

UPSC GEOGRAPHY

**Optional Syllabus &
Chapter Wise PYQs**

by Prince Mishra



GEOGRAPHY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (GMP)

COMPLETE SYLLABUS through CONCEPT CLASSES, ANSWER WRITING & MENTORSHIP



Prince Mishra

- ☑ Approach & Trend Analysis Sessions for Paper 1 & 2
- ☑ 60* Hrs (35 Sessions) of classes for Concept Building
- ☑ 3 Level of Tests for Gradual Improvement.
 - 5 PYQs based Test (Questions & Discussions)
 - 11 Topical Tests & 2 Sectional Tests
 - 4 Mock Tests (As per UPSC standard)
- ☑ 30* Hrs of PYQs & Topical Tests Discussion
- ☑ Post-Tests Mentorship Sessions for Marks Improvement

PAPER – I

PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHY

Section A

Physical Geography

1. **Geomorphology:** Factors controlling landform development; endogenetic and exogenetic forces; Origin and evolution of the earth's crusts; Fundamentals of geomagnetism; Physical conditions of the earth's interior; Geosynclines; Continental drift; Isostasy; Plate tectonics; Recent views on mountain building; Volcanicity; Earthquakes and Tsunamis; Concepts of geomorphic cycles and Land scape development; Denudation chronology; Channel morphology; Erosion surfaces; Slope development; Applied Geomorphology: Geohydrology, economic geology and environment.
2. **Climatology:** Temperature and pressure belts of the world; Heat budget of the earth; Atmospheric circulation; Atmospheric stability and instability. Planetary and local winds; Monsoons and jet streams; Air masses and front; Temperate and tropical cyclones; Types and distribution of precipitation; Weather and Climate; Koppen's Thornthwaite's and Trewartha's classification of world climate; Hydrological cycle; Global climatic change, and role and response of man in climatic changes Applied climatology and Urban climate.
3. **Oceanography:** Bottom topography of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; Temperature and salinity of the oceans; Heat and salt budgets, Ocean deposits; Waves, currents and tides; Marine resources; biotic, mineral and energy resources; Coral reefs coral bleaching; Sea-level changes; Law of the sea and marine pollution.
4. **Biogeography:** Genesis of soils; Classification and distribution of soils; Soil profile; Soil erosion, Degradation and conservation; Factors influencing world distribution of plants and animals; Problems of deforestation and conservation measures; Social forestry, agro-forestry; Wild life; Major gene pool centres.
5. **Environmental Geography:** Principle of ecology; Human ecological adaptations; Influence of man on ecology and environment; Global and regional ecological changes and imbalances; Ecosystem their management and conservation; Environmental degradation, management and conservation; Biodiversity and sustainable development; Environmental policy; Environmental hazards and remedial measures; Environmental education and legislation.

Section B

Human Geography

6. **Perspectives in Human Geography:** Areal differentiation; Regional synthesis; Dichotomy and dualism; Environmentalism; Quantitative revolution and locational analysis; Radical, behavioural, human and welfare approaches; Languages, religions and secularisation; Cultural regions of the world; Human development index.
7. **Economic Geography:** World economic development: measurement and problems; World resources and their distribution; Energy crisis; the limits to growth; World agriculture: typology of agricultural regions; Agricultural inputs and productivity; Food and nutrition's problems; Food security; famine: causes, effects and remedies; World industries: location patterns and problems; Patterns of world trade.

- 8. Population and Settlement Geography:** Growth and distribution of world population; Demographic attributes; Causes and consequences of migration; Concepts of over-under-and optimum population; Population theories, world population problems and policies, social well-being and quality of life; Population as social capital. Types and patterns of rural settlements; Environmental issues in rural settlements; Hierarchy of urban settlements; Urban morphology; Concept of primate city and rank-size rule; Functional classification of towns; Sphere of urban influence; Rural-urban fringe; Satellite towns; Problems and remedies of urbanization; Sustainable development of cities.
- 9. Regional Planning:** Concept of a region; Types of regions and methods of regionalisation; Growth centres and growth poles; Regional imbalances; Regional development strategies; Environmental issues in regional planning; Planning for sustainable development.
- 10. Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography:** System analysis in Human geography; Malthusian, Marxian and demographic transition models; Central Place theories of Christaller and Losch; Perroux and Boudeville; Von Thunen's model of agricultural location; Weber's model of industrial location; Rostov's model of stages of growth. Heart-land and Rimland theories; Laws of international boundaries and frontiers.

PAPER-II

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

1. **Physical Setting:** Space relationship of India with neighbouring countries; Structure and relief; Drainage system and watersheds; Physiographic regions; Mechanism of Indian monsoons and rainfall patterns; Tropical cyclones and western disturbances; Floods and droughts; Climatic regions; Natural vegetation, Soil types and their distributions.
2. **Resources:** Land, surface and ground water, energy, minerals, biotic and marine resources, Forest and wild life resources and their conservation; Energy crisis.
3. **Agriculture:** Infrastructure: irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, power; Institutional factors; land holdings, land tenure and land reforms; Cropping pattern, agricultural productivity, agricultural intensity, crop combination, land capability; Agro and social-forestry; Green revolution and its socio-economic and ecological implications; Significance of dry farming; Livestock resources and white revolution; Aqua-culture; Sericulture, Apiculture and poultry; Agricultural regionalisation; Agro-climatic zones; Agro-ecological regions.
4. **Industry:** Evolution of industries; Locational factors of cotton, jute, textile, iron and steel, aluminium, fertiliser, paper, chemical and pharmaceutical, automobile, cottage and agro-based industries; Industrial houses and complexes including public sector underkings; Industrial regionalisation; New industrial policy; Multinationals and liberalisation; Special Economic Zones; Tourism including eco-tourism.
5. **Transport, Communication and Trade:** Road, railway, waterway, airway and pipeline networks and their complementary roles in regional development; Growing importance of ports on national and foreign trade; Trade balance; Trade Policy; Export processing zones; Developments in communication and information technology and their impacts on economy and society; Indian space programme.
6. **Cultural Setting:** Historical Perspective of Indian Society; Racial linguistic and ethnic diversities; religious minorities; Major tribes, tribal areas and their problems; Cultural regions; Growth, distribution and density of population; Demographic attributes: sex-ratio, age structure, literacy rate, work-force, dependency ratio, longevity; migration (inter-regional, interregional and international) and associated problems; Population problems and policies; Health indicators.
7. **Settlements:** Types, patterns and morphology of rural settlements; Urban developments; Morphology of Indian cities; Functional classification of Indian cities; Conurbations and metropolitan regions; Urban sprawl; Slums and associated problems; Town planning; Problems of urbanisation and remedies.
8. **Regional Development and Planning:** Experience of regional planning in India; Five Year Plans; Integrated rural development programmes; Panchayati Raj and decentralised planning; Command area development; Watershed management; Planning for backward area, desert, drought-prone, hill tribal area development; multi-level planning; Regional planning and development of island territories.
9. **Political Aspects:** Geographical basis of Indian federalism; State reorganisation; Emergence of new states; Regional consciousness and inter-state issues; International boundary of India and related issues; Cross-border terrorism; India's role in world affairs; Geopolitics of South Asia and Indian Ocean realm.

10. Contemporary Issues: Ecological issues: Environmental hazards: landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and droughts, epidemics; Issues related to environmental pollution; Changes in patterns of land use; Principles of environmental impact assessment and environmental management; Population explosion and food security; Environmental degradation; Deforestation, desertification and soil erosion; Problems of agrarian and industrial unrest; Regional disparities in economic development; Concept of sustainable growth and development; Environmental awareness; Linkage of rivers; Globalisation and Indian economy.

