Neck of the isthmus
(C) Body of moving water
(D) Face of the earth

Solution

Answer: (C) Body of moving water

The CBSE marking scheme key is (C) Body of moving water. "Eye of a cyclone", "neck of the isthmus" and "face of the earth" are the familiar metaphors that describe natural features (and the relation of humans with nature) in terms of the human body (answer as per the CBSE marking scheme).

CBSE 2023 · 64/2/1 · Q1 **1 mark**

"Human Geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface." Who among the following geographers has given this definition ?

(A) Ellen C. Semple
(B) Ratzel
(C) George B. Cressey
(D) Paul Vidal de la Blache

Solution

Answer: (B) Ratzel

Friedrich Ratzel, the German geographer who wrote *Anthropogeographie*, defined human geography as "the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface". Semple, Cressey and Vidal de la Blache gave different definitions.

CBSE 2023 · 64/2/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2023 · 64/2/2 · Q9 | CBSE 2023 · 64/2/3 · Q4 **asked 3 times** **1 mark**

Read the following approaches of human geography and choose the correct option of the chronological order :
I. Exploration and description II. Spatial organisation
III. Areal differentiation IV. Regional analysis
Options :

(A) I, II, III, IV
(B) I, III, II, IV
(C) I, IV, III, II
(D) I, IV, II, III

Solution

Answer: (C) I, IV, III, II

The approaches developed in this order: exploration and description (up to the late 15th century and after), regional analysis (from the 1930s), areal differentiation (1930s to 1950s) and spatial organisation (from the 1960s).

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CBSE 2023 · 64/2/1 · Q3 — 1 mark

Which one of the following is the sub-field of 'social geography' ?

(A) Behavioural Geography
(B) Geography of Resources
(C) Electoral Geography
(D) Geography of Tourism

Solution

Answer: (A) Behavioural Geography

Social geography has sub-fields such as behavioural geography, geography of social well-being, geography of leisure and gender geography. Geography of resources and tourism belong to economic geography, and electoral geography to political geography.

CBSE 2023 · 64/2/2 · Q1 — 1 mark

"Human geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth." Who among the following geographers given this definition ?

(A) Ellen C. Semple
(B) Ratzel
(C) George B. Cressey
(D) Paul Vidal de la Blache

Solution

Answer: (A) Ellen C. Semple

Ellen C. Semple, the American geographer, defined human geography as "the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth". The other definitions belong to Ratzel ("synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface"), Cressey and Vidal de la Blache.

CBSE 2023 · 64/2/2 · Q3 — 1 mark

Sub-field of political geography is ____.

(A) Behavioural Geography
(B) Geography of Resources
(C) Geography of Tourism
(D) Military Geography

Solution

Answer: (D) Military Geography

Political geography has sub-fields such as electoral geography and military geography. Behavioural geography is a sub-field of social geography; geography of resources and tourism belong to economic geography.

CBSE 2023 · 64/2/3 · Q1 — 1 mark

Who among the following has introduced the concept of 'Neo-determinism' ?

(A) Ellen C. Semple
(B) Ratzel
(C) Griffith Taylor
(D) Paul Vidal de-la-Blache

Solution

Answer: (C) Griffith Taylor

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Griffith Taylor, the Australian geographer, introduced 'neo-determinism' (also called "stop and go determinism"), a middle path between environmental determinism and possibilism. Semple and Ratzel were determinists; Vidal de la Blache was the founder of possibilism.

CBSE 2023 · 64/2/3 · Q3 — 1 mark

Sub-field of Economic geography is ____

(A) Election Geography
(B) Historical Geography
(C) Geography of Resources
(D) Medical Geography

Solution

Answer: (C) Geography of Resources

Economic geography has sub-fields such as geography of agriculture, industries, resources, tourism, trade and transport. Electoral geography belongs to political geography, historical geography to the regional/temporal group and medical geography to social geography.

CBSE 2019 · 64/3/1 · Q7 | CBSE 2019 · 64/3/2 · Q1 | CBSE 2019 · 64/3/3 · Q3 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Evaluate the concept introduced by Griffith Taylor.

Solution

Griffith Taylor introduced the concept of a **middle path** between environmental determinism and possibilism. He called it **neo-determinism** or **'stop and go determinism'**: neither is there absolute necessity nor absolute freedom; human beings can conquer nature by obeying it.

CBSE 2019 · 64/4/1 · Q2 | CBSE 2019 · 64/4/2 · Q3 | CBSE 2019 · 64/4/3 · Q6 — asked 3 times — 1 mark

Analyse the 'behavioural' school of thought.

Solution

The **behavioural school** laid great emphasis on **lived experiences** and also on the **perception of space** by social categories based on ethnicity, race, religion and so on.

3 marks: short answer

CBSE 2026 · 64/1/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

Examine the relationships between the ‘unresting man’ and ‘unstable earth’.

Solution

(i) The **earth is dynamic**: its physical environment keeps changing through natural processes.

(ii) **Man is also not static** but very dynamic: human activities, technology and needs keep changing.

(iii) So the relationship between the two keeps changing over time.

(iv) Humans use the resources of the physical environment: they cultivate land and build houses, roads and cities, and so greatly modify the environment.

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(v) The modified environment in turn impacts human lives. Human geography studies this changing, interactive relationship between the 'unresting man' and the 'unstable earth'.

CBSE 2026 · 64/1/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

Examine the relationships between 'human societies' and 'earth surface'.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Human geography is the synthetic study of the relationship between human societies and the earth's surface.

(ii) Nature and humans are inseparable elements and are intricately intertwined.

(iii) Both physical and human phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from human anatomy: the 'face' of the earth, 'eye' of the storm, 'mouth' of the river, 'snout' of the glacier, 'neck' of the isthmus and 'profile' of the soil.

(iv) Humans interact with their physical environment with the help of technology, while nature provides opportunities.

(v) The physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings, and it has in turn impacted human lives.

CBSE 2026 · 64/1/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

Examine the relationships between 'physical environment and human beings'.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Human geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction.

(ii) The elements of the physical environment are landforms, soils, climate, water, natural vegetation and diverse flora and fauna.

(iii) Human beings have created a cultural environment through their activities on the stage provided by the physical environment: villages, cities, industries, farms, ports, roads and other transport networks.

(iv) Human beings interact with the physical environment with the help of technology, while nature provides opportunities; the environment, modified by humans, in turn affects human life.

CBSE 2026 · 64/3/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of 'neo-determinism'.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Griffith Taylor introduced the concept of neo-determinism.

(ii) It reflects a middle path (*madhyam marg*) between the two ideas of environmental determinism and possibilism.

(iii) He termed it 'neo-determinism' or 'stop and go determinism'.

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(iv) It shows that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor a condition of absolute freedom (possibilism).

(v) It means that human beings can conquer nature by obeying it: they have to respond to the red signals, and can proceed in their pursuit of development when nature permits the modifications.

(vi) Possibilities can be created within the limits.

CBSE 2026 · 64/3/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of possibilism with example.

Solution

Any three:

(i) People begin to understand their environment and the forces of nature with the passage of time.

(ii) With social and cultural development, humans develop better and more efficient technology.

(iii) They move from a state of necessity to a state of freedom.

(iv) They create possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment.

(v) Human activities create a cultural landscape.

(vi) Example: the imprints of human activities are seen everywhere: health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the oceanic surface and satellites in space.

CBSE 2026 · 64/3/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of 'environmental determinism' with example.

Solution

Any three:

(i) In the early stages of their interaction with the natural environment, humans were greatly influenced by it.

(ii) Humans adapted to the dictates of nature.

(iii) The level of technology was very low and the stage of human social development was also primitive.

(iv) The physical environment for such a society became 'mother nature'.

(v) Humans who listened to nature were afraid of its fury and therefore worshipped it.

(vi) This type of interaction between primitive human society and the strong forces of nature was termed environmental determinism.

CBSE 2026 · 64/4/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human beings directly depend on nature for resources." Justify the statement with an example.

Solution

Any three:

(i) There is a direct relationship between households and their environment.

(ii) It belongs to primitive societies.

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(iii) They live in complete harmony with the natural environment.

(iv) Nature is a powerful force: it is worshipped, revered and conserved.

Example: hunter-gatherer and forest-dwelling communities depend directly on the forest for food, shelter and clothing.

CBSE 2026 · 64/4/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Technology indicates the level of cultural development of a society." Justify the statement with example.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed a better understanding of natural laws.

(ii) Example: the understanding of the concepts of friction and heat helped us discover fire.

(iii) Understanding of the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases.

(iv) The laws of aerodynamics were used to develop faster planes.

(v) Knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop technology, and technology loosens the shackles of the environment on human beings.

(vi) When the level of technology was low, the society was primitive.

CBSE 2026 · 64/4/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Nature and humans are inseparable elements and should be seen holistically." Justify the statement with example.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Both physical and human phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from the human anatomy.

(ii) Example: the 'face' of the earth, the 'eye' of the storm, the 'mouth' of the river, the 'snout' of the glacier, etc.

(iii) The concern is to understand the earth as the home of human beings and to study all those elements which have sustained them.

(iv) Human beings use the resources provided by the physical environment, while the physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings.

CBSE 2026 · 64/5/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the inter-relationship between physical and socio-cultural environment.

Solution

Any three:

(i) The inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment is created by human beings through mutual interaction.

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(ii) Human beings use the resources provided by the physical environment to create the socio-cultural landscape.

(iii) Houses, villages, cities, industries and other elements of material culture have been created by human beings from the various resources provided by the physical environment.

