

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chapter 3 - Landforms and Life

Competency-Based Questions & Answers

Exam-Preparation Resource

This question bank is designed to assess application, reasoning, interpretation, case-based thinking and real-life understanding of the chapter. Answers are written in clear, student-friendly language and avoid treating any one example as universal.

1. Case-Based Question

Riya lives in a mountainous region where the land is steep and roads are narrow. Her family grows crops on steps made along the slopes. During winter, the temperature becomes very low.

- a) Which major landform does Riya live in?
- b) Why are crops grown on steps on mountain slopes?
- c) Mention one difficulty people may face while travelling in such regions.

Answer:

- a) Riya lives in a mountainous region.
- b) Steps or terraces create relatively level areas for cultivation and help slow the flow of water down slopes.
- c) Travel may be difficult because of steep slopes, narrow roads, landslides or heavy snowfall in some mountain regions.

2. Situation-Based Question

A farmer lives in a broad, flat region. The soil is fertile and a river flows nearby. He grows wheat and rice and uses machines easily on his farm.

- a) Which type of landform is most likely described here?
- b) Give two reasons why farming is easier in this region.
- c) How does the nearby river benefit the farmer?

Answer:

- a) A plain.
- b) Flat land makes cultivation and the use of agricultural machinery easier; plains may also have fertile soils, especially in river plains.
- c) The river can provide water for irrigation and, in some areas, deposits fertile sediments.

3. Think and Answer

Why do you think large settlements often develop in plains rather than on steep mountain slopes?

Answer: Plains generally provide relatively flat land for houses, roads, railways and other infrastructure. They also often support agriculture and easier transportation, making them favourable for larger settlements.

4. Application-Based Question

Imagine that a road has to be constructed between two villages located on opposite sides of a mountain range.

- a) Why might constructing the road be difficult?
- b) What natural hazards could affect the road?
- c) Suggest one way in which people can make transportation safer.

Answer:

- a) Steep slopes, uneven terrain and rocky surfaces can make construction difficult.
- b) Landslides, rockfalls, earthquakes and heavy snowfall can affect roads in mountainous areas.
- c) Engineers can use measures such as retaining structures, proper drainage and protective barriers, according to local conditions.

5. Compare and Reason

A family wants to start a large agricultural farm. They have two choices: Location A: a steep mountainous region; Location B: a broad plain. Which location would generally be more suitable for large-scale farming? Give reasons.

Answer: Location B, the plain, would generally be more suitable because relatively flat land makes cultivation and the use of machinery easier. Mountainous areas can also support farming, but steep slopes make large-scale mechanised farming more difficult.

6. Case Study - Life in a Desert

A village is located in a dry region where rainfall is very low. People have adapted their houses, clothing and occupations to the hot and dry conditions. Water is carefully conserved.

- a) What type of environment is described?
- b) Why is water conservation especially important here?
- c) How can people adapt their lifestyles to such an environment?

Answer:

- a) A desert environment.
- b) Water is scarce because rainfall is very low and evaporation can be high.
- c) People can conserve and carefully manage water, use suitable housing and clothing, and practise occupations suited to local environmental conditions.

7. Assertion and Reason

Assertion: People living in different landforms often have different occupations.

Reason: Landforms influence soil, water availability, climate, vegetation and transportation.

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

8. Data/Observation-Based Question

Consider the following information:

Region	Main Feature	Common Human Activity
A	Flat and fertile	Farming
B	High and steep	Terrace farming and animal rearing
C	Very dry	Pastoralism and trade
D	Surrounded by water	Fishing and tourism

- Which region is most likely a plain?
- Which region represents a mountainous area?
- Why might Region C have limited agriculture?

Answer:

- Region A.
- Region B.
- Very dry regions usually have limited water and rainfall, which restricts crop cultivation unless irrigation or other suitable methods are available.

9. HOTS Question

“Landforms influence human life, but humans also modify landforms.” Explain this statement with examples.

Answer: Landforms influence where people live, what they grow and which occupations they practise. People also modify land to meet their needs—for example, by making terraces on mountain slopes, constructing roads and tunnels, building dams, and preparing land for settlements. Such changes should be planned carefully to reduce environmental risks.