NOTE: Candidates will be required to answer one compulsory map question pertinent to subjects covered by this paper.

Chapter Wise PYQ PAPER 1

Geomorphology

Factors controlling landform development; endogenetic and exogenetic forces; Origin and evolution of the earth's crusts; Fundamentals of geomagnetism; Physical conditions of the earth's interior; Geosynclines; Continental drift; Isostasy; Plate tectonics; Recent views on mountain building; Volcanicity;

Earthquakes and Tsunamis; Concepts of geomorphic cycles and Land scape development; Denudation chronology; Channel morphology; Erosion surfaces; Slope development; Applied Geomorphology: Geohydrology, economic geology and environment.

2025

1. Explain the causes of glacial lake outburst flood. 10 Marks
2. What is solifluction? What are its impacts? 10 Marks
3. What geological and tectonic processes lead to the formation of nappes in orogenic belts? 10 Marks
4. How does denudation chronology help in understanding the sequential development of landscapes and landforms? Elucidate. 20 Marks
5. "The Himalaya is still rising." Expand this statement and describe the processes involved in it with suitable sketches and examples. 15 Marks
6. Describe the process of formation of barrier islands and explain their significance. 15 Marks

2024

1. What are 'truncated spurs'? Where and are they formed? 10 Marks
2. Examine the recent views on mountain building process and divide the world mountains on the basis of their genesis. 20 Marks
3. What is Yazoo stream? Why are Yazoo basins the areas of repeated flooding? Give examples of .Yazoo stream/areas from various parts of the world. 15 Marks

2023

1. What are the environmental implications of economic geology? Discuss. 10 Marks
2. "Evidences from palaeomagnetism and sea floor spreading have validated that continents and ocean basins have never been stationary." Elucidate with suitable diagrams. 20 Marks
3. Define Peneplains. Describe the landscape features associated with peneplains under different geomorphic cycles. 15 Marks

2022

1. Define 'speleothem'. Discuss the various forms and features of speleothems. 10 Marks
2. Explain how various aspects of channel morphology are used in transportation, settlement and land use planning, flood control and flood management? 15 Marks
3. Discuss the role of Slope, Altitude and Relief (SAR) in landscape development. 15 Marks
4. With the help of suitable sketches describe the mountain genesis and mountain types. Give suitable examples from various mountain systems of the world. 15 Marks

2021

1. Describe the concept of 'Altiplanation'. 10 Marks
2. The concept of Plate tectonics has been derived from the isostasy and continental drift theory. Elaborate citing suitable examples. 20 Marks
3. Stream basins and drainage divides are important components to delineate a watershed area. Explain. 15 Marks

2020

1. Why is mapping important for analyzing geo-hydrological investigations? Explain with relevant examples. 10 Marks
2. Evaluate how far Kober's geosyncline theory explains the mountain building process. 20 Marks
3. "Geomorphological changes are largely responsible for environmental hazards in the Himalayan region." Comment with relevant examples. 15 Marks

2019

1. Describe Phreatic Eruptions and their Consequences. 10 Marks
2. How are sandspits and Tombolo's formed? 10 Marks

2018

1. "Landscape is a function of structure, process and stage." Critique the statement. 10 Marks
2. Evaluate how far Kober's geosyncline theory explains the mountain building process. 20 Marks
3. "Geomorphological changes are largely responsible for environmental hazards in the Himalayan region." Comment with relevant examples. 15 Marks

Oceanography

Bottom topography of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; Temperature and salinity of the oceans;

Heat and salt budgets, Ocean deposits; Waves, currents and tides; Marine resources; biotic, mineral and energy resources; Coral reefs coral bleaching; Sea-level changes; Law of the sea and marine pollution.

2025

1. What are the fundamental differences among ocean wave, ocean current and tide? 10 Marks
2. What is deep-sea mining? What are the potential benefits and risks associated with it? 15 Marks

2024

1. With suitable examples explain the factors causing sea level changes. 10 Marks
2. With suitable sketches elaborate the bottom topography of the Indian Ocean. 15 Marks

2023

1. What is ocean ranching? How are aqua-cowboys related to such activities? 10 Marks
2. How are ocean currents generated? Discuss their effects on coastal climates with special reference to the Pacific Ocean. 15 Marks
3. Give an account of marine resources and their economic significance. How has marine pollution affected such resources? 20 marks

2022

1. When corals are affected by stress it causes them to turn completely white. Explain the reasons of such an occurrence. 10 marks
2. What is the relationship between ocean currents and global surface wind systems? Explain with examples how does the gyre in the Northern Hemisphere differ from the one in the Southern Hemisphere. 15 marks
3. Rise of surface temperature brings severe consequences. Elaborate the potential changes and threats associated with it in the world. 15 marks

2021

1. Discuss the hazards associated with rise of sea-surface temperature? 10 Marks
2. Give a detailed account of bottom topography of the Pacific Ocean. 15 Marks
3. Maritime security is being neglected. Indicate the major challenge and suggest solutions in the context of Law of the Sea. 15 Marks

2020

1. Marine resources are economically very significant. Discuss citing suitable examples. 10 Marks
2. Discuss the concept of Coral bleaching, its recovery, and macroalgal regime shifts due to this process. 15 Marks
3. Explain the currents of the North Atlantic ocean and their significant role in the climate of western Europe. 15 Marks

2019

1. How are ocean waves formed? Distinguish between a wave of oscillation and a wave of translation. 15 Marks

2018

1. Describe the causes and consequences of sea-level changes. 10 Marks
2. Describe the potential marine energy resources with reference to their benefits, harvestability, and environmental impacts. 20 Marks

Climatology

Temperature and pressure belts of the world; Heat budget of the earth; Atmospheric circulation; Atmospheric stability and instability. Planetary and local winds; Monsoons and jet streams; Air masses and front; Temperate and tropical cyclones; Types and distribution of precipitation; Weather and Climate; Koppen's Thornthwaite's and Trewartha's classification of world climate; Hydrological cycle; Global climatic change, and role and response of man in climatic changes Applied climatology and Urban climate.

2025

1. Explain the relationship between air masses and local winds. 10 Marks
2. Examine the formation of atmospheric tricellular circulation system. Describe with example its importance in making the Earth a living planet. 20 Marks
3. Examine the distribution and balance of energy in the Earth's atmosphere system. 15 Marks

2024

1. Formation of temperate Cyclone depends on the condition of axis of dilation. Elucidate. 10 Marks
2. Describe latitudinal distribution of Koppen's classification of world climate. 15 Marks
3. Explain air masses and associated weather dynamics. How do air masses influence the weather conditions of the Northern Hemisphere? 20 Marks

2023

1. What is "Geostrophic Wind"? Explain the relationship between barometric slope and air circulation. 10 Marks
2. Explain the characteristics and weather conditions associated with 'Anticyclones' giving suitable examples. 15 Marks
3. What are the causes of the origin of local winds? Discuss their significance on prevailing weather and climate in various regions with suitable examples. 20 Marks
4. How does inversion of temperature occur? Explain its significance on local weather with suitable examples. 15 Marks

2022

1. What is pollution dome? Discuss its formation and impacts. 10 Marks
2. With suitable examples describe the impacts of movement of airmasses on weather and winds in different parts of the continents. 15 Marks
3. Describe how short-term variations in temperature are related to the processes of receiving energy from the sun to the Earth's surface and dissipating it to the atmosphere. 15 Marks

2021

1. What are the important factors responsible for airmass modifications? 10 Marks
2. Examine major influencing factors for varied patterns of precipitations on the continents. 20 Marks
3. Indicating the causes of lightning, describe the threats associated with it. 15 Marks