(iv) The physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings; it has in turn also affected human lives.

CBSE 2026 · 64/5/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of 'environmental determinism'.

Solution

Any three:

(i) In the early stages of human interaction with the natural environment, humans were greatly influenced by nature.

(ii) They adapted themselves to the dictates of nature.

(iii) The level of technology was very low.

(iv) The stage of human social development was primitive.

(v) At that stage of very low technological development, humans were 'naturalised'.

(vi) Humans listened to nature, were afraid of its fury, and worshipped it.

CBSE 2026 · 64/5/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of 'possibilism' in geography.

Solution

Any three:

(i) With social and cultural development, humans develop better and more efficient technology.

(ii) Humans move from a state of necessity to a state of freedom.

(iii) Humans create possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment.

(iv) Human activities create a cultural landscape.

(v) Nature gets humanised and bears the imprints of human endeavour.

CBSE 2026 · 64/7/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed a better understanding of natural laws." Justify the statement with example.

Solution

Any three:

(i) The understanding of the concepts of friction and heat helped us discover fire.

(ii) Understanding the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases.

(iii) We use the laws of aerodynamics to develop faster planes.

(iv) Knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop technology, and technology loosens the shackles of the environment on human beings.

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CBSE 2026 · 64/7/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human beings can conquer nature by obeying it." Justify the statement with examples.

Solution

Any three:

(i) This concept reflects a middle path between environmental determinism and possibilism — human beings can conquer nature by understanding and respecting its laws rather than opposing them.

(ii) Humans have to respond to the red signals given by nature; they can proceed in their pursuit of development when nature permits the modifications.

(iii) Possibilities can be created within the limits set by nature; these limits must not be crossed as doing so damages the environment.

(iv) The free run which developed economies attempted — ignoring nature's signals — has resulted in the greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion, receding glaciers and degrading land, showing why obeying nature is necessary.

CBSE 2026 · 64/7/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human geography offers a new conception of the interrelationships between earth and human beings." Justify the statement with examples.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Human geography studies the relationship between the physical environment and human societies as an integrated whole — nature and human beings are inseparable elements that must be seen holistically.

(ii) The core concern of human geography is to understand the earth as the home of human beings and to study all the elements that have sustained them: climate, landforms, water, soils, minerals and human activities.

(iii) Both physical and human phenomena interact with each other; human geography describes them together using metaphors drawn from human anatomy — for example, 'face of the earth' and 'eye of the storm' — showing how deeply human thinking is interwoven with the natural world.

(iv) Human geography offers a new conception by moving beyond a simple cause-and-effect view of environment and human life, recognising the two-way relationship in which humans both adapt to and modify their physical surroundings.

(v) Any other relevant point.

CBSE 2025 · 64/1/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2025 · 64/1/2 · Q21(a) | CBSE 2025 · 64/1/3 · Q20(a) — asked 3 times — 3 marks

"Nature and human are intricately inter-wined." Analyse the statement.

Solution

(i) Nature and humans are **inseparable elements** and should be seen holistically.

(ii) Both physical and human phenomena are described in **metaphors using symbols from the human anatomy**: the "face" of the earth, "eye" of the storm, "mouth" of the river, "snout" of the

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glacier, "neck" of the isthmus and "profile" of the soil.

(iii) Similarly, regions, villages and towns have been described as "**organisms**", and networks of roads, railways and waterways as "**arteries of circulation**".

CBSE 2025 · 64/1/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2025 · 64/1/2 · Q21(b) | CBSE 2025 · 64/1/3 · Q20(b) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"Human beings utilize the opportunities provided by nature." Analyse the statement.

Solution

(i) With time, people understand their environment and develop technology; they create **possibilities** with the resources obtained from the environment (possibilism).

(ii) Humans move from a **state of necessity to a state of freedom**.

(iii) Human activities create a **cultural landscape**: their imprints are everywhere: health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the ocean surface and satellites in space.

CBSE 2025 · 64/4/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2025 · 64/4/2 · Q21(a) | CBSE 2025 · 64/4/3 · Q20(a) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"Human geography is a highly interdisciplinary subject." Analyse the statement.

Solution

(i) Human geography attempts to explain the relationship between all elements of human life and the space over which they occur, so it assumes a **highly interdisciplinary** nature.

(ii) It develops a close interface with **sister disciplines in the social sciences** to understand and explain human elements on the surface of the earth.

(iii) With the expansion of knowledge, new sub-fields have emerged, each linked with a social science: e.g. **Urban Geography** with urban studies and planning, **Population Geography** with demography, **Economic Geography** with economics, **Political Geography** with political science, **Social Geography** with sociology.

CBSE 2025 · 64/4/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2025 · 64/4/2 · Q21(b) | CBSE 2025 · 64/4/3 · Q20(b) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"Human geography tries to explain the relationship of human beings with the physical environs of their occupance." Analyse the statement.

Solution

(i) Human geography studies the **inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment** created by human beings through mutual interaction.

(ii) The physical environment (landforms, soils, climate, water, natural vegetation, flora and fauna) provides the **stage** for human activities.

(iii) Using the resources of the physical environment, human beings have created houses, villages, cities, roads, ports, farms, industries and other elements of **material culture**.

(iv) The physical environment has been greatly modified by humans, and in turn it has affected human lives.

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CBSE 2025 · 64/5/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2025 · 64/5/2 · Q21(a) | CBSE 2025 · 64/5/3 · Q22(a) asked 3 times 3 marks

Examine the concept of naturalisation of humans.

Solution

(1) In the early stages of their interaction with their natural environment, humans were **greatly influenced by nature** and **adapted to its dictates**.
(2) The level of technology was very low and the stage of human social development was primitive; humans lived in harmony with nature and depended on it directly for their sustenance.
(3) This type of interaction between primitive human society and strong forces of nature is termed **environmental determinism**: humans listened to Nature, were afraid of its fury and worshipped it. Nature was a powerful force, revered and conserved; this is the **naturalisation of humans** (e.g. the Benda of Abujh Maad in central India, who depend on the forest).

CBSE 2025 · 64/5/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2025 · 64/5/2 · Q21(b) | CBSE 2025 · 64/5/3 · Q22(b) asked 3 times 3 marks

Examine the humanistic approach of human geography.

Solution

(1) The humanistic (welfare) school emerged in the **1970s** out of discontent with the **quantitative revolution** and its dehumanised study of geography.
(2) It is also known as the **welfare school** of thought and is mainly concerned with the different aspects of the **social well-being** of people.
(3) Its main aspects are **housing, health and education**; it emphasises the central role of human awareness, agency and creativity. Geographers have introduced it as a postgraduate course called "Geography of Social Well-being".

CBSE 2025 · 64/7/1 · Q21 3 marks

"Humans are directly dependent on natural resources to sustain them." Explain the statement with examples.

Solution

Any three:
(1) Human beings have created elements through their activities on the **stage provided by the physical environment**.
(2) With social and cultural development, humans develop **better and more efficient technology**.
(3) The **imprints of human activities** are created everywhere, e.g. health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, and fields, orchards and pastures in the plains.
(4) Houses, villages, cities, road and rail networks, industries, farms, ports, items of daily use and all other elements of material culture have been created by human beings **using the resources provided by the physical environment**.

CBSE 2025 · 64/7/2 · Q21 3 marks

Explain the regional analysis approach of human geography.

Solution

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Any three:
(1) The region is the unit of study: an **elaborate description of all aspects of a region** is undertaken.
(2) All the regions are **parts of a whole, i.e. the earth**.
(3) **Understanding the parts in totality** leads to an understanding of the whole.
(4) Regions are distinguished by their natural and human characteristics, so each region is studied for the particular blend of physical and human elements that give it an identity.

CBSE 2025 · 64/7/3 · Q21 — 3 marks

Explain the spatial organisation approach of human geography.

Solution

Any three:
(1) It started in the **late 1950s and lasted to the late 1960s**.
(2) It is marked by the use of **computers and sophisticated statistical tools**.
(3) **Laws of physics** were often applied to map and analyse human phenomena.
(4) This phase is called the **quantitative revolution**.
(5) Its main objective was to **identify mappable patterns** for different human activities.

CBSE 2024 · 64/1/1 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2024 · 64/1/2 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2024 · 64/1/3 · Q22(a) — asked 3 times — 3 marks

Explain with example the concept of environmental determinism.

Solution

(i) The interaction between primitive human society and the strong forces of nature is termed **environmental determinism**.
(ii) At that stage of very low technological development, human beings **listened to nature**, were **afraid of its fury** and **worshipped** it.
(iii) There was **direct dependence** on nature for the resources that sustained them; nature became "Mother Nature", a powerful force that was revered and conserved.
Example: a household of an economically primitive society, such as Benda of the Abujh Maad area, depends directly on the forest for food, water, medicine and shelter.

CBSE 2024 · 64/1/1 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2024 · 64/1/2 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2024 · 64/1/3 · Q22(b) — asked 3 times — 3 marks

"The dichotomy between physical and human is not a very valid one." Explain the statement with example.

Solution

(i) Nature and humans are **inseparable** elements and should be seen **holistically**.
(ii) Both physical and human phenomena are described in **metaphors using symbols from the human anatomy**: the "face" of the earth, the "eye" of the storm, the "mouth" of the river, the "snout" of a glacier, the "neck" of an isthmus and the "profile" of the soil.
(iii) Regions, villages and towns have been described as "**organisms**", and networks of roads, railways and waterways as "**arteries of circulation**".

