

NCERT MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CLASS – 11

GEOGRAPHY CHAPTER- 1 GEOGRAPHY AS A DISCIPLINE

Question 1.

What is geography?

Answer:

The word geography is a combination of two Greek words. 'Geo' meaning the earth and "Graphy" meaning description. Thus, the meaning of geography could be to write about the earth including all that is upon it. Geography is the science dealing with the spatial distribution of various phenomena (physical & human & biotic) on the surface of the earth.

Question 2.

What is the relation of geography with other sciences?

Answer:

Geography draws its contents from both natural science and social science (sociology, economics, political science). It has also contributed to them. Hence there are several interdisciplinary areas in; geography. For example. Geomorphology is closely linked with. Geology, Economic Geography with Economics, and Bio-geography with life sciences (Botany and Zoology).

Question 3.

What are the three features of systematic geography?

Answer:

1. It studies geographical facts in an individual manner.
2. It implies the detailed study of a single specific geographical factor.
3. It is explanatory and is largely interpretative.
4. A detailed study of agriculture is done by marking the agricultural regions of India.

Question 4.

Why did geography become a popular subject in school by the end of the eighteenth century?

Answer:

It was because it gave knowledge about the land to prospective migrants, administrators and traders. Gradually, along with the description of places and peoples, explanation for varying responses of people to the natural environment was also presented. Thus, geography emerged as the study of the dynamics of the man-environment relationship and its imprints on the earth's surface.

Question 5.**What do you mean by Systematic geography?****Answer:**

A study of a specific natural or cultural phenomenon that gives rise to certain spatial patterns on the earth's surface is called Systematic geography. There are four branches of systematic geography :

1. Physiography
2. Biogeography
3. Human ecology
4. Geographic methods and techniques.

Question 6.**Write a short note on Spatial Information Technology (SIT).****Answer:**

The last quarter of the 20th century has put geography on a new trajectory of development with SIT as the main source of information and information processing. SIT is concerned with data collection and analysis related to physical space or the surface of the earth with the help of advanced means of information technology, such as remote sensing, aerial photographs, and satellite imageries.

They have enabled geographers to develop geographic information systems (GIS), land information systems (LIS), and global positioning systems (GPS) as location decision administration and managerial tools. Geography in the 21 st century has entered a new era of spatial information technology (SIT). They are going to be used not only in answering the question of what is where and why but also in what should be where and why. They will not only be generating information for decision-making but also will be actively participating in decision-making.

Question 7.**Describe the various branches of geography.****Answer:**

Today geography is the only discipline that brings all-natural and human sciences on a common platform. It is an interdisciplinary and integrative science having numerous branches :

A. Systematic geography :

1. Physiography: Studies the physical aspects of the earth's surface, as landforms, climate, water, and soil.
2. Plant Geography: Studies the distribution of various kinds of forests and grasslands. Zoo-geography studies the distribution of animals and micro-organisms. Human ecology studies the changing human-nature relationship and its consequences on human life and living. Environmental y geography studies the quality of the living environment and its implications for human welfare.

3. Human Geography: Human beings interact with nature and create a great variety of cultural phenomena like villages, Ji towns, cities, countries, factories, roads, houses, etc. The study of location and distribution of all such phenomena falls under the purview of human geography.
4. Geographic methods and techniques: Field studies, cartography, quantitation geography, and spatial information system (GIS, LIS, GPS).

B. Regional Geography :

1. Regional Studies
2. Regional Planning
3. Regional Development
4. Regional Approach

Question 8.

Discuss two perspectives of study that characterized geography in the twentieth century.

Answer:

Geography in the twentieth century became a discipline that studied the earth's surface from two perspectives systematic and regional. The former produced sub-disciplines like physiography, climate, biogeography, political geography, economic geography, health geography, etc., while the latter gave rise to regional geography, regional science, regional development, regional planning, area planning, etc.

The first started with systematic knowledge to arrive at regional patterns, while the second started with a region to arrive at systematic details. In both cases, humans remained a central theme i.e., the emphasis of the study being on the impact of systematic processes and regional patterns on humans and their activities.

Question 9.

How did the Indian scholars contribute to geography in the ancient period?

Answer:

Indian scholars were among those who laid the foundation of geography in the ancient period. Atharva Veda, written around the 10th century B.C., gives the details of the then known earth, its physical features, bio-geography, and human settlements. Indians went to different parts of the world to carry the message of Indian culture, particularly of Hinduism and Buddhism. The contribution of Indian astronomers and geographers was highly advanced for their times. Aryabhatta propounded the theory of heliocentric universe a century before Copernicus, and Bhaskaracharya mentioned the gravity of the earth 1200 years before Newton. Kalidas's description of the geography of Central India in 'Meghaduta' is highly professional,

Question 10.

What is the importance of Physical geography?

Answer:

Physical geography includes the study of the lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere.

- Soils are formed through the process of pedogenesis and depend upon the parent rocks, climate, biological activity, and time. Time provides maturity to soils and helps in the development of soil profiles. Each element is important for human beings.
- Landforms provide the base on which human activities are located.
- The plains are utilized for agriculture. Plateaus provide forests and minerals. Mountains provide pastures, forests, tourist spots and are sources of rivers providing water to lowlands.
- Climate influences our house types, clothing, and food habits.
- Climate has a profound effect on vegetation, cropping pattern, livestock farming, and some industries, etc.
- Temperature and precipitation ensure the density of forests and the quality of grassland.
- Oceans are the storehouse of resources and are rich in mineral resources, fish, and other seafood.