2020

1. Write a Geographical note on the Halloween storm. 10 Marks
2. Explain how various factors influence the origin and development of the Indian monsoon System. 25 Marks
3. Explain the characteristic features of frontogenesis and frontolysis. 15 Marks

2019

1. Explain the techniques to calculate potential evapotranspiration suggested by Thornthwaite. 10 Marks
2. Explain the nature of Urban Climate and its impact on Global Environmental Change. 15 Marks
3. Discuss in detail the Tri-cellular Model of Atmospheric Circulation. 20 Marks

2018

1. Explain the role of evaporation in the hydrologic cycle. 10 Marks
2. Critically examine the basis and scheme of climatic classification proposed by G.T. Trewartha. 15 Marks
3. Explain the origin, progress, and retreat of the Indian monsoon and discuss its impact on the Indian economy. 20 Marks

Biogeography

Genesis of soils; Classification and distribution of soils; Soil profile; Soil erosion, Degradation and conservation; Factors influencing world distribution of plants and animals; Problems of deforestation and conservation measures; Social forestry, agro-forestry; Wild life; Major gene pool centres.

2025

1. Man, and wildlife conflicts are ever increasing. Discuss its causes, consequences and remedies. 15 Marks
2. "What are the ecological consequences of agricultural deforestation in the Amazon and Congo Basins, particularly concerning biodiversity and climate regulation? 20 Marks

2024

1. Examine the impacts of social forestry in socio-economic transformation of rural areas. 10 marks
2. "Soil erosion is creeping death." Explaining the statement, suggest various soil conservation measures 15 Marks
3. "The latitudinal gradient in species richness is an important geographic trend in biodiversity." Examine the statement. 15 Marks

2023

1. Explain the natural processes of soil enrichment and its impact on food production. 10 marks
2. Differentiate between the characteristics of organic horizons and mineral horizons in a generalized Soil Profile. 15 Marks

2022

1. Well developed soils typically exhibit distinct layers in their soil profile. Elaborate. 10 marks
2. Plants and animals that exist in a particular ecosystem are those that have been successful in adjusting to their habitat and environmental conditions. Elucidate with examples. 20 Marks

2021

1. Gene pool centres are 'Good Hope' for biodiversity conservation. Elucidate. 10 Marks
2. Soil erosion and soil degradation are threat to food supply. Discuss. 15 Marks

2020

1. Which factors influence the growth of wild plants in India? Discuss their economic significance. 10 Marks
2. Explain the effects and causes of deforestation and its impact on the pattern of agriculture in India 15 Marks
3. Land use/Land cover and soil types influence forage quantity and quality in semi-arid regions of the world. Discuss with relevant examples. 15 Marks

2019

1. Amensalism is a Biotic factor that determines the geographical limits of species. Explain. 10 Marks
2. Why is it necessary to conserve the genetic diversity of species? Do protected areas serve any useful purpose in this context? 20 Marks
3. How are soil acidity and alkalinity related to soil fertility? 15 Marks

2018

1. Distinguish between intrazonal and azonal soils. Describe in brief the characteristics and importance of azonal soils. 10 Marks
2. Discuss the causes of degradation of tropical rainforests and suggest remedial measures for their prevention, conservation, and development. 15 Marks

Environmental Geography

Principle of ecology; Human ecological adaptations; Influence of man on ecology and environment; Global and regional ecological changes and imbalances; Ecosystem their management and conservation; Environmental degradation, management and conservation; Biodiversity and sustainable development; Environmental policy; Environmental hazards and remedial measures; Environmental education and legislation.

2025

1. What is the 'UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration'? How does it balance ecological goals with emerging socio-economic needs like food security and development? 15 Marks

2024

1. Mountain regions are more fragile to ecological changes. Elucidate. 10 Marks
2. Perception, Attitude, Value and Emotion (PAVE) are important components for biodiversity and sustainable environmental conservation. Elaborate. 15 Marks
3. How is carbon neutrality essential for future environmental conservation? Describe various efforts taken by nation in this regard. 20 Marks

2023

1. How is 'Deep Ecology' as a concept different from "Shallow Ecology"? Explain 10 Marks
2. What are the factors affecting regional ecological changes? How do these affect human Health? 15 Marks

2022

1. What are the high-altitude environmental hazards? Explain with suitable examples. 10 Marks
2. Sequential changes in land use and land cover have brought global and regional ecological changes and imbalances. Elucidate. 20 Marks

2021

1. Describe how ecosystem services of Himalaya are essential for Highland-Lowland sustainability in Asia. 10 Marks
2. Explaining the concept of carbon neutrality, describe the measures taken by carbon positive and negative nations. 15 Marks
2. With suitable examples, elaborate human ecological adaptations. Explain its impacts on ecology and environment in various parts of the world. 20 Marks

2020

1. Discuss the problems associated with the living environment in million-plus cities in India. How can these be managed? 10 Marks
2. Discuss the human response to and management of hazards and disasters in India. 15 Marks
3. "Human ecology is the study of the mutual relationship of people and their environment both natural and social." Discuss in detail using ecological concepts. 15 marks

2019

1. How do mountaineers constitute a threat to Mount Everest? 10 Marks
2. The web of life is seamless and the consequences of disruption to one part of the ecosystem ripple throughout the whole." 15 Marks
3. The impact of floods on life and property can be most effectively reduced by hazard mapping. comments 15 marks

2018

1. Explain the natural and anthropogenic causes and mitigation measures of frequent flooding in mumbai 10 Marks
2. Discuss the objectives and principles of environmental education. Describe the basic concerns of formal and non-formal environmental education in India. 15 Marks
3. "Controlling population growth is the sustainable solution to environmental problems." Express your views with suitable arguments. 15 marks
4. Explain the ecosystem approach to environmental management and highlight its advantages and disadvantages. 15 marks

Perspectives in Human Geography

Areal differentiation; Regional synthesis; Dichotomy and dualism; Environmentalism; Quantitative revolution and locational analysis; Radical, behavioural, human and welfare approaches; Languages, religions and secularisation; Cultural regions of the world; Human development index.

2025

1. Why did the Welfare Approach in Human Geography emerge as a significant perspective in 1970s? 10 marks
2. How have dichotomy and dualism affected the methodological development of Geography? Describe. 20 marks
3. Analyze the role of language and religion in delineating major cultural regions of the world. 15 marks
4. How do regional components make the regional synthesis in spatial arrangement? Explain. 15 marks

2024

1. Critically examine the significance of Behavioural Approach in the development of human geography 10 marks
2. Explain how the physical view of geographical space has impacted the forms of spatial analysis 15 marks

2023

1. Explain the sequential development of areal differentiation as a fundamental concept in Human Geography 10 marks
2. What is the relation between gender equity and human development? Provide a list of commonly used gender related indices. 15 Marks

2022

1. Analyse the effects of Globalisation on languages. 10 marks
2. "Culture is a dynamic concept". Elucidate with examples. 20 marks
3. Critically examine the significance of the Quantitative Revolution and its influence in the development of Geography. 15 marks

2021

1. The interrelationships between social and spatial structure are complex. Explain in the context of socio-spatial dialectic. 10 marks
2. Why is radicalism seen as a major paradigm shift in geography? Explain its causes, approaches, and criticism. 20 marks

2020

1. Write an essay on gender equity and equality in India in the context of balanced human development 15 marks

2019

1. "A language originates at a particular place and diffuses to other locations through the migration of its speakers." Examine this statement in the context of language host spots and endangered language hot spots. 10 marks
2. HDI has brought about a paradigm shift in the way people think about the development process. Critically examine the inherent limitations of HDI. 20 marks
3. Globalization can often subsume folk culture. What are its positive and negative effects? 15 Marks