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CBSE 2024 · 64/2/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2024 · 64/2/3 · Q20(a) asked 2 times 3 marks

How has the use of technology helped people to overcome nature's obstacles ? Analyse.

Solution

(i) With the passage of time, people begin to **understand their environment and the forces of nature**.
(ii) With social and cultural development, humans develop **better and more efficient technology**; they move from a **state of necessity to a state of freedom** and create possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment.
(iii) It is technology that has allowed people, like those of **Trondheim**, to overcome the constraints imposed by nature. The humanised nature bears the imprints of human activity everywhere: **health resorts on the highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains, ports on the coasts and satellites in space**.

CBSE 2024 · 64/2/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2024 · 64/2/3 · Q20(b) asked 2 times 3 marks

How does neo-determinism try to achieve balance between two concepts of man – environment relationship ? Analyse.

Solution

(i) Neo-determinism (Griffith Taylor) shows that there is **neither a situation of absolute necessity** (environmental determinism) **nor a condition of absolute freedom** (possibilism).
(ii) It means that human beings can **conquer nature by obeying it**.
(iii) They have to **respond to the red signals** and can proceed in their pursuits of development when nature permits the modification, just as one obeys traffic lights; possibilities can be created within limits that do not damage the environment, and there is no free run without accidents. Hence it is also called "stop and go determinism".

CBSE 2024 · 64/2/2 · Q20(a) 3 marks

Analyse the concept of environmental determinism in Human Geography.

Solution

(i) In the **early stages** of their interaction with the natural environment, humans were **greatly influenced by it**.
(ii) They **adapted to the dictates of nature**, because nature's forces were too dominant to resist.
(iii) This was so because the **level of technology was very low** and the **stage of human social development was primitive**.
(iv) Human life and activities were therefore seen as determined by the physical environment (climate, relief, vegetation); this is the idea of **environmental determinism**, as in the lives of the primitive societies of the Amazon basin or the Bushmen.

CBSE 2024 · 64/2/2 · Q20(b) 3 marks

Analyse the inter-relationship between physical and socio-cultural environment created by human beings.

Solution

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(i) With the passage of time, people begin to **understand their environment and the forces of nature**.
(ii) With social and cultural development, humans develop **better and more efficient technology**.
(iii) They move from a **state of necessity to a state of freedom** and create possibilities with the resources obtained from the physical environment.
(iv) In this way the physical (natural) environment is modified into a **socio-cultural environment** created by human beings; humanised nature bears the imprints of human activity everywhere, and the two environments are continuously interacting.

CBSE 2024 · 64/3/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Neo-determinism attempts to bring a balance between the two concepts of human-environment relationship." Examine the statement with examples.

Solution

(i) Neo-determinism shows that there is **neither a situation of absolute necessity** (environmental determinism) **nor a condition of absolute freedom** (possibilism).
(ii) It means that human beings can **conquer nature by obeying it**.
(iii) They have to **respond to the red signals** and can proceed in their pursuits of development when nature permits the modification.
(iv) Possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment.
(v) Example: in cities, traffic is regulated by lights at the cross roads: **red means stop, amber gives a gap between red and green to get set, and green means go**. Hence it is also called "stop and go determinism".

CBSE 2024 · 64/3/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Nature and humans are inseparable elements." Examine the statement with examples.

Solution

(i) Both physical and human phenomena are described in **metaphors using symbols from human anatomy**.
(ii) Examples: the **face of the earth, eye of the storm, mouth of the river, snout of the glacier, neck of the isthmus and profile of the soil**.
(iii) Similarly, regions, villages and towns have been described as **organisms**; German geographers describe the state or country as a living organism.
(iv) Human beings use the **resources provided by the physical environment** and also greatly modify it; the physical environment in turn impacts human lives. Thus the two cannot be separated.

CBSE 2024 · 64/3/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human Geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface." Examine the statement with examples.

Solution

(i) Human geography studies the **inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment** created by human beings through mutual interaction with each

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other.
(ii) Elements of the physical environment are **landforms, soils, climate, water, natural vegetation and diverse flora and fauna**, which provide resources for human beings.
(iii) **Houses, villages, cities, road-rail networks, industries, farms** and all other elements of material culture have been created using the resources provided by the physical environment.
(iv) The physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings, and has in turn impacted human lives.
(v) Physical and human phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from human anatomy, like the **eye of the cyclone, mouth of the river**.

CBSE 2024 · 64/4/1 · Q22 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of 'Humanisation of Nature' by giving examples.

Solution

(i) With the passage of time, people begin to **understand their environment and the forces of nature**.
(ii) With social and cultural development, humans develop **better and more efficient technology**.
(iii) They move from a **state of necessity to a state of freedom**.
(iv) They create **possibilities** with the resources obtained from the environment; human activities create a cultural landscape.
(v) The imprints of human activities are everywhere, e.g. **health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the oceanic surface and satellites in space**.

CBSE 2024 · 64/4/2 · Q22 — 3 marks

Explain with examples the concept of 'Naturalisation of Human'.

Solution

(i) Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of **technology**.
(ii) Technology indicates the **level of cultural development** of a society.
(iii) Human beings were able to develop technology only after they developed a **better understanding of natural laws**.
(iv) Examples: the understanding of the concepts of **friction and heat** helped us discover **fire**, and the secrets of **DNA and genetics** enabled us to conquer many diseases.

CBSE 2024 · 64/4/3 · Q22 — 3 marks

"Human beings can conquer nature by obeying it." Analyse the statement in context of relation between human and nature.

Solution

(i) The concept (neo-determinism) shows that there is **neither a situation of absolute necessity nor a condition of absolute freedom**.
(ii) Human beings have to **respond to the red signals** and can proceed in their pursuits of development when nature permits the modifications.
(iii) **Possibilities can be created within the limits** which do not damage the environment, and

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there is **no free run without accidents**; just as traffic lights in a city (red: stop, amber: get set, green: go) regulate traffic.

CBSE 2024 · 64/5/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2024 · 64/5/2 · Q22(a) | CBSE 2024 · 64/5/3 · Q20(a) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"Nature and human are inseparable elements in all geographical studies." Examine the statement.

Solution

(i) All geographical studies emphasise the study of **nature and human beings**.
(ii) Both physical and human phenomena are described using **symbols from human anatomy**.
(iii) Regions, villages and towns have been described, and the state or country as a **living organism**.
(iv) The network of roads, railways and waterways has often been described as the **arteries of circulation**.

CBSE 2024 · 64/5/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2024 · 64/5/2 · Q22(b) | CBSE 2024 · 64/5/3 · Q20(b) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

Examine the main aspects of environmental determinism.

Solution

(i) There is always an **interaction between humans and natural phenomena**.
(ii) Primitive societies were **intimately dependent on nature** for food and other resources.
(iii) We can imagine the presence of a **naturalised human** who listened to nature, was afraid of its fury and worshipped it.
(iv) Strong forces of nature always guided human activities.
(v) This relation was termed **environmental determinism**.

CBSE 2024 · 64/S/1 · Q20 **3 marks**

"Nature provides opportunities and human beings make use of these and slowly nature gets humanised." Examine the statement.

Solution

Any three:

(i) With social and cultural development, humans developed better and more efficient technology to use natural resources.

(ii) They move from a state of necessity (environmental determinism) to a state of freedom (possibilism).

(iii) They create possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment, transforming them into cultural resources.

(iv) The human activities created cultural landscape — the imprints of human activities are seen everywhere: health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and ports.

(v) Thus nature provides raw materials (opportunities) and human ingenuity converts them into usable forms, gradually humanising nature.

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CBSE 2024 · 64/S/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

"In the early stages of development, the primitive societies were highly influenced by nature and adapted to its dictates." Examine the statement.

Solution

Any three:

(i) Primitive societies were greatly influenced by and interwoven with nature; they depended entirely on natural conditions for their existence.

(ii) They always responded to the call of nature — moving with seasons, following rains and rivers.

(iii) They worshipped nature and adapted themselves to the natural environment in which they lived.

(iv) They were directly dependent on nature for resources to sustain themselves — food, shelter, clothing all came from the immediate natural surroundings.

(v) This close dependence on nature is called environmental determinism: the view that human life and activities are controlled by the physical environment.

CBSE 2024 · 64/S/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

"The core concern of geography as a discipline is to understand the earth as the home of mankind." Examine the statement.

Solution

Any three:

(i) The emphasis of geography is on the study of nature and human beings together — the relationship between the physical environment and human societies.

(ii) Geography studies all those elements that sustain mankind: climate, landforms, water, soils, minerals and human activities.

(iii) Both the components of geography — physical geography and human geography — study the interaction between the physical world and the human world.

(iv) The reach of geography is extensive: each and every event or phenomenon that varies over space and time can be studied geographically.

(v) By understanding the earth as the home of humanity, geography works towards sustainable use of natural resources and equitable human development.

CBSE 2023 · 64/1/1 · Q20(a) | CBSE 2023 · 64/1/2 · Q23(a) | CBSE 2023 · 64/1/3 · Q23(a) — asked 3 times — 3 marks

"Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws." Evaluate the statement in the context of naturalization of humans.

Solution

(i) Technology indicates the level of cultural development of a society, and humans could develop it only after they understood the laws of nature.

(ii) For example, understanding friction and heat helped us discover fire; understanding the secrets of DNA and genetics enables us to conquer many diseases; the laws of aerodynamics are used to develop faster planes.

(iii) In the early stages of their interaction with nature, when technology was primitive, humans

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were greatly influenced by the natural environment, adapted to its dictates and feared and worshipped it. This is the **naturalisation of humans** (environmental determinism). As knowledge of nature grew, technology loosened the shackles of the environment on human beings.

