

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chapter 5 - India, That Is Bharat

Competency-Based Questions & Answers

Exam-focused | Application • Reasoning • Case Study • Source Analysis

1. Case-Based Question

A student reads that the land we call India has been known by different names in different historical texts and languages. The Constitution uses the expression “India, that is Bharat.”

- a) Why can a country have more than one name?
- b) What does “India, that is Bharat” show?
- c) Why is it useful to study the historical background of names?

Answer:

- a) A region or country may have different names because different languages, communities and historical periods may use different names.
- b) It shows that India and Bharat refer to the same country.
- c) Studying names in their historical context helps us understand how people described and understood the region in different periods.

2. Source-Based Question

An ancient text refers to a geographical region using a particular name. A later source uses a different name for a similar region.

- a) What should a historian examine before concluding that both names refer to exactly the same area?
- b) Why is geographical context important?
- c) What other evidence could be examined?

Answer:

- a) The historian should examine the date, context and geographical description associated with each name.
- b) Regions and political boundaries changed over time, so a historical name may not always refer to exactly the same territory as a modern boundary.
- c) Other texts, inscriptions, archaeological evidence, maps and accounts from different periods can be compared.

3. Think and Reason

Why should we not assume that the boundaries of ancient India were exactly the same as the boundaries of present-day India?

Answer: Political boundaries and kingdoms changed over time. Historical sources may also use geographical names differently from modern political boundaries. Therefore, historical regions should be understood according to their time and context.

4. Traveller's Account

A traveller from a distant land writes about the people and geography of India after visiting the region.

- a) Why can a traveller's account be useful to historians?
- b) Why should historians examine it carefully?
- c) What could influence the traveller's description?

Answer:

- a) It may provide information about places, people, customs and geography observed by the traveller.
- b) The traveller may have visited only particular places and may have had limited knowledge or a particular perspective.
- c) The traveller's purpose, experiences, background, language and the places visited could influence the description.

5. Situation-Based Question

Two students are discussing the name “Bharat.” One says it is only a modern name, while the other says that it has historical roots. Who is correct? Explain.

Answer: The second student's explanation is correct. Bharat is an ancient name associated with the Indian subcontinent and appears in historical and literary traditions. The meaning and geographical extent associated with historical names can vary according to the source and period.

6. Timeline-Based Question

A student wants to study how names used for the Indian subcontinent changed over time. Which method would be most useful?

- A. Memorising only modern political boundaries
- B. Creating a timeline of references to different names in historical sources
- C. Studying only present-day maps
- D. Ignoring the dates of the sources

Answer: B. Creating a timeline of references to different names in historical sources. A timeline helps compare references from different historical periods.

7. Assertion and Reason

Assertion: Historical names should be studied in their historical context.

Reason: The geographical meaning or extent associated with a name may differ according to the period and source.

Answer: Both the Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion.

8. Case Study - Geographical Understanding

A researcher studies several ancient descriptions of the Indian subcontinent. Some sources describe mountains, rivers and seas while discussing the region.

- a) Why are physical features useful when studying historical geography?
- b) Which physical features might help identify a region?
- c) Why might a river or mountain be especially useful?

Answer:

- a) Physical features provide geographical clues that help locate and understand regions described in historical sources.
- b) Mountains, rivers, seas, plains and other natural features can provide clues.
- c) Major rivers and mountain ranges can act as recognisable geographical features and help historians compare descriptions with landscapes.

9. Application-Based Question

Suppose an ancient text describes a region as being surrounded by the sea on three sides and bordered by mountains in the north. How could a historian use this information?

Answer: The historian could compare the description with the physical geography of the Indian subcontinent, including its northern mountain ranges and surrounding seas. The description would then be compared with other evidence before drawing conclusions.

10. Critical Thinking Question

Why are geographical features such as the Himalayas, rivers and seas important when studying the history of India?

Answer: They have influenced movement, settlement, agriculture, communication, trade and cultural interactions. They also help us understand how people and regions were connected in different periods.

11. Competency-Based MCQ

Which approach is most appropriate for studying an ancient geographical name?