2018

1. Geography is a contested and multiparadigm discipline with a strong euro-centricity that has only recently been challenged." Comment. 10 Marks
2. "Areal differentiation has provided the theoretical justification for studying 'region' and 'regional geography'." Comment. 20 Marks
3. Comment upon the contributions of D.M. Smith in outlining "welfare" as a key focus in the geographies of social well-being. 15 marks
4. Provide a brief outline of ideas related to the "sense of place" as propounded by Yi-Fu Tuan and Relph in the humanistic geography that emerged in the 1970s. 15 marks
5. Elaborate upon the influence of Marxist Philosophy on geographical research, outlining key themes addressed by Marxist geographers since the 1970s. 15 marks
6. "Welfare geography emphasizes spatial inequality and territorial justice." Comment with reference to the main ideas and scope of the subfield. 20 marks
7. Discuss critically the manner in which quantitative revolution provided the methodological foundation for models and modelling in geography. 15 marks

Economic Geography

World economic development: measurement and problems; World resources and their distribution; Energy crisis; the limits to growth; World agriculture: typology of agricultural regions; Agricultural inputs and productivity; Food and nutrition's problems; Food security; famine: causes, effects and remedies; World industries: location patterns and problems; Patterns of world trade.

2025

1. What are the key environmental and economic challenges linked to the extraction and processing of critical minerals? 10 marks
2. Analyze the spatial patterns and regional specialization of plantation crops across tropical and subtropical regions. 15 marks
3. Why is oil important for energy security? What is the role of oil in clean energy transition? 20 Marks

2024

1. "While scarcity of water resources are felt locally, but its causes are increasingly global." Comment 10 marks
2. Explain the basis of D. Whittlesey's classification of agricultural regions of the world. 20 marks
3. Analyse the spatial changes and emerging patterns of semiconductor manufacturing in the world 15 marks

2023

1. Discuss critically food and nutrition problems associated with the developing world. 10 marks
2. Explain population, resource use and development nexus in the Limits to Growth Model. Why has this model been criticized intensively? 15 marks

2022

1. "Shifting global trade patterns create new opportunities". Examine this statement. 10 marks
2. "Automation is rapidly changing the economies of labour and will affect trade patterns in significant ways". Clarify. 15 marks
3. "Climate change is a serious problem to global food security and poverty eradication" critically examine. 20 marks

2021

1. How is energy transition seen as an instrument for achieving zero carbon by 2050? 10 Marks
2. Protected cultivation assists in healthier and larger produce. Justify with examples. 10 Marks
3. Describe the role of accessibility and affordability in food security of developing world. 15 Marks

2020

1. Analyse India's food security in the context of population growth. 10 marks
2. Identify the causes and effects of the energy crisis, and suggest suitable measures to solve the problem. 10 marks
3. "Land degradation is a threat to productivity and sustainable resource management" Explain with suitable examples from India. 15 marks
4. Analyse the dynamics of industrial location in the metropolitan cities of India. 15 marks

2019

1. "A large-scale global shift in manufacturing is the outcome of deindustrialization in the developed world matched by industrialization in the developing world." Analyze this statement. 15 Marks

2018

1. "Famine is a social phenomenon rooted in institutional and political-economic arrangements, which determine access to food by different classes and strata." Comment. 20 marks
2. Discuss in brief the main thesis in "Limit to Growth" (1972) and also provide a critique of the same. 15 marks

Population and Settlement Geography

Growth and distribution of world population; Demographic attributes; Causes and consequences of migration; Concepts of over-under-and optimum population; Population theories, world population problems and policies, social well-being and quality of life; Population as social capital. Types and patterns of rural settlements; Environmental issues in rural settlements; Hierarchy of urban settlements;

Urban morphology; Concept of primate city and rank-size rule; Functional classification of towns; Sphere of urban influence; Rural-urban fringe; Satellite towns; Problems and remedies of urbanization; Sustainable development of cities.

2025

1. "Pull factors in internal migration are often based on perceptions rather than reality." Explain. 10 marks
2. Critically evaluate the role of primate cities in dominating the urban spheres of influence in developing countries. 15 marks
3. "The global demographic landscape is evolving with rapid population growth in some places and rapid ageing in others." Elucidate with examples. 15 marks

2024

1. Central Business District (CBDs) are in decline as the economic core of metropolitan cities. Critically examine. 10 marks
2. The urbanisation process is particularly pronounced in Asia and Africa, where too many urban residents grapple with extreme poverty, exclusion, vulnerability and marginalisation. Discuss. 20 marks
3. What is transnationalism? Why has the scale and scope of transnational linkages of diaspora types of complementary regions as proposed by Christaller. 15 marks
4. What is complementary region? With reference to hierarchy of settlements, describe the different types of complementary regions as proposed by Christaller. 20 marks
5. "In developed countries, migration rather than fertility will be the main driver of population dynamics over the next few decades." Examine the statement. 15 marks

2023

1. Human migration is a reflection of the balance between push and pull factors. Elaborate with reference to the most recent diaspora. 10 marks
2. Explain the problems and prospects of urban expansion in the context of urban fringe in developed and developing nations. 20 marks
3. How can Sustainable Land Management (SLM) harmonise the complimentary goals of environmental, economic and social opportunities. Discuss. 15 marks
4. "Rural settlements are expressions of the basic relationships between human beings and their physical and social environment." Discuss. 20 marks

2022

1. Examine the morphological factors that influence the origin and growth of towns. 10 marks
2. "Overcrowding leads to chronic problem of shortage of housing in Indian cities". Explain citing relevant examples. 15 marks
3. How migration is affected by push and pull factors? Explain how these factors play a role in understanding new settlement patterns. 20 marks
4. Discuss the concept of 'Rank-Size-Rule' given by G. K. ZIPF. Is this rule relevant in Indian context? 15 marks

2021

1. Small number of mega cities are playing key role in organization of global economics and culture. Explain 15 marks
2. Aging population has adverse social and economic consequences. Explain with examples. 15 marks

2020

1. Distinguish between mobility and migration. What are the causes and consequences of rural to urban migration in India? 10 marks
2. Compare and contrast the Malthusian and Neo-Malthusian perspectives in the context of population growth, resource use, and environmental impact. 20 marks
3. Provide an account of world population transition in the context of fertility decline and socio-economic development. 15 marks
4. Discuss the concept of urban resilience in the context of planning for sustainable development with reference to towns and cities of India. 20 marks

2019

1. Define stunting and wasting. Why are these more prevalent among children in developing countries 10 marks
2. Explain the relationship between the net reproduction rate(NRR) and the true replacement level of the population 10 marks
3. What do you mean by "Climate Migrants"? Suggest appropriate policies and programs for their resettlement. 15 marks
4. What changes in the current planning, management, and governance of human settlements are needed to face the changing environment including climate change and disaster vulnerabilities in cities 20 marks
5. Assess the challenges for countries with the largest shares of aged populations. 15 marks

2018

1. Explain the concepts of "megapolis" and "exploits" with regard to the growth of cities indicating where the two can and do overlap. 10 marks
2. Citing examples from Asia and Europe, comment upon the contexts within which pronatalist, population policies are advanced. What could be the implications of these policies on women's workforce participation? 15 marks

Regional Planning

Concept of a region; Types of regions and methods of regionalisation; Growth centres and growth poles; Regional imbalances; Regional development strategies; Environmental issues in regional planning; Planning for sustainable development.