CBSE 2023 · 64/1/1 · Q20(b) | CBSE 2023 · 64/1/2 · Q23(b) | CBSE 2023 · 64/1/3 · Q23(b) **asked 3 times** 3 marks

"The imprints of human activities are created everywhere." Evaluate the statement in context of humanization of nature.

Solution

(i) With the passage of time people begin to understand their environment and the forces of nature, and with social and cultural development they develop better and more efficient technology.
(ii) They move from a state of necessity to a state of **freedom** and create possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment (possibilism).
(iii) Human activities create a cultural landscape, so their imprints are everywhere: health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in the plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the ocean surface and satellites in space. Nature is thus humanised.

CBSE 2023 · 64/3/1 · Q20 3 marks

"The strong forces of nature used to control the human activities in the primitive societies." Examine the statement.

Solution

(i) In the early stages of development, primitive societies were **controlled by the forces of nature**.
(ii) At that stage the level of technology was very low.
(iii) People were afraid of the fury of nature and worshipped it (sun, rain, rivers, forests); they adapted to the natural environment, which is called **naturalisation of humans** (environmental determinism).
(iv) Their food, clothing, shelter and occupations were all decided by the local climate, relief and resources, so humans were completely naturalised.

CBSE 2023 · 64/3/2 · Q20 3 marks

"Nature and humans are inseparable in all geographical studies." Examine the statement.

Solution

(i) Geography lays emphasis on the **study of natural phenomena** and of humans together; it studies the Earth as the home of mankind.
(ii) Certain geographical phenomena are considered like parts of the human body: humans are a part of nature, and nature shapes human life through climate, relief and resources.
(iii) Humans and nature **impact each other**: humans modify the environment with technology (cultural landscape), and the environment influences human activities.
(iv) Hence, humans and nature cannot be separated, and geographical studies must treat them together.

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CBSE 2023 · 64/3/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain the main characteristics of Neodeterminism.

Solution

(i) The concept shows that neither is there a situation of **absolute necessity** (determinism) nor a condition of **absolute freedom** (possibilism); human beings conquer nature by obeying it.
(ii) Possibilities can be created within the limits that **do not damage the environment**.
(iii) Neodeterminism, put forward by Griffith Taylor and called "stop and go determinism", conceptually attempts to bring a **balance** and nullify the either-or dichotomy.
(iv) Like a red traffic light, nature allows humans to go on only when they obey its limits; the middle path between determinism and possibilism.

CBSE 2023 · 64/4/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

"The basic emphasis is laid on the relationship between nature and human beings in all geographical studies." Explain the statement.

Solution

(i) The Earth is the home of mankind, and geography studies it as such.
(ii) All natural phenomena (climate, relief, soils, vegetation) that take place affect human beings.
(iii) Humans also modify the natural environment with technology and create a cultural landscape.
(iv) There is thus an inter-relationship between nature and humans, so every geographical study is concerned with both.

CBSE 2023 · 64/4/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws." Explain the statement.

Solution

(i) Human beings interact with the physical environment with the help of **technology**.
(ii) Technology indicates the level of **cultural development** of a society.
(iii) With a better understanding of natural laws, man can develop technology.
(iv) For example, the concepts of **heat and friction** led to the discovery of fire; by understanding the secret of **DNA**, man can conquer many diseases; by understanding the laws of **aerodynamics**, man has developed faster planes.

CBSE 2023 · 64/4/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

Explain Systematic or Regional approach to the study of Geography.

Solution

Systematic approach: all geographical phenomena are studied over the whole country or continent (or the world) one topic at a time, for example climate, population or agriculture; it is basically a topical approach. It was developed by Alexander von Humboldt.
Regional approach: the country, continent or world is divided into various regions and each region is thoroughly studied, taking all geographical phenomena together; it was developed by

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Karl Ritter.
(To be assessed as a whole.)

CBSE 2023 · 64/5/1 · Q20 — 3 marks

"Human Geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and unstable earth." Support the statement.

Solution

(i) Natural elements such as landforms, soils and climate keep on **changing with time and space**.
(ii) Humans also respond to such changes accordingly.
(iii) As natural phenomena change, human activities change accordingly.
(iv) Nature and humans are **inseparable** elements and should be seen holistically.
(v) Humans have to adjust with the changing nature of the Earth, and this correlation has been and will remain in future. This definition was given by Ellen C. Semple.

CBSE 2023 · 64/5/2 · Q20 — 3 marks

"The basic principle of Geography as a discipline is to understand the earth as a home of mankind." Support the statement.

Solution

(i) It is true that the Earth is the **home of human beings**.
(ii) Geography is the study of all the elements on the Earth (landforms, climate, soils, water, vegetation) that **sustain mankind**.
(iii) Nature and humans are **inseparable** and are studied together.
(iv) The basic emphasis is on the study of nature and human beings and their interrelationship.

CBSE 2023 · 64/5/3 · Q20 — 3 marks

"The physical and human phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from human anatomy." Support the statement with example.

Solution

Geographers use **symbols from human anatomy** to describe physical and human phenomena.
Examples:
(i) **Eye** of the cyclone.
(ii) **Snout** of a glacier.
(iii) **Neck** of an isthmus.
(iv) The **state as a living organism**.
(v) Network of roads and railways as the **arteries** of circulation.

CBSE 2019 · 64/1/1 · Q8 — 3 marks

"Physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings, it has also, in turn impacted human lives." Explain the statement.

Solution

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(i) Human geography studies the interrelationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment that human beings create through mutual interaction. (ii) The physical environment sets the stage for human beings to act upon it. Using the resources nature provides, humans have built houses, roads, parks, industries, ports and cities, and so modified it greatly. (iii) The environment in turn impacts human lives. Climate, relief, soils and water decide where people live, what they grow and wear, and their occupations. Floods, droughts and pollution caused by misuse of nature affect health and livelihoods.

CBSE 2019 · 64/1/2 · Q8 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of environmental determinism with examples.

Solution

(i) **Environmental determinism** is the type of interaction between primitive human society and the strong forces of nature, in which nature controls human life. (ii) The level of technology was very low, so humans adapted to the dictates of nature: they were afraid of its fury and worshipped it. (iii) Example: the life of tribal communities such as Benda in the Abujh Maad area of central India still depends directly on nature, for food, shelter, medicine and clothing (the "naturalisation of humans").

CBSE 2019 · 64/1/3 · Q8 — 3 marks

Explain the concept of 'Possibilism' with suitable examples.

Solution

(i) With the passage of time people begin to **understand their environment** and the forces of nature. (ii) With social and cultural development, humans develop better and more **efficient technology**, and move from a state of necessity to a **state of freedom**: they create possibilities with the resources of the environment. (iii) Examples of this humanised nature are **health resorts on highlands**, huge urban sprawls, fields and orchards in plains and rolling hills, pastures, ports on the coasts, and satellites in space.

CBSE 2019 · 64/2/1 · Q8(a) | CBSE 2019 · 64/2/2 · Q11(a) | CBSE 2019 · 64/2/3 · Q13(a) — asked 3 times — 3 marks

"Human beings are directly dependent on nature for resources which sustain them." Examine the statement.

Solution

(i) Primitive human societies lived in **complete harmony** with their natural environment. (ii) Nature was a powerful force: it was worshipped, revered and conserved, and the physical environment became "Mother Nature" for such societies. (iii) Their level of technology was very low, so they depended directly on nature for food, water, shelter, medicine and clothing, as the Benda tribe of the Abujh Maad area in central India still does.

CBSE 2019 · 64/2/1 · Q8(b) | CBSE 2019 · 64/2/2 · Q11(b) | CBSE 2019 · 64/2/3 · Q13(b) — asked 3 times — 3 marks

"The knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop technology." Examine the statement.

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Solution

(i) Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society, and it develops only after human beings understand **natural laws**. (ii) Understanding the concepts of **friction and heat** helped us discover fire; understanding the secrets of **DNA and genetics** enabled us to conquer many diseases. (iii) We use the **laws of aerodynamics** to develop faster planes. So knowledge about nature is the base on which technology is built.

CBSE 2019 · 64/5/1 · Q8(a) | CBSE 2019 · 64/5/2 · Q10(a) | CBSE 2019 · 64/5/3 · Q13(a) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"There is neither a situation of absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (possibilism)." Analyse this concept with example.

Solution

(i) This concept was introduced by **Griffith Taylor** and is known as **neo-determinism** ('stop and go determinism'). (ii) It reflects a **middle path** between environmental determinism and possibilism. (iii) People have to respond to the red signals of nature and can proceed for development when the green signal is given. (iv) Nature permits **modification in a limited way**. (v) The free run which the developed economies attempted has already resulted in **environmental problems such as the greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion and receding glaciers**, so humans must balance nature and development.

CBSE 2019 · 64/5/1 · Q8(b) | CBSE 2019 · 64/5/2 · Q10(b) | CBSE 2019 · 64/5/3 · Q13(b) **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"The physical environment for primitive societies becomes 'Mother Nature'." Analyse the statement.

Solution

(i) Tribal (primitive) societies live in **harmony with nature**. (ii) There is **direct dependence of human beings on nature** for the resources which sustain them. (iii) Nature is a **powerful force**, so it is worshipped and conserved. (iv) Nature is like a **mother** to them because they depend totally on it.

CBSE 2018 · 64/1 · Q8 | CBSE 2018 · 64/2 · Q13 | CBSE 2018 · 64/3 · Q11 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"The primitive communities lived in complete harmony with their natural environment and as such the humans were naturalised." Support the statement.