10. Real-Life Application

Suppose you are planning a new town. You have to choose between a flood-prone plain and a slightly elevated area nearby. Which area would you choose for the main residential settlement? Why?

Answer: The slightly elevated area would generally be safer because it has a lower risk of flooding. Planning should also consider drainage, water supply, transport, soil conditions and environmental protection.

11. Reasoning Question

Why are rivers important for the development of human settlements?

Answer: Rivers provide water for drinking and irrigation and can support agriculture and other economic activities. River valleys and plains may therefore offer favourable conditions for settlements.

12. Situation-Based Question

A group of students visits a hilly region. They notice houses built on slopes, roads winding around hills and fields arranged in steps.

- a) Why are roads winding instead of being completely straight?
- b) Why are fields arranged in steps?
- c) What does this tell us about the relationship between people and their environment?

Answer:

- a) Winding roads can follow the terrain and provide a more manageable gradient on steep slopes.
- b) Terraces provide relatively level land for cultivation and help manage water flow and soil erosion.
- c) It shows that people adapt their activities and technologies to local environmental conditions.

13. Competency-Based MCQ

A region has flat land, fertile soil, many roads and railway lines, and a high population density. Which landform is most likely found there?

- A. Mountain B. Plain C. Desert D. Plateau

Answer: B. Plain.

Flat and often fertile land can support agriculture, settlements and transportation.

14. Competency-Based MCQ

A community depends heavily on grazing animals because crop cultivation is difficult due to steep slopes. Which adaptation is most appropriate?

- A. Large-scale mechanised farming
- B. Terrace farming and animal rearing
- C. Intensive fishing
- D. Rice cultivation on flat fields

Answer: B. Terrace farming and animal rearing.

15. Competency-Based MCQ

Which situation best demonstrates human adaptation to landforms?

- A. A river changing its course naturally
- B. People building terraces on mountain slopes
- C. A volcano forming a new landform
- D. Wind eroding rocks

Answer: B. People building terraces on mountain slopes.

16. Critical Thinking Question

Why can the same landform support different occupations in different regions?

Answer: The same landform can have different climates, soils, water availability, vegetation, natural resources and levels of development. People therefore choose occupations according to local conditions and available opportunities.

17. Case-Based Question

A village is located near a river. Over many years, the population increases. More houses, roads and farms are built. During heavy rainfall, the river sometimes overflows.

- a) Why might people have originally settled near the river?
- b) What problem has developed as the population increased?
- c) Suggest two measures to reduce the risk of flooding.

Answer:

- a) The river provides water and supports agriculture and other activities.
- b) Increasing development near the river can increase the number of people and assets exposed to flooding and may reduce natural space for floodwater.
- c) Measures include proper drainage, protecting flood-prone areas, avoiding unsafe construction and maintaining vegetation.

18. “Explain Why” Question

Why are mountains important even though living and transportation can be difficult there?

Answer: Mountains are important sources of water and support forests, biodiversity and various livelihoods. They can support activities such as terrace farming, animal rearing and tourism. Mountain ecosystems also have wider environmental importance.

19. Integrated Competency Question

A government wants to improve the lives of people living in a mountainous region. It plans to build roads, schools, hospitals and tourist facilities. What factors should the government consider before carrying out construction?

Answer: It should consider slope stability, landslide and earthquake risk, drainage, water availability, environmental protection, local community needs, safe transport and the long-term impact of construction. Development should be planned according to local geographical conditions.

20. Long-Answer Competency Question

“Human life is closely connected with landforms.” Explain with suitable examples.

Answer: Landforms influence settlement, agriculture, occupations, transportation and lifestyle. Plains generally provide relatively flat land and may have fertile soils, supporting farming, settlements and transport. Mountains have steep slopes, so people may use terrace farming and depend on activities such as animal rearing and tourism. Deserts have limited water, so people adapt through careful water management and occupations suited to dry conditions. Thus, people adapt their ways of living to the physical environment.

Quick Revision Link

Landform → Physical conditions → Human adaptation → Occupation → Settlement → Lifestyle

Exam tip: In competency-based answers, always connect the physical feature with its effect on human activities. Use specific examples such as plains, mountains and deserts, while remembering that conditions vary from place to place.