2025

1. "Regional imbalances are the product of in situ and ex situ factors." Elucidate it with examples. 10 marks

2024

1. There is a need for gender-sensitive regional development. Elaborate. 10 marks
2. Assess the criteria required for selecting regions for developmental planning. 15 marks

2023

1. Discuss the different types of polarisation induced spatial inequalities and imbalances associated with growth poles. 10 marks
2. Describe the concept of Planning Region. Explain the environmental and economic factors in the creation of such regions. 15 marks

2022

1. Discuss the role of transportation accessibility in regional development. 10 marks
2. Explain in detail the impact of regional disparities on economic development. 15 marks

2021

1. Explain the processes of contagion and hierarchical diffusion in addressing regional imbalances. 10 marks
2. Development-induced displacement poses serious challenges. Mention its causes, consequences, and solutions. 20 marks
3. The environmental issues are not adequately addressed in the regional planning. Comment. 15 marks
4. Suggest criteria, indicators, and techniques for delimitation of formal regions. 20 marks

2020

1. "Where economic growth is sustained over long time periods, its incidence works towards a progressive integration of the space economy." Elucidate. 15 marks

2019

1. What are the natural regions? How are they different from planning regions? 10 marks
2. "Growth is not uniform in different places." Critically examine this statement in the context of the growth pole theory. 15 marks

2018

1. Write a note on "forward and backward linkages" in Perroux's thesis of economic growth and regional development. 10 marks

Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography

System analysis in Human geography; Malthusian, Marxian and demographic transition models; Central Place theories of Christaller and Losch; Perroux and Boudeville; Von Thunen's model of agricultural location; Weber's model of industrial location; Rostov's model of stages of growth. Heart-land and Rimland theories; Laws of international boundaries and frontiers.

2025

1. Why is systems analysis important in urban planning and what are its limitations? 10 marks
2. Why has F. Perroux's theory of growth pole as a model of regional growth been criticised? Explain with examples. 20 marks
3. Analyze the role of demographic transition theory in explaining variations in fertility and mortality rates globally. 15 marks

2024

1. Explain the theoretical framework and stages of economic growth proposed by Rostow's model. 10 marks
2. Explain the Heartland theory with reference to contemporary geopolitical scenario of the world. 15 marks

2023

1. Has Malthusian Theory been discredited in contemporary times? Justify your answer. 10 marks
2. Explain with suitable diagrams A. Losch's model of the Theory of Location related to Central Places. Why has this been criticized? 20 marks
3. "The stages of Demographic Transition are a reflection of uneven economic development across the globe." Explain with suitable examples. 15 marks
4. "Boundaries and frontiers have different meanings in geographical literature." Substantiate your answer in the present context. 15 marks

2022

1. Explain the geometrical boundaries with examples. 10 marks
2. Explain the relevance and applicability of Von Thunen theory of Agriculture-location in today's world. 15 marks

2021

1. Examine the relevance of Central Place Theory of Christaller in the present context. 10 Marks
2. Boundaries are important in geopolitics. Explain. What issues develop from the inclusionary and exclusionary aspects of borders? 15 marks
3. Present a critical account of Alfred Weber Theory of industrial location. 15 marks

2020

1. Write a note on the relevance of Von Thunen's agricultural location theory in the present context 10 marks
2. In the modern world, most of the frontiers have been replaced by boundaries. Explain the reasons 15 marks
3. Discuss how and why Mackinder modified his concept of Pivot Area after the World Wars. 10 marks

2019

1. Discuss the genetic classification of boundaries suggested by Hartshorne. 10 marks
2. Distinguish between "isodapanes" and "isotims". Critically examine the least cost theory of Industrial location given by Alfred Weber. 15 marks
3. Examine the relevance of the "Rimland theory" in the contemporary world. 15 marks

2018

1. Discuss the degree of importance of transportation costs as a factor of Industrial location with respect to "footloose industries". 10 marks
2. Write a note on "forward and backward linkages" in Perroux's thesis of economic growth and regional development. 10 marks
3. Outline briefly the "age of mass consumption" as described by Rostow in his "multi-stage theory of growth". 10 marks

PAPER II

Map Based Questions

2025

1. Rushikulya River
2. Datar Hill
3. Kikruma
4. Choritand Tillaya
5. Byalalu
6. Neyyar
7. Uttarlai
8. Sri Vijayapuram
9. Dharwas
10. Gitabitan

2024

1. Lunkaransar
2. Gua
3. Raidak River
4. Ekta Nagar
5. Chandanwari
6. Babina
7. Tatipaka
8. Along Airport
9. Karikal
10. Panna

2023

1. Nathula
2. Hutti
3. Ross Island
4. Moreh
5. Ramappa
6. Namdapha National Park
7. Sela Tunnel
8. Ennore Port
9. Ramagundam
10. Betwa River

2022

1. Tarangambadi
2. Mahe
3. Bomdila
4. Dhola Sadiya Bridge
5. Talakaveri
6. Satkosia
7. Dholavira
8. Sonamarg
9. Maliku Atoll
10. Gangasagar

2021

1. Ziro valley
2. Kheceopalri lake
3. Toranmal
4. Subernarekha river
5. Koderma
6. Sir Creek
7. Periyar Wildlife
8. Sanctury Peechi Dam
9. Digha Beach
10. Pamban Island

2020

1. Vadhawan
2. Salkhan
3. Coorg
4. Mhow
5. Umroi
6. Thoothukudi
7. Bargarh
8. Atal Tunnel
9. Guru Shikhar
10. Bum La

2019

1. Lothal
2. River Beas
3. Chikhaldara
4. Narora
5. Lengpui
6. Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary
7. Thenmala
8. Anamudi
9. Barren Island
10. Durgaduani creek

2019

1. Shyok River
2. Mawlynnong
3. Shravasti
4. Kori Creek
5. Ghatshila
6. Amarkantak
7. Tawang
8. Neyyar
9. Dandeli
10. Mulshi Lake

Physical Setting

Space relationship of India with neighbouring countries; Structure and relief; Drainage system and watersheds; Physiographic regions; Mechanism of Indian monsoons and rainfall patterns; Tropical cyclones and western disturbances; Floods and droughts; Climatic regions; Natural vegetation, Soil types and their distributions.

2025

1. Referring to the location and physical formation of karewas, highlight their economic significance. 10 marks
2. Describe the causes of the phenomenon of "urban heat island". What are the effective measures to deal with this phenomenon in India? 20 marks

2024

1. Discuss the basis of various explanations for the formation of Shiwalik. 10 marks
2. How are geographic factors influencing the distribution of high, annual rainfall in certain parts of india? 10 marks
3. Discuss the variations in nature of glaciers in India and the emerging issues due to climate change 15 marks

2023

1. Describe the origin, distribution and economic significance of Gondwana system of rocks in india. 10 marks
2. Explain the geological characteristics and ecological significance of the Eastern Ghats. 10 marks
3. Examine the geostrategic significance of Indian islands. 15 marks
4. Discuss the problems of floods and their management with special reference to Indo- Gangetic plain 15 marks

2022

1. How do physiography and climate of India explain the biological diversity of the country? 10 marks
2. Critically examine the factors affecting the unpredictability of South-West Monsoon system in India. 20 marks
3. Soils of India, are clear reflections of the structure and process. Comment. 15 marks
4. Incidence of extreme rainfall events and flash floods in recent times have led to devastating consequences for people living in low-lying areas and flood plains of the country. Discuss. 15 marks

2021

1. Discuss the economic significance of volcanic soils of India. 10 marks
2. Describe the salient features of east-flowing rivers of India. 15 marks
3. Explain the impact of tropical cyclones and western disturbances on the climate of India. 20 marks
4. Describe the structure and relief features of Deccan Plateau. 15 marks

2020

1. Climate change has unsettled the rhythm of seasons. Comment with examples and empirical evidences. 10 marks
2. Soil type in India, classified on the basis of colour, possess specific chemical and mineral characteristics. Discuss. 15 marks

2019

1. Why is the Indian Monsoon erratic in nature? Explain. 10 marks
2. Discuss the rainfall pattern and correlate it with spatial distribution of natural vegetation in India. 15 marks
3. Present the salient features of West flowing rivers of India. 10 marks

2018

1. Distinguish the geographical aspects of North-Western lava plateau and Chotanagpur Plateau of Peninsular India. 20 marks
2. Explain the changing river courses and their impacts on the riparian population in India with suitable examples. 10 marks

Resources

Land, surface and ground water, energy, minerals, biotic and marine resources, Forest and wild life resources and their conservation; Energy crisis.