Solution

(i) Primitive societies lived in **complete harmony with their natural environment**. (ii) Nature was a **powerful force**, which was **worshipped, revered and conserved**. (iii) There was **direct dependence of human beings on nature** for the resources which sustain them. (iv) People were afraid of the **fury of nature** and had very little technology, so they were naturalised by their environment. (Any three points, one mark each.)

CBSE 2017 · 64/1/1 · Q12 | CBSE 2017 · 64/1/2 · Q8 | CBSE 2017 · 64/1/3 · Q10 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

“Nature and humans are inseparable elements”. Justify the statement with suitable examples. (3 × 1 = 3)

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Solution

(i) The earth is the home of mankind, and nature provides all types of life support: air, water, food, shelter and raw materials. Humans depend directly on nature. (ii) Humans in turn modify nature with the help of technology, by building houses, farms, roads and cities. So nature and humans are interwoven and should be seen **holistically**. (iii) Their closeness shows even in our language: physical features are described with metaphors from the human body, e.g. the **face** of the earth, the **eye** of a storm, the **mouth** of a river, the **snout (nose)** of a glacier, the **neck** of an isthmus and the **profile** of a soil.

CBSE 2017 · 64/1 · Q12 | CBSE 2017 · 64/2 · Q10 | CBSE 2017 · 64/3 · Q8 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"Nature provides opportunities and humans make use of these and slowly nature gets humanised and starts bearing the imprints of human endeavour." Justify the statement. (3 × 1 = 3)

Solution

Any three: (i) With time, people begin to **understand their environment** and the forces of nature. (ii) With **social and cultural development**, humans develop better and more efficient technology. (iii) They move from a **state of necessity to a state of freedom**. (iv) They create **possibilities** with the resources obtained from the environment. (v) Human activities create a **cultural landscape**: health resorts, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts and satellites in space bear the imprints of human activity.

CBSE 2017 · 64/2/1 · Q11 | CBSE 2017 · 64/2/2 · Q8 | CBSE 2017 · 64/2/3 · Q10 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"Possibilities can be created within the limit, which do not damage the environment and there is no free run without accidents." Analyse the statement.

Solution

The statement explains **neo-determinism (stop-and-go determinism)** given by Griffith Taylor. (i) Humans developed technology after they understood natural laws better; technology loosens the shackles of the environment, but people can create possibilities only by **obeying nature**. (ii) Like traffic lights, humans must **respond to the red signals** of nature and proceed with development only when nature permits modifications. (iii) A **free run** or reckless use of nature leads to 'accidents': the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, global warming, receding glaciers and degraded lands. So development must stay within limits that do not damage the environment.

CBSE 2016 · 64/1/1 · Q8 | CBSE 2016 · 64/1/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2016 · 64/1/3 · Q13 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"The nature and human beings are so intricately intertwined that they can't be separated." Substantiate the statement. (3 × 1 = 3)

Solution

Any three: (i) Nature and humans are **inseparable**. (ii) In the natural environment humans have created a **social and cultural environment** through mutual interaction with it. (iii) Physical and human phenomena are often described in metaphors such as **face of the earth, eye of the storm, mouth of the river, snout of the glacier and profile of the soil**. (iv) All these natural

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elements are inseparable from human beings, who depend on nature for food, water, shelter and raw materials, and modify it with technology.

CBSE 2016 · 64/1 · Q8 | CBSE 2016 · 64/2 · Q10 | CBSE 2016 · 64/3 · Q12 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

"The knowledge and understanding of the laws of nature are extremely valuable to humankind". Explain the values that can help to use the gifts of nature in a sustainable manner. (3)

Solution

A value-based question, assessed as a whole. Points: (i) Better knowledge of the laws of nature gives us a **better understanding of the environment** and how to use it. (ii) Understanding of **friction and heat helped in the discovery of fire**. (iii) We use the **laws of aerodynamics** to build faster planes. (iv) Knowing these laws, humans can use nature's gifts without harming it. Values: **harmony with the natural environment**, respect for nature, responsibility towards future generations, and judicious (careful) use of resources. (If the student writes his own understanding of the laws of nature, marks are awarded.)

CBSE 2016 · 64/2/1 · Q8 | CBSE 2016 · 64/2/2 · Q12 | CBSE 2016 · 64/2/3 · Q10 **asked 3 times** **3 marks**

Examine the concept of Neodeterminism with example. (3 × 1 = 3)

Solution

Any three: (i) Neo-determinism (stop-and-go determinism, coined by Griffith Taylor) is a **middle path between determinism and possibilism**. (ii) It shows that **neither is there a situation of absolute necessity nor a condition of absolute freedom**. (iii) It means that humans can **conquer nature by obeying it**. (iv) It also conveys that **possibilities can be created within limits which do not damage the environment**, and there is no free run without accidents. Example: like a traffic signal, humans must respond to the red signals of nature and go ahead only when nature permits; reckless use of nature brings problems such as global warming and ozone depletion.

5 marks: long answer

CBSE 2023 · 64/C/1 · Q27 **5 marks**

Explain how geography, as a field of study, is integrative, empirical and practical.

Solution

(i) The reach of geography is extensive: every event or phenomenon which varies over space and time can be studied geographically.
(ii) The earth comprises two major components: nature (the physical environment) and life forms including human beings.
(iii) Physical geography studies the physical environment, and human geography studies the relationship between the natural and the human worlds, the spatial distribution of human phenomena and the social and economic differences between different parts of the world; so geography is **integrative**.
(iv) It is **empirical**, as it is based on observation and fieldwork, and **practical**, as its knowledge is applied to planning and solving problems.

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(v) The core concern of geography is to understand the earth as the home of human beings and to study all the elements that have sustained them; geography was subjected to dualism (nomothetic versus idiographic approaches) and has remained a broad integrating discipline.

CBSE 2023 · 64/C/2 · Q27 — 5 marks

"Human geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical and socio-cultural environment." Support the statement.

Solution

(i) Human geography studies the **inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment** created by human beings through mutual interaction.
(ii) The **natural elements** are landforms, soils, climate, water, natural vegetation and diverse flora and fauna.
(iii) Human beings, through their activities on the stage provided by the physical environment, have created **houses, villages, cities, road and rail networks, industries, farms, ports**, items of daily use and all other elements of material culture, using the resources provided by the physical environment.
(iv) While the physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings, it has also, in turn, **impacted human lives**.
(v) Hence human geography studies this two-way relationship (naturalisation of humans and humanisation of nature).

CBSE 2023 · 64/C/3 · Q27 — 5 marks

"Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology." Support the statement.

Solution

(i) Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology. It is not important what they produce and create, but **with the help of what tools and techniques** they produce and create.
(ii) Technology indicates the **level of cultural development** of a society.
(iii) Humans were able to develop technology after they developed a better understanding of **natural laws**: understanding of friction and heat helped us discover fire; understanding of the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases; the laws of aerodynamics are used to develop faster planes.
(iv) Knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop technology, and technology **loosens the shackles of the environment** on human beings.
(v) In the early stages, when technology was primitive, humans were greatly influenced by nature (naturalisation of humans); with better technology they modify nature (humanisation of nature).

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CBSE BOARD PAPER

2026 · Q.P. Code 64/1/1

Time: 3 hours
Maximum marks: 70

1. Which of the following statements related to the concept of 'development' are correct ? Choose the appropriate option. 1

I. Development means positive change in life.
II. When positive growth is there, it is development.
III. When quantity is greater, it is development.
IV. Development is always relative to value.

Options :

(A) Only I, II and III are correct.
(B) Only I, II and IV are correct.
(C) Only I, III and IV are correct.
(D) Only II, III and IV are correct.

2. Match column-I with column-II correctly and choose the appropriate option : 1

Column-I (Approach)	Column-II (Characteristics)
a. Income Approach	i. Proposed by International Labour Organisation
b. Welfare Approach	ii. Health, education and access to resources – key factors
c. Basic Needs Approach	iii. It is one of the oldest approach
d. Capability Approach	iv. Human being – targeted beneficiaries

Options :

	a	b	c	d
(A)	ii	i	iv	iii
(B)	ii	i	iii	iv
(C)	iii	iv	ii	i
(D)	iii	iv	i	ii

3. Which one of the following is the low latitudes zone of subsistence gathering practiced in the world ? 1

(A) Northern Canada
(B) Northern Eurasia
(C) Southeast Asia
(D) Southeast Chile

4. Choose the correct option related to oil tanker ports of the world. 1

(A) Maracaibo, Tripoli, Singapore
(B) Esskhira, Singapore, Manchester
(C) Maracaibo, Esskhira, Tripoli
(D) Manchester, Esskhira, Marmagao

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5. Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct option : 1

Assertion (A) : All the developed countries have opened their markets for products from developing countries.

Reason (R) : World Trade Organisation deals with the global rules of trade between nations.

Options :

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is **not** the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true but (R) is false.

(D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

6. Read the following statements carefully regarding 'tertiary activities' and choose the correct option : 1

I. Tertiary activities include both production and exchange of services.

II. Tertiary activities involve the commercial output of services.

III. Tertiary activities are directly involved in the processing of raw material.

IV. The examples of tertiary activities are – plumber, doctor, publisher.

Options :

(A) Only I, II and III are correct.

(B) Only I, II and IV are correct.

(C) Only I, III and IV are correct.

(D) Only II, III and IV are correct.