- A. Assume its meaning has never changed
- B. Study the name, source, period and geographical context
- C. Use only a modern political map
- D. Ignore the source in which the name appears

Answer: B. Study the name, source, period and geographical context.

12. Source Analysis Question

A historical text describes a particular region as “the land between the mountains and the sea.” A student immediately concludes that the text describes the whole of modern India. Is this conclusion justified?

Answer: Not necessarily. The description should be examined along with the date, context, other geographical details and other sources. Historical descriptions do not automatically correspond exactly to modern political boundaries.

13. Reasoning Question

How can the study of ancient names help us understand the connections between geography and history?

Answer: Names can reflect how people understood and described their geographical surroundings. Studying names alongside geographical features and historical sources can reveal how regions were perceived and connected in different periods.

14. Case-Based Question - Multiple Sources

A historian finds: (1) an ancient literary reference to Bharat, (2) an inscription mentioning a geographical region, (3) a traveller's account, and (4) archaeological remains.

- a) Why should the historian study all four sources?
- b) What is the advantage of comparing them?
- c) What should the historian do if the sources disagree?

Answer:

- a) Each source can provide different information.
- b) Comparison can reveal similarities, differences and supporting evidence.
- c) The historian should examine the date, context, purpose and limitations of each source and seek additional evidence rather than automatically choosing one source.

15. Competency-Based MCQ

Which statement best shows the relationship between geography and human history?

- A. Rivers have no influence on settlements.
- B. Mountains and rivers can influence movement and settlement.
- C. Geography is unrelated to trade.
- D. Physical features have no historical importance.

Answer: B. Mountains and rivers can influence movement and settlement.

16. Higher-Order Thinking Question

Why might people living in different parts of the Indian subcontinent develop different lifestyles while still being connected to one another?

Answer: Different regions have different climates, landscapes, rivers, soils and natural resources, which influence livelihoods and lifestyles. At the same time, people have interacted through travel, trade, migration and cultural exchange.

17. Situation-Based Question

A researcher is studying the historical importance of the Indian Ocean. What aspects should the researcher investigate?

Answer: The researcher could investigate maritime trade, movement of people, ports, cultural exchange and connections between communities around the Indian Ocean.

18. Integrated Competency Question

A student says: “India's geography has played no role in its history because history is only about kings and battles.” Explain why this statement is incomplete.

Answer: History includes much more than kings and battles. Geography has influenced settlement, agriculture, trade, travel and cultural interaction. Mountains, rivers, plains, deserts and seas have shaped human activities in different ways.

19. Long-Answer Competency Question

Explain why the study of names such as “India” and “Bharat” requires both historical and geographical understanding.

Answer: Names such as India and Bharat have been used in different historical and cultural contexts. To understand them properly, we need to examine historical texts, inscriptions and other sources while also considering the geographical regions to which those names referred at different times. Since political boundaries and the extent associated with regions could change, names should be studied in their specific historical context.

20. Comprehensive Competency Question

Imagine that you are a historian asked to explain how people in the past understood the Indian subcontinent. What evidence would you use and how would you study it?

Answer: I would examine literary texts, inscriptions, archaeological evidence, geographical descriptions and travellers' accounts. I would arrange sources chronologically, identify geographical features, compare different descriptions, and consider the context and purpose of each source. This would help build a better-supported understanding of how people viewed and described the region.

Quick Revision - Chapter 5

Names → Historical Sources → Geography → Human Connections → Historical Understanding

Key ideas:

- India and Bharat refer to the same country; the expression “India, that is Bharat” appears in the Constitution.
- Historical names should be understood in the context of the source, period and geography.
- Ancient geographical descriptions should not automatically be equated with modern political boundaries.
- Mountains, rivers, seas, plains and other physical features have influenced human movement, settlement, agriculture and trade.
- Travellers' accounts can provide useful evidence but should be studied in context.
- Historians compare different sources rather than relying on a single source.
- Geography and history are closely connected through human settlement, movement, trade and cultural exchange.

Competency Formula: Who? → When? → Where? → What source? → What does it tell us? → How can it be checked?