2025

1. Why are coral reefs in India most important with respect to its dynamic ecosystem? Explore. 15 marks
2. Highlight the characteristics of land utilisation in Eastern Ghats region of India. What are the recent threats to land utilisation method in the region? 15 marks
3. Examine the validity of Blue Economy initiatives of India. Elaborate the impacts of this economy on country's development. 15 marks

2024

1. Water Scarcity is an important cause of disputes and conflicts in India. Suggest innovative methods for location-based solutions. 15 marks

2023

1. Discuss the impact of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 on forest conservation in India. 10 Marks
2. Why are critical minerals essential for the economic development and national security in India? 10 Marks

2022

1. The peninsular location of India provides scope for harnessing non-conventional energy resources. Discuss with examples. 15 marks
2. Groundwater contamination in the fast-expanding urban landscape of India appears to have become a major public health issue. Discuss. 15 marks
3. India is bestowed with rich mineral resources due to its geological structure. Correlate the above statement with large mineral belts of India. 20 marks
4. Discuss the impact of Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the local forest communities in India. 10 Marks

2021

1. Discuss the importance of solar energy in future economic development of India. 20 marks
2. Discuss the reserves, distribution and production of all varieties of coal in India. 20 marks
3. Discuss the reserves, distribution and production of all varieties of coal in India. 10 marks
4. Examine the critical issues of groundwater resources in India. 15 marks

2020

1. The pattern of growing ecological foot-prints is uneven in nature. Analyse with reference to and resources in India. 10 marks

2019

1. Examine the major causes of ground water depletion in India. 10 marks
2. Discuss the problems of wildlife conservation and management in India. 10 marks

2018

1. Keeping the recent developments in view, how can the energy crisis of India be circumvented by harnessing non conventional energy resources? 10 marks
2. Illustrate with suitable examples the endeavours undertaken in augmenting conservation of water and vegetation in India. 20 marks

Agriculture

Infrastructure: irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, power; Institutional factors; land holdings, land tenure and land reforms; Cropping pattern, agricultural productivity, agricultural intensity, crop combination, land capability; Agro and social-forestry; Green revolution and its socio-economic and ecological implications; Significance of dry farming; Livestock resources and white revolution; Aqua-culture; Sericulture, Apiculture and poultry; Agricultural regionalisation; Agro-climatic zones; Agro-ecological regions.

2025

1. How does Himalayan ecosystem regulate the cropping pattern and agricultural activities in Himalayan region of India? Discuss. 10 marks
2. Discuss the necessary conditions for the cultivation of fox nuts and describe the areas of its production in India. 10 Marks
3. How does the agricultural sector of India confront with the contemporary physical and politico-economic changes in the different regions of the country? Elucidate. 15 Marks
4. What are the challenges of dairy sector in India? Describe the contribution of bovine population. 15 Marks

2024

1. Institutional factors are playing a dominant role in controlling the agricultural prosperity in India. Justify with evidences. 20 marks
2. Examine the transitional role of technology on Indian agriculture sector. 10 marks
3. How do small and fragmented landholdings affect the agro-ecological system in rural India? What are the resilient steps needed to overcome this issue? 15 marks

2023

1. Why are millets considered as 'nutri-cereals' and climate-resilient? Discuss the constraints and opportunities of millet cultivation in India. 15 marks
2. Identify the jute-producing areas and discuss the major causes of decline of jute mill industry in india 10 marks
3. Discuss the significance of organic farming for sustainable agricultural development in India. 15 marks
4. India's poultry sector has become one of the fastest growing areas of the country's agricultural sector. Examine its opportunities and challenges. 15 marks

2022

1. Discuss the recent changes brought about in institutional frameworks of agriculture in India. Evaluate its impact on the agrarian economy of the country. 20 marks
2. Discuss the importance of 'Dry-land' farming in the drought-prone regions of India. 15 Marks
3. How do agro-climatic and land capability indicators assist in macro-agricultural regionalisation of India? Illustrate with an appropriate map. 20 marks

2020

1. Identify oilseeds producing areas in India and discuss the measure to promote edible oil industry 15 marks
2. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020 aims to deregulate the production, supply and distribution of farm produce. Critically examine its spatial consequences. 15 marks
3. Elucidate the benefits of neem coated urea scheme for indian agriculture. 10 marks
4. Canal irrigation has led to monocropping in India. Explain with suitable examples. 10 Marks

2019

1. Explain the significance of dry farming in drought prone areas of India. 10 marks
2. Correlate the agro-climatic zones with agro-ecological regions of India. 20 marks
3. Discuss the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides in agriculture and its impact on human health. 20 marks

2018

1. Explain the contemporary agricultural scenario in the context of rapid urbanizations in India. 15 marks
2. Examine the ongoing process of agricultural diversification and its implications for food security in india. 15 marks

Industry

Evolution of industries; Locational factors of cotton, jute, textile, iron and steel, aluminium, fertiliser, paper, chemical and pharmaceutical, automobile, cottage and agro-based industries; Industrial houses and complexes including public sector undertakings; Industrial regionalisation; New industrial policy;

Multinationals and liberalisation; Special Economic Zones; Tourism including eco-tourism.

2025

1. Write a critically argued essay on nautical tourism and its infrastructure in India. 10 Marks
2. Why cottage industries in India are an integral part of Indian socio-economic structure? Assess this with reference to different types of cottage industries in rural India. 15 Marks
3. Explain the factors which contribute to the growth of India's pharmaceutical industry with specific reference to its concentration in western region of India. 20 Marks

2024

1. Domestic tourism in India has immense local resource potential. Discuss the reasons and its various dimensions. 15 marks
2. Industrial waste is diversified. Discuss the potentials and challenges associated with it. 20 Marks

2023

1. Indian Pharma Industry has to move from 'volume' to 'value' leadership to capture global market. Discuss 20 marks
2. Assess the ecotourism potential of Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep islands and highlight the challenges associated with the sustainable development of island territories. 15 marks

2022

1. Discuss the salient characteristics of industrial complexes of Western India. Examine the impact of SEZ policy on the region. 20 marks

2021

1. Give a reasoned account of difference between sugar industry of North and Peninsular India. 10 Marks
2. Examine the significance of ecotourism in relation to socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation in India. 15 marks
3. Identify the major industrial corridors of India and discuss the characteristics of Bengaluru—Mumbai Corridor 15 marks
4. Assess the growth of multinational corporations in liberalized economic environment of India. 15 marks

2020

1. The Pharmaceutical industry in India depends on the import of raw material. Evaluate this statement in view of the Indo-Chinese relationship. 15 marks
2. What are the characteristics of Blue Flag certified beaches? Discuss their significance for beach tourism in India. 15 marks

2019

1. Critically analyse the role of multinational corporations in India's economic development with suitable examples. 15 marks
2. Assess the importance of foot-loose industries in the development of backward regions in India. 10 marks
3. Explain the relevance of green tourism for sustainable development of mountain environment in India. 15 marks

2018

1. Assess the suitability of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for the sustainable economic development in India. 15 marks
2. Give a critical account of region specific constraints of sustainable tourism in India. 15 Marks

Transport, Communication and Trade

Road, railway, waterway, airway and pipeline networks and their complementary roles in regional development; Growing importance of ports on national and foreign trade; Trade balance; Trade Policy; Export processing zones; Developments in communication and information technology and their impacts on economy and society; Indian space programme.