7. Choose the correctly matched pair from the following. 1

(A) Red collar worker – Practicing lawyers

(B) Gold collar worker – Senior business executive

(C) Pink collar worker – Environmental scientist

(D) White collar worker – Mining worker

8. Which one of the following statements is true regarding 'medical tourism' in India ? 1

(A) Tourists travel specially for availing cheap medical facilities.

(B) Doctors travel to developed country to do surgical operation.

(C) Doctors travel to treat the patients.

(D) Tourists on trip get treated, if they fall ill.

9. Choose the right group of states where Dravadian language is spoken majorly. 1

(A) Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra

(B) Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

(C) Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka

(D) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh

10. During which one of the following phase of population growth in India, negative growth was recorded in a decade ? 1

(A) Phase I

(B) Phase II

(C) Phase III

(D) Phase IV

11. Which one of the following set of cities falling on the 'Golden Quadrilateral' are arranged in a clock-wise direction from Delhi ? 1

(A) Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai

(B) Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai

(C) Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata

(D) Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai

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12. Which one of the following cities serve as headquarter of two railway zones ? 1

(A) Kolkata (B) Chennai

(C) Jaipur (D) Bilaspur

13. Which one of the following is a natural process of land degradation ? 1

(A) Mining activities (B) Gully erosion

(C) Industrial waste (D) Shifting cultivation

14. The loudness of the sound is measured in the unit known as : 1

(A) Millimeter (B) Centimeter

(C) Decimal (D) Decibel

15. Study the following table carefully and answer Question Nos. **15** to **17**. 1

Most populous countries

Sr. No.	Country	Population	% of world
1	India	1,425,775,850	17.4
2	China	1,409,670,000	17.2
3	United States of America	337,975,234	4.13
4	Indonesia	278,696,200	3.41
5	Pakistan	229,488,994	2.80
6	Nigeria	216,746,934	2.65
7	Brazil	219,277,799	2.68
8	Bangladesh	168,220,000	2.06
9	Mexico	128,271,248	1.57

How many of the listed countries fall under Asian continent ?

(A) 3 (B) 4

(C) 5 (D) 6

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16. Study the following table carefully and answer Question Nos. **15** to **17**. 1

Most populous countries

Sr. No.	Country	Population	% of world
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2	China	1,409,670,000	17.2
3	United States of America	337,975,234	4.13
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6	Nigeria	216,746,934	2.65
7	Brazil	219,277,799	2.68
8	Bangladesh	168,220,000	2.06
9	Mexico	128,271,248	1.57

Which of the following set of continents is **not** represented in the table ? Choose the most appropriate option.

(A) Australia and Africa
(B) Africa and South America
(C) Europe and South America
(D) Australia and Europe

17. Study the following table carefully and answer Question Nos. **15** to **17**. 1

Most populous countries

Sr. No.	Country	Population	% of world
1	India	1,425,775,850	17.4
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7	Brazil	219,277,799	2.68
8	Bangladesh	168,220,000	2.06
9	Mexico	128,271,248	1.57

China and Brazil together account for what percentage of the world population ?

(A) 17.88
(B) 17.58
(C) 19.88
(D) 19.58

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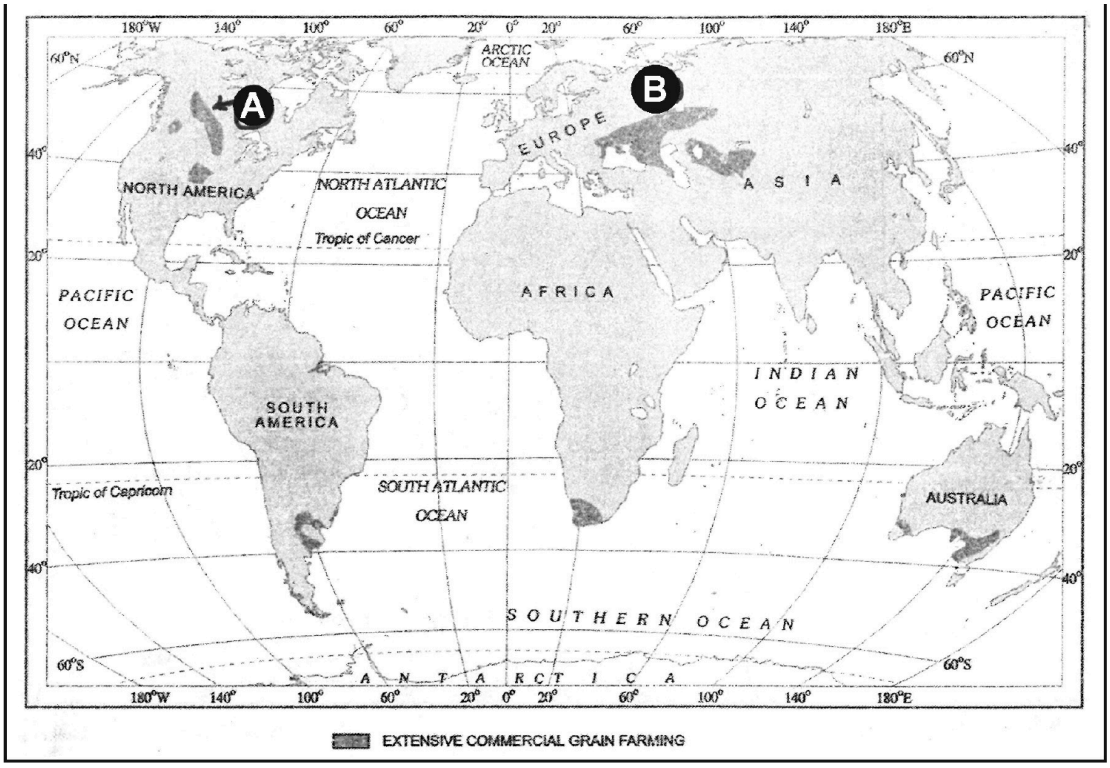
18. Study the map showing areas of 'extensive commercial grains farming' carefully and answer questions that follow : 3



(18.1) Write the geographical name of the area marked as Ⓐ **1**
(18.2) Name any two major crops grown in the region Ⓐ **½ + ½ = 1**
(18.3) Explain the agricultural importance of the area marked as Ⓑ **1**

Note : The following question is for the **Visually Impaired Candidates** only in lieu of Question No. **18**

Explain the main characteristics of 'extensive commercial grain farming' in the world. **3**

19. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 3

Water Pollution

Industries produce several undesirable products including industrial wastes, polluted waste water, poisonous gases, chemical residuals, numerous heavy metals, dust, smoke, etc. Most of the industrial wastes are disposed off in running water or lakes. Consequently, poisonous elements reach the reservoirs, rivers and other water bodies, which destroy the bio-system of these waters. Major water polluting industries are leather, pulp and paper, textiles and chemicals.

(19.1) Explain how industries are the major contributor of water pollution in India. **1**
(19.2) Suggest the way for minimising water pollution. **1**
(19.3) Mention two rivers of India which are highly polluted. **½ + ½ = 1**

20. Examine the relationships between the 'unresting man' and 'unstable earth'. 3

21. Examine the importance of 'sustainability' as a pillar of 'human development'. 3

22. **(a)** Explain the main characteristics of urban settlements in India. 3

OR

(b) Explain the evolution of towns in India. 3

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23. Study the following table carefully and answer the questions that follow : 3

Sectoral composition of workforce in India, 2011

Categories	Population			
	Persons	% to total workers	Male	Female
Primary	26,30,22,473	54.6	16,54,47,075	9,75,75,398
Secondary	1,83,36,307	3.8	97,75,635	85,60,672
Tertiary	20,03,84,531	41.6	15,66,43,220	4,37,41,311

(23.1) Why is the large difference between primary and tertiary categories of female workers ? **1**

(23.2) Explain the reason of low variation between male workers of 'primary' and 'tertiary' sectors. **1**

(23.3) Why 'secondary sector' has low contribution in India's workforce ? **1**

24. "Industries should be located at points where the production costs are minimum." Examine the statement with suitable arguments. 5

25. **(a)** "Railway is the mode of land transport for bulky goods and passengers over long distances." In the context of this statement, explain the significance of railways in the world. 5

OR

(b) "Road transport is the most economical for short distances compared to railway." In the context of this statement, explain the significance of road transport in the world. 5

26. **(a)** "Generally land-use in a region is influenced by the nature of economic activities." Support the statement with suitable examples. 5

OR

(b) "The Indian agricultural problems have physical constraints and institutional hindrances." Support the statement with suitable examples. 5

27. **(a)** Explain the significance of petroleum as major source of energy and describe its distribution in India. **3 + 2 = 5** 5

OR

(b) Explain the significance of iron-ore as industrial raw material and describe its distribution in India. **3 + 2 = 5** 5

28. **(a)** Analyse the importance of Indian seaports in the development of international trade. 5

OR

(b) Analyse the changing pattern of India's international trade. 5

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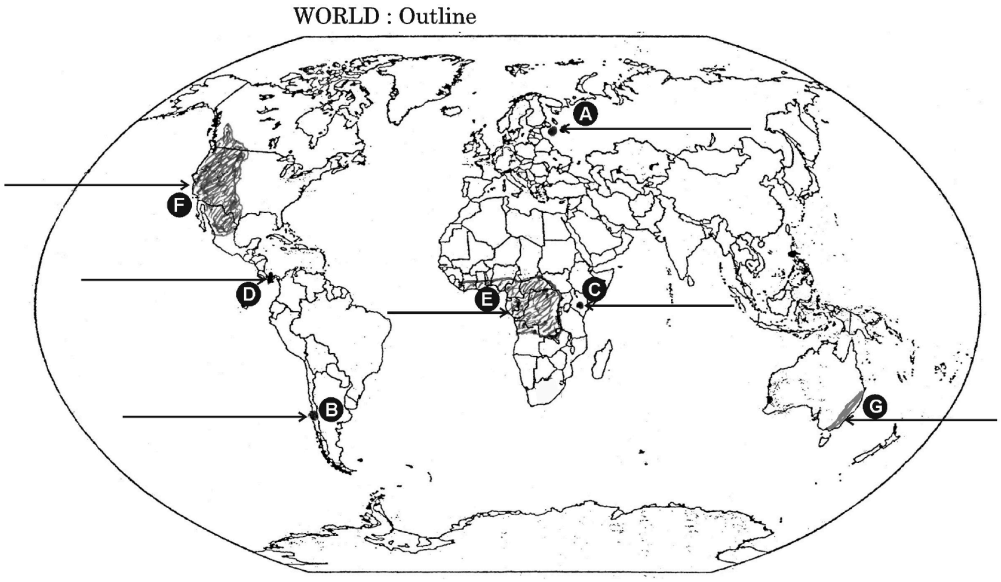
29. In the given political outline map of the world, seven geographical features have been marked as A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Identify any **five** of them with the help of following information and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them : **5 × 1 = 5** 5



प्रश्न सं. **29** के लिए मानचित्र
Map for Q. No. **29**

A. A terminal station of Trans-Siberian Railway
B. A major sea port
C. A major air port
D. An international shipping canal
E. An area of 'subsistence gathering'
F. An area of 'commercial livestock rearing'
G. An area of 'dairy farming'

Note : The following questions are for the **Visually Impaired Candidates** only in lieu of Question No. **29**. Attempt any **five**. **5 × 1 = 5**

29.1 Name the westernmost terminal station of Trans-Siberian Railway.
29.2 Mention a major sea port on the western coast of South America.
29.3 Mention an international airport of Kenya.
29.4 Name the shipping canal joining Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
29.5 Mention one major region of 'subsistence gathering' in Africa.
29.6 Name a major area of 'commercial livestock rearing' in United States of America.
29.7 Name the major area of 'dairy farming' in North America.

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30. On the given political outline map of India, locate and label any **five** of the following seven geographical features with appropriate symbols : **5 × 1 = 5** 5

30.1 A state with the highest density of population (2011).
30.2 A state leading in the production of tea.
30.3 An iron-ore mining area in southern Chhattisgarh.
30.4 A major area of bauxite mining in Odisha.
30.5 An oil refinery in Uttar Pradesh.
30.6 A major seaport located at the head of Gulf of Kuchchh.
30.7 An international airport in Punjab.

Note : The following questions are for the visually impaired candidates only in lieu of Question No. **30**. Attempt any **five**. **5 × 1 = 5**

30.1 Name the state with the highest density of population (2011).
30.2 Which state is leading in tea production ?
30.3 Name any one iron-ore mining area in Chhattisgarh.
30.4 Mention one bauxite mining area in Odisha.
30.5 Name the place where oil refinery is located in Uttar Pradesh.
30.6 Name the major sea port located on the head of Gulf of Kuchchh.
30.7 Name the place where an international airport is located in Punjab.

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Q1 **Answer: (B) Only I, II and IV are correct.**

Development means a qualitative change that is always value-positive, so it happens when there is positive growth. A larger quantity alone (III) is growth, not development.

Q2 **Answer: (D) a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii**

The income approach is one of the oldest; the welfare approach sees human beings as beneficiaries (targets) of development activities; the basic needs approach was proposed by the ILO; the capability approach (Prof. Amartya Sen) builds human capabilities in health, education and access to resources.

Q3 **Answer: (C) Southeast Asia**

Gathering is practised in high latitude zones (northern Canada, northern Eurasia, southern Chile) and in low latitude zones (Amazon basin, tropical Africa, northern fringe of Australia and the interior parts of Southeast Asia).

Q4 **Answer: (C) Maracaibo, Esskhira, Tripoli**

Maracaibo (Venezuela), Esskhira (Tunisia) and Tripoli (Lebanon) are oil ports. Singapore is an entrepot port, Manchester is an inland port and Marmagao is an iron-ore port.

Q5 **Answer: (D) (A) is false but (R) is true.**

A major criticism of the WTO is that developed countries have not fully opened their markets to products from developing countries. The WTO does lay down the global rules of trade between nations.

Q6 **Answer: (B) Only I, II and IV are correct.**

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Tertiary activities provide services; they are not directly involved in processing raw material (that is a secondary activity).

Q7 **Answer: (B) Gold collar worker – Senior business executive**

Gold collar workers are the highly paid senior executives, government officials, scientists and financial and legal consultants who take decisions (quinary activities).

Q8 **Answer: (A) Tourists travel specially for availing cheap medical facilities.**

Medical tourism is international travel made specially for treatment; many patients come to India because good treatment costs far less here than in developed countries.

Q9 **Answer: (C) Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka**

Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada (and Telugu) are Dravidian languages. Marathi (Maharashtra) and Hindi (Madhya Pradesh) are Indo-Aryan.

Q10 **Answer: (A) Phase I**

Phase I (1901–1921) was the period of stagnant population growth; the decade 1911–1921 recorded a negative growth rate because of high death rates from epidemics and famines.

Q11 **Answer: (D) Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai**

Going clockwise from Delhi (north) the Golden Quadrilateral runs east to Kolkata, south to Chennai, west to Mumbai and back north to Delhi.

Q12 **Answer: (A) Kolkata**

Kolkata is the headquarters of the Eastern Railway and the South Eastern Railway (and also of the Metro Railway).

Q13 **Answer: (B) Gully erosion**

Gully erosion is a natural process; mining, industrial waste and shifting cultivation are human-made causes of land degradation.

Q14 **Answer: (D) Decibel**

The level of noise is measured in decibels (dB).

Q15 **Answer: (C) 5**

India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh are in Asia.

Q16 **Answer: (D) Australia and Europe**

Asia (5 countries), North America (USA, Mexico), Africa (Nigeria) and South America (Brazil) are represented; no country of Australia or Europe is in the table.

Q17 **Answer: (C) 19.88**

China 17.2 + Brazil 2.68 = 19.88 per cent.

Q18 **(18.1)** The **Canadian and American Prairies** (North America).

(18.2) Any two: **wheat**, **corn**, barley, oats, rye.

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(18.3) Area B is the **Eurasian steppes**, a major region of extensive commercial grain farming: grain is grown on very large farms where all operations from ploughing to harvesting are mechanised; yield per acre is low but yield per person is high, so the region produces large surpluses of grain (mainly wheat).

For Visually Impaired Candidates (any three):

(i) It is practised in the interior parts of semi-arid lands of the mid-latitudes.

(ii) The size of the farm is very large (often hundreds of hectares).

(iii) Entire operations of cultivation from ploughing to harvesting are mechanised.

(iv) There is low yield per acre but high yield per person.

(v) Wheat is the principal crop; corn, barley, oats and rye are also grown.

(vi) Major areas: the Eurasian steppes, the Canadian and American Prairies, the Pampas of Argentina, the Velds of South Africa, the Australian Downs and the Canterbury Plains of New Zealand.

Q19

(19.1) Industries discharge industrial waste, polluted waste water, chemical effluents, heavy metals, dust and smoke; when these mix with water in rivers, lakes and reservoirs, they pollute it and destroy its bio-system.

(19.2) Any one: stop the disposal of untreated industrial waste into rivers and lakes (treat effluents before release); prevent fertilisers and pesticides from reaching fresh water bodies; encourage industries and households to reuse treated water; run public awareness programmes on water pollution.

(19.3) Any two: the **Ganga**, the **Yamuna**, the Sabarmati, the Gomti, the Kali, the Adyar, the Cooum, the Vaigai, the Musi.

Q20

(i) The **earth is dynamic**: its physical environment keeps changing through natural processes.

(ii) **Man is also not static** but very dynamic: human activities, technology and needs keep changing.

(iii) So the relationship between the two keeps changing over time.

(iv) Humans use the resources of the physical environment: they cultivate land and build houses, roads and cities, and so greatly modify the environment.

(v) The modified environment in turn impacts human lives. Human geography studies this changing, interactive relationship between the 'unresting man' and the 'unstable earth'.

Q21

(i) Sustainability means **continuity in the availability of opportunities**.

(ii) For sustainable human development, each generation must have the same opportunities as the previous one.

(iii) All environmental, financial and human resources must be used judiciously, keeping the future in mind.

(iv) Misuse of any of these resources leads to fewer opportunities for future generations; for example, if a community does not send its girls to school, many opportunities are lost to these young women when they grow up.

(v) So each generation must ensure the availability of choices and opportunities to its future generations.

Q22(a) Any three:

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(i) Urban settlements are generally **compact and larger** in size.

(ii) They are engaged in a variety of **non-agricultural** (secondary and tertiary), economic and administrative functions.

(iii) They act as **nodes of economic growth**, providing goods and services not only to city dwellers but also to the people of the surrounding rural areas.

(iv) They have a better network of transport and communication; cities are connected directly and indirectly with villages and with one another.

(v) In cities the way of life is complex and fast, and social relations are formal.

Q22(b) Towns have flourished in India since prehistoric times (Harappa and Mohenjodaro). On the basis of their evolution they are classified as:

(i) **Ancient towns**: with a historical background of over 2000 years; most developed as religious and cultural centres, e.g. Varanasi, Prayag (Allahabad), Pataliputra (Patna), Madurai.