2025

1. With reference to the transport and communication network of India, critically discuss the Sagarmala project. 15 Marks

2024

1. Examine the relationship between seaports and regional development in India. 10 Marks
2. The Indian Space Policy, 2023 supports the commercial presence in space. In what ways will it benefit the socio-economic development and security of India? 15 marks
3. What are the major regional rapid transit systems developed in India? How are urban problems being addressed by them? 15 marks

2023

1. Examine the role of Indian Earth Observation Satellite Technology in enhancing weather forecasting and disaster management. 10 marks
2. Highlight the salient features of India's trade policy. Discuss the status of India's balance of trade with China. 15 marks

2022

1. Discuss the significance of new ports on the Western Coast of India on the external trade of the country. 10 marks
2. Critically examine the role of IRNSS-NavIC programme on the satellite navigation system of india. 15 marks

2021

1. Examine how information and communication tech has boosted the development of certain regions of India. 20 marks
2. Critically assess the status of balance of trade in India and suggest some measures to combat the issues. 15 marks

2020

1. India has opened-up its space to private sector for satellite based activities. Critically examine its implications indicating the major security concerns. 20 marks

2019

1. Examine ongoing space programmes of India and their implications for national security in future. 15 Marks Examine the development of information technology in India and its influence on work culture and society. 15 marks
2. With special reference to India examine the changes in the nature and patterns of international trade. Mention the major influencing factors. 20 marks

2018

1. Account for the persisting negative trade balance of India. 15 marks
2. Explain the pipeline network across India and its impact on regional development. 20 Marks
3. Discuss the changing composition of international trade through major seaports of India 15 marks

Cultural Setting

Historical Perspective of Indian Society; Racial linguistic and ethnic diversities; religious minorities; Major tribes, tribal areas and their problems; Cultural regions; Growth, distribution and density of population; Demographic attributes: sex-ratio, age structure, literacy rate, work-force, dependency ratio, longevity; migration (inter-regional, interregional and international) and associated problems; Population problems and policies; Health indicators.

2025

1. "Spatial distribution of religious groups in India does not show any specific pattern." Illustrate with arguments. 10 marks
2. What are the key features of sex-ratio of population in India? Evaluate the impacts of child sex-ratio on general sex-ratio in the country. 15 Marks
3. Health is the outcome of interaction between physical setting, cultural traits and ecological connection. Explain. 15 marks
4. Migration is the reflection of regional disparities. What socio-economic and demographic consequences are experienced at the place of origin and destination? 20 marks

2024

1. Indian population belongs to large number of races. Discuss the spatial distribution of major races. 10 marks
2. How is cultural background of States of India reflected in the attributes of sex and age structure? 15 marks
3. Health is the outcome of interaction between physical setting, cultural traits and ecological connection. Explain. 15 marks
4. Migration is the reflection of regional disparities. What socio-economic and demographic consequences are experienced at the place of origin and destination? 20 marks

2023

1. Explain the cultural regions of India based on their cultural attributes. 10 marks
2. Describe the regional variations of health indicators among the Indian States. 15 Marks
3. With falling fertility rate and rising median age, how can India translate demographic dividend to economic dividend? 20 marks

2022

1. How would decline in Total Fertility Rate (TFR) below the replacement level, in many states of India affect the future population structure of the country? 10 marks

2021

1. Critically examine the relevance of Ravenstein's law of population migration with reference to india. 10 marks

2020

1. Identifying areas covered under tribal sub-plan, discuss the programmes initiated to address to their problems. 20 marks
2. Give a reasoned geographical account of changing rural folk houses in india. 15 marks
3. Stunting and wasting among children are major consequences of food in insecurity. Discuss various schemes of Government of India to address insecurity. Address these problems and their achievements. 15 marks
4. The process of demographic transition is not uniform in India. Examine this statement in the context of demographic transition theory. 15 marks
5. Analyse the changing nature of workforce composition vis-à-vis rural-urban divide in India. 20 marks

2019

1. Explain the present status of age-structure and availability of workforce in India. 15 marks
2. Analyse the role of interstate migration in regional disparity in India. 20 marks

2020

1. Critically assess the vanishing ethnic linguistic plurality of India. 15 marks
2. Discuss the socio-economic problems associates with the left behind families of international migrants from India. 10 marks

Settlements

Types, patterns and morphology of rural settlements; Urban developments; Morphology of Indian cities; Functional classification of Indian cities; Conurbations and metropolitan regions; Urban sprawl; Slums and associated problems; Town planning; Problems of urbanisation and remedies.

2025

1. How can rural-urban fringe be delineated? Explain with suitable examples from India. 10 Marks
2. "The rural settlements in India are highly diversified due to both physical and cultural factors." Justify the statement with examples. 15 Marks

2024

1. Discuss the process of formation of conurbations in India and describe their problems. 15 marks
2. How can morphology of Indian towns be described historically? Discuss the major features of the first planned city in India after independence. 20 marks

2023

1. Poor quality of urban planning in India is a huge constraint in realizing the true economic potentials of urbanization. Critically examine. 15 marks
2. A large number of Indian cities have a complex morphological characteristic due to their historical evolution. Elucidate. 20 marks

2022

1. What are the drivers of urban sprawl around the major cities of the country? How have new investments in transport projects supported sprawl development? 15 marks

2021

1. Critically examine the importance of Smart Cities Programme for Solving Urban Problem in India. 15 marks
2. Discuss Ashok Mitra's classification method of Indian cities. 10 marks

2020

1. Identify challenges faced by generative and parasitic towns in India and their possible remedies. 10 marks
2. Urban sprawl around planned cities evolve leading to emergence of squatter settlements. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of such outgrowth. 15 marks

2019

1. Correlate the price of land, vertical growth of cities and the growth of slums in large cities of india. 10 marks
2. Provide a reasoned account on emerging conurbations in India and explain with suitable examples the problems associated with it. 15 marks

2018

1. Examine the driving forces of changing urban morphology of millionplus cities of India with suitable examples. 20 marks
2. Describe the changing regional morphology of rural settlements in India. 20 marks

Regional Development and Planning

Experience of regional planning in India; Five Year Plans; Integrated rural development programmes; Panchayati Raj and decentralised planning; Command area development; Watershed management; Planning for backward area, desert, drought-prone, hill tribal area development; multi-level planning; Regional planning and development of island territories.