(ii) **Medieval towns**: about 100 towns with roots in the medieval period, mostly headquarters of principalities and kingdoms, built as fort towns on the ruins of ancient towns, e.g. Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Agra, Nagpur.

(iii) **Modern towns**: developed by the British and other Europeans: first coastal trading ports (Surat, Daman, Goa, Pondicherry), then the three nodes Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata built in British style, followed by hill towns, cantonments and administrative and industrial towns. After independence many administrative towns (Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Dispur), industrial towns (Durgapur, Bhilai, Sindri, Barauni) and satellite towns (Ghaziabad, Rohtak, Gurugram around Delhi) developed.

Q23 **(23.1)** Many men from rural areas migrate to urban areas, so a large number of women stay back and work in agriculture and allied primary activities; women's participation in tertiary activities is still low and is a recent phenomenon.

(23.2) The workforce pattern is changing: male workers are still engaged in large numbers in the primary sector, but many are shifting to the tertiary sector as job opportunities in services increase. So both sectors have a large number of male workers.

(23.3) Because of slow industrial growth, so manufacturing creates few jobs; there are also skill gaps, and the economy has shifted towards services.

Q24 Industries maximise profit by reducing costs, so they are located where the factors below keep production costs lowest (any five):

(i) **Access to market**: a large market with purchasing power; developed regions and densely populated areas are large markets.

(ii) **Access to raw material**: industries using cheap, bulky, weight-losing or perishable raw materials (iron and steel, sugar, dairy) are located close to the source.

(iii) **Access to labour supply**: a cheap and skilled labour force reduces costs.

(iv) **Access to sources of energy**: industries using much power (aluminium) are located near the supply of energy.

(v) **Access to transportation and communication facilities**: speedy and efficient transport of raw material to the factory and goods to the market lowers costs (e.g. Western Europe, eastern North America).

(vi) **Government policy**: governments give incentives for balanced regional development.

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(vii) **Access to agglomeration economies**: industries benefit from nearness to a leader industry and other industries.

Q25(a) Any five:

(i) Railways are the most significant mode of land transport for long distances; about 13 lakh km of railways are open for traffic in the world.

(ii) **Commuter trains** are very popular in the UK, USA, Japan and India, carrying millions of passengers daily.

(iii) **Europe** has one of the densest rail networks in the world (about 4,40,000 km), mostly double or multiple tracked.

(iv) **North America** has one of the most extensive rail networks, mainly carrying bulky goods like ores, grains, timber and machinery.

(v) In **Russia**, railways account for about 90 per cent of the country's total transport.

(vi) **Trans-continental railways** run across continents in Russia (Trans-Siberian), Canada, USA, Australia and South America.

(vii) In Asia the network is densest in the thickly populated areas of Japan, China and India; Africa has about 40,000 km of railways, almost half of it in South Africa.

Q25(b) Any five:

(i) Roads are very economical for short distances and offer **door-to-door service**.

(ii) They act as **feeders** to railways, airways and waterways.

(iii) Roads play a vital role in a nation's trade, commerce and tourism; the quality of roads varies greatly between developed and developing countries.

(iv) **North America** has a very high road density; it accounts for about 33 per cent of the world's motorable road length.

(v) **Europe** has a well-developed highway network; in **Russia** a dense highway network is developed in the industrialised region west of the Urals.

(vi) In **China** highways connect all the major cities; in **India** many highways (national highways) link the major cities.

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Q26(a) Any five:

(i) Economic activities change over time, but land is a fixed resource; so land use changes with the economy.

(ii) The **size of the economy** grows with rising population and income; this increases pressure on land and marginal land is put to use.

(iii) The **composition of the economy** changes: the secondary and tertiary sectors grow faster than agriculture, so land shifts from agricultural to non-agricultural uses (houses, roads, industries, services), especially around cities.

(iv) As the economy grows, the demand for land rises and some forest land is put to other uses.

(v) With growing population, the demand for food rises and pressure on agricultural land increases; culturable wasteland and fallow land other than current fallow are brought under cultivation to raise food production.

(vi) Example: in India, the area under non-agricultural uses and under forests has increased, while barren and wasteland, culturable waste land and permanent pastures have declined.

Q26(b) Any five:

(i) **Dependence on erratic monsoon**: only about a third of the cropped area is irrigated; droughts and floods are common.

(ii) **Low productivity**: yields of most crops are low compared to the world average.

(iii) **Constraints of financial resources and indebtedness**: farmers need inputs but have little money and fall into debt when crops fail.

(iv) **Lack of land reforms**: unequal distribution of land continues.

(v) **Small farm size and fragmentation of landholdings**: most holdings are smaller than one hectare and are further divided over generations.

(vi) **Lack of commercialisation**: most farmers grow crops for self-consumption.

(vii) **Vast under-employment**, especially in areas without irrigation.

(viii) **Degradation of cultivable land**: salinity, alkalinity and waterlogging from faulty irrigation, and soil erosion.

Q27(a) **Significance (any three):**

(i) Petroleum is an essential source of energy for all internal combustion engines in automobiles, railways and aircraft.

(ii) Its numerous by-products are processed in petrochemical industries: fertilisers, synthetic rubber, synthetic fibre, medicines, vaseline, lubricants, wax, soap and cosmetics.

(iii) Because of its scarcity and diversified uses it is called **liquid gold**.

(iv) Its importance led the government to set up the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in 1956 for systematic exploration and production.

Distribution (any two):

(i) **Assam**: Digboi, Naharkatiya and Moran.

(ii) **Gujarat**: Ankaleshwar, Kalol, Mehsana, Nawagam, Kosamba and Lunej.

(iii) **Mumbai High** in the Arabian Sea, about 160 km off Mumbai.

(iv) Exploratory wells in the **Krishna-Godavari** and **Kaveri** basins on the east coast.

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Q27(b) **Significance (any three):**

(i) Iron ore provides a strong base for the development of metallurgical industries (iron and steel).

(ii) India is endowed with fairly abundant iron ore; it has the largest reserve of iron ore in Asia.

(iii) The two main types found in India, haematite and magnetite, are of superior quality and in great demand in the international market.

(iv) The iron ore mines lie close to the coal fields of the north-eastern plateau region, which adds to their advantage.

Distribution (any two):

(i) **Odisha**, the leading producer: Sundergarh, Mayurbhanj and Jhar (Gurumahisani, Sulaipet, Badampahar, Kiruburu, Bonai).

(ii) **Jharkhand**: Poorbi and Pashchimi Singhbhum (Noamundi, Gua).

(iii) **Chhattisgarh**: Durg (Dalli, Rajhara) and Dantewara (Bailadila).

(iv) **Karnataka**: Ballari (Sandur-Hospet), Chikkamagaluru (Kudremukh), Shivamogga, Chitradurg and Tumakuru.

(v) Maharashtra (Chandrapur, Bhandara, Ratnagiri), Telangana (Karimnagar, Warangal), Andhra Pradesh (Kurnool, Cuddapah, Anantapur), Tamil Nadu (Salem, Nilgiris) and Goa.

Q28(a) Any five:

(i) India has 12 major and about 200 minor or intermediate ports along its long coastline.

(ii) These ports are the **gateways of international trade**.

(iii) They handle a large volume of domestic as well as overseas trade.

(iv) About **95 per cent of India's foreign trade by volume** and about 70 per cent by value moves through ocean routes.

(v) Most ports are equipped with modern infrastructure; specialised ports handle oil (Kandla/Deendayal), iron ore (Marmagao, Paradip, Visakhapatnam) and containers (Jawaharlal Nehru Port).

(vi) The capacity of Indian ports has increased from about 20 million tonnes of cargo in 1951 to more than 837 million tonnes in 2016.

Q28(b) India's international trade has increased many-fold since 1950–51. Any five changes:

(i) Exports of traditional agricultural products like cashews have declined, while floricultural products, fresh fruits, marine products and sugar have increased.

(ii) In the 1950s and 1960s food grains, capital goods, machinery and equipment were imported; after the 1970s food-grain imports were replaced by **fertilisers** (Green Revolution), and imports of **crude petroleum** increased.

(iii) Exports of **manufactured and engineering goods** have increased significantly.

(iv) Machines and equipment, special steel, edible oil and chemicals now form a large part of the import basket; the import of capital goods has declined.

(v) Exports of ores and minerals have largely remained constant.

(vi) Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, gold and silver are both imported and exported: India imports them, adds value by making gems and jewellery, and exports them.

Q29 Any five, 1 mark each (as per the CBSE marking scheme map):

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A. **St. Petersburg** (western terminal of the Trans-Siberian Railway, Russia)

B. **Valparaiso** (Chile)

C. **Nairobi** (Kenya)

D. **Panama Canal**

E. **Tropical Africa** (Congo basin)

F. **Western parts of the United States of America**

G. **South-eastern Australia**

For Visually Impaired Candidates (any five): 29.1 St. Petersburg; 29.2 Valparaiso; 29.3 Nairobi; 29.4 Panama Canal; 29.5 Tropical Africa; 29.6 Western parts of the USA; 29.7 Canada (south-eastern Canada and the north-eastern USA).

Q30 Any five, 1 mark each (locate with a symbol and label):

30.1 **Bihar** (shade the state; 1,106 persons per sq km in 2011)

30.2 **Assam**

30.3 **Bailadila** (Dantewara district, southern Chhattisgarh); also Durg / Dalli-Rajhara

30.4 **Koraput** (also Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Bolangir)

30.5 **Mathura**

30.6 **Kandla** (Deendayal Port)

30.7 **Amritsar** (Raja Sansi – Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport)

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