2025

1. "Watershed is the most appropriate spatial unit for planning." Comment. 10 marks
2. With reference to typical examples, assess why regional planning in India is important for island territories for their sustainable development. 15 Marks

2024

1. Describe the area-specific strategies for the development of drought-prone areas in India. 10 marks
2. In spite of various tribal area development programmes in India, tribal areas still lag behind. Discuss critically with examples. 15 marks
3. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act devolved functions, finances and functionaries for planning of rural areas in India. Discuss the major achievements with examples. 15 marks
4. India has wide-ranging regional disparities in economic development. Explain the patterns, implications and challenges. 20 marks

2023

1. Critically examine the ecological and economic impact of Indira Gandhi Canal Command Area development. 15 marks

2022

1. Can the Panchayat Raj institutions play a role in grassroot level planning in India? If yes, discuss how 10 marks
2. Why do disparities in development and incomes between regions persist in large countries like India? How does the recent ADP plan address the issue? 20 marks

2021

1. Discuss the role of watershed management for soil and water conservation in hilly regions of India. 10 marks
2. Critically examine how Panchayati Raj system is catalyst in decentralized planning in India. 20 marks
3. Discuss the Command Area Development Programme and its impact on eliminating regional inequalities in India. 15 marks

2021

1. Border area development is an important national priority. What are the resilient steps needed for peaceful borders? 20 marks
2. The success of Panchayati Raj depends upon meaningful participation of people grassroot level. Examine. 10 marks
3. Digital Divide in India needs quick redressal to reduce regional disparity in development. with suitable examples. 20 marks

4. What kind of skill promotion programmes have been initiated for job deficient regions in India? Explain. 15 marks

2019

1. Discuss how watershed management has become a tool in eradication of rural poverty in India. 15 Marks
2. Analyse the incentive oriented programmes for removing regional imbalances in socio-economic development of India. 15 marks

2018

1. Examine the role of people's participation in successful decentralized planning in India. 10 Marks
2. Discuss the strategies of integrated development of island territories in India. 15 Marks

Political Aspects

Geographical basis of Indian federalism; State reorganisation; Emergence of new states; Regional consciousness and inter-state issues; International boundary of India and related issues; Cross-border terrorism; India's role in world affairs; Geopolitics of South Asia and Indian Ocean realm.

2025

1. Is North East India a geo-political or geo-cultural region? Justify your answer. 10 marks
2. With reference to international boundaries of India, discuss the related issues, giving suitable examples. 15 marks
3. "Socio-political landscape in India is a result of regional consciousness creating inter-state disputes." Discuss with region specific examples. 20 Marks

2024

1. Critically examine the role of petroleum energy resources on International Geopolitics with special India 15 marks
2. India is playing a very significant role in world affairs. Examine the stands taken by India in important global and regional summits. 15 marks

2023

1. Critically examine the role of petroleum energy resources on International Geopolitics with special reference 15 marks
2. Examine the geopolitical impact of bilateral relationship between India and Sri Lanka. 15 marks

2022

1. Discuss the continuing disputes on water sharing between the riparian states of North-West india. 15 marks
2. Kalapani dispute has opened a new front on the India-Nepal international border. Explain. 10 marks
3. Discuss the emergence of linguistic regions and states in India. 15 marks
4. Discuss the geopolitical significance of Quad in the Indo-Pacific realm with reference to marine trade in the region. 15 marks

2021

1. Discuss the geo-political impact of bilateral relationship between India and Bhutan. 10 marks
2. Critically examine the problems of inter-State border disputes in India. 15 marks

2020

1. Has the regional aspiration of the people of jammu and kashmir been addressed through re-organisation of the state? Make an assessment. 10 marks
2. Describe the economic, maritime and strategic interests of India in South China Sea. 15 marks

2019

1. Discuss the political aspects of Himalaya. Explain how it has affected geo-strategy, geo-politics and regional consciousness of Indian federalism. 20 marks
2. "India is emerging as global power in relation to Indian ocean realm." Elaborate. 15 Marks

2018

1. Discuss the emerging geo-political scenario of Indian Ocean realm. 15 marks
2. Cross border terrorism has implications on border area develop-ment in India. Examine it with suitable examples. 15 marks
3. Is the land boundary of India with its neighbouring countries a cultural divide or divided culture? Explain with suitable examples. 15 marks

Contemporary Issues

Ecological issues: Environmental hazards: landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and droughts, epidemics; Issues related to environmental pollution; Changes in patterns of land use; Principles of environmental impact assessment and environmental management; Population explosion and food security; Environmental degradation; Deforestation, desertification and soil erosion; Problems of agrarian and industrial unrest; Regional disparities in economic development; Concept of sustainable growth and development; Environmental awareness; Linkage of rivers; Globalisation and Indian economy.

2025

1. What are the causes and consequences of land degradation due to desertification in India? Examine with reference to various regional issues. 15 Marks
2. Explain the factors that contribute to droughts in India with specific reference to food production, distribution and availability. Can Indian agricultural policies resolve the issue? 20 marks
3. While defining the green architecture, discuss its principles and challenges in response to climate change in India. 20 marks

2024

1. Conservation and breeding centres are important component of the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020—2025. Why? 10 marks
2. Discuss the targets of focused interventions of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, 2024 in rural and urban areas. 15 marks

2023

1. Urban built environment in big cities of India creates key changes in biophysical character of the landscape- Discuss. 10 marks
2. Examine the environmental challenges caused by the solid waste in metropolitan regions of India and discuss the efforts to overcome it. 20 marks
3. Discuss the green energy initiatives of India as a signatory nation to the Paris Agreement. 20 marks

2023

1. Why has extreme particulate pollution remained a festering issue in Delhi NCR region? 10 marks
2. The process of desertification leads to soil desiccation and soil loss. Explain. 10 marks
3. Examine the role of high population concentration in Indian slums in making them more vulnerable during pandemic conditions like the COVID-19. 15 marks
4. Evaluate the role of the National Food Security Act, 2013 in providing access of food to the poor in India. 15 marks

2021

1. Landslide is a major problem in Himalayan region. Discuss its causes and mitigation measures. 20 marks
2. Appraise why drought is one of the most common climatic extremes in India. 15 marks
3. Discuss the ecological and economic challenges of river linking in India. 15 marks
4. Describe the problems of cloud burst in India giving suitable examples. 10 marks

2020

1. Discuss the method of crops residue management in rural India to reduce pollution. 10 Marks
2. Avalanche is a major hazard in the Himalayas. What are its causes and mitigation measures? 15 marks
3. Demarcating the seismic zones of India, suggest suitable interventions required in most sensitive seismic zones for sustainable human settlements. 15 marks

2019

1. Examine the problems of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in India. 10 marks
2. "Intrabasins linkages of rivers are more feasible economically, socially and ecologically". Discuss with suitable examples from India. 20 marks
3. Give a reasoned account of high level of pollution in North Indian cities as compared to South indian cities. 15 marks

2019

1. Explain the unusual intensity of dust storms and thunderstorms across India in the pre-monsoon period of year 2018. 10 marks
2. Why setting up of Water Management Boards is a controversial issue in India. 10 marks
3. Make a critical appraisal of the factors affecting river water quality in India. 10 marks
4. Describe the socio-spatial consequences of the recent Nipah viral encephalitis in India. 10 Marks
5. Peri-urbanization has created enormous environmental problems. Discuss their causes and consequences with reference to the National Capital Region (N.C.R) of India. 15 marks

GEOGRAPHY

OPTIONAL

FOUNDATION & TEST SERIES

PROGRAMME FOR 2026-27

Our Rankers



AIR **12**

Yasharth Shekhar, IAS
UPSC CSE 2021



AIR **75**

Chandrakant Bagoria, IAS
UPSC CSE 2022



AIR **114**

Vivek Garg, IAS
UPSC CSE 2024



AIR **114**

Rupal Srivastava, IRS
UPSC CSE 2022



AIR **115**

Ritwik Mehta, IAS
UPSC CSE 2025



AIR **193**

Ashu Pant, IPS
UPSC CSE 2021



AIR **543**

Abhishek Ranjan, IAS
UPSC CSE 2018



AIR **650**

Sai Prakash, IPS
UPSC CSE 2022