

CLASS: VII

CHAPTER: 1

Geographical Diversity of India

Competency-Based Questions with Answers

Question types: Case Studies • Application • Reasoning • Analysis • Higher-Order Thinking

How to use: Read each situation carefully, identify the geographical factor involved, explain its effect, and support your answer with a chapter-based example.

Chapter focus: India's major physical regions and how geographical conditions influence resources, human activities, settlements and ways of life.

A. HIMALAYAS

Q1. Riya visits a Himalayan village and notices that some areas remain covered with snow for a long period. She also learns that several major rivers originate from the Himalayan region. (a) Which Himalayan range is the highest? (b) Why are the Himalayas important sources of rivers?

Ans.- (a) The Himadri, or Greater Himalayas, is the highest Himalayan range. (b) Snow and glaciers in the Himalayas supply meltwater to major river systems such as the Ganga, Indus and Brahmaputra.

Q2. Arjun wants to build a large permanent settlement in a very high Himalayan area. Why might the conditions be difficult?

Ans.- Very high Himalayan areas are extremely cold, rugged and snow-covered for much of the year. These conditions make permanent settlement difficult.

Q3. Mehak compares three Himalayan ranges. One is the highest, another has several settlements and hill stations, while the third consists mainly of lower rolling hills. Identify the three ranges.

Ans.- The highest is the Himadri (Greater Himalayas); the range with comparatively greater human habitation and hill stations is the Himachal (Lesser/Lower Himalayas); the lower outer range is the Shivalik.

Q4. Dev observes that roads in mountainous regions often have bends and require bridges or other special structures. Why?

Ans.- Mountains have steep slopes, valleys and uneven terrain. Roads must follow the relief and may require bends, bridges, tunnels or protective structures.

B. LADAKH — THE COLD DESERT

Q5. Sana visits Ladakh and is surprised by freezing temperatures and very little rainfall. Why is Ladakh called a cold desert?

Ans.- Ladakh receives very little precipitation and has a cold, dry climate. It therefore has desert-like dryness but very low temperatures.

Q6. Kabir notices that people in Ladakh have developed lifestyles suited to extremely cold and dry conditions. What does this show about geography and human life?

Ans.- It shows that people adapt their lifestyle, occupations, clothing, food and settlement patterns to the physical environment.

Q7. A student says, “Every desert must be hot.” Use Ladakh to explain why this is incorrect.

Ans.- A desert is mainly characterised by very low precipitation, not necessarily high temperature. Ladakh is a cold desert because it is very dry and extremely cold.

C. GANGETIC PLAINS

Q8. Ananya visits a village in the Gangetic Plains and sees extensive agricultural fields. What geographical factors make this region suitable for agriculture?

Ans.- Major rivers and their tributaries deposit sediments and minerals, making the soil fertile. The plains are also relatively flat and have water available for agriculture.

Q9. Rahul compares a flat plain with a mountainous region and notices that roads and railway lines are easier to construct on the plain. Explain why.

Ans.- Flat land provides easier conditions for constructing roads and railways. Mountainous terrain has steep slopes and uneven surfaces, making construction more difficult.

Q10. Why have large settlements developed in many parts of the Gangetic Plains?

Ans.- Fertile soil, water availability, level land, agriculture, transport and economic opportunities have encouraged dense settlements and a large population.

Q11. Ishita visits a village in Rajasthan where people collect rainwater in traditional storage structures. Why is rainwater harvesting especially important there?

Ans.- The Thar Desert is an arid region where water is scarce. Collecting and storing rainwater provides an important source of water during dry periods.

Q12. A strong wind moves loose sand and forms hill-like structures in the Thar Desert. What are these structures called and how do they form?

Ans.- They are called sand dunes. They form when wind transports and deposits sand, gradually building it into hill-like formations.

Q13. Neel notices that people living in the desert have adapted their lifestyle to heat and water scarcity. Give two examples of how geography can influence life.

Ans.- Water scarcity influences how people collect, store and use water. The hot, dry climate also influences clothing, food habits, houses and occupations.

D. ARAVALLI HILLS

Q14. A geography student learns that the Aravalli Hills are extremely old and contain mineral resources. Why are they important?

Ans.- The Aravallis influence the geography of northwestern India and contain mineral resources such as marble, granite, zinc and copper. They also have environmental and historical importance.

Q15. Aditi learns that the Aravallis help limit the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert. How can a mountain range influence a desert's spread?

Ans.- A mountain range acts as a physical barrier and influences wind movement and environmental conditions. The Aravallis therefore help limit the eastward spread of the Thar Desert.

E. PENINSULAR PLATEAU

Q16. Varun sees an elevated area with a relatively flat surface and steep edges on a physical map. What landform is he looking at?

Ans.- He is looking at a plateau.

Q17. Priya learns that the Peninsular Plateau is surrounded by water on three sides. Explain why it is called a peninsula.

Ans.- A peninsula is a landform surrounded by water on three sides. The southern part of India extends into surrounding seas, so it is described as a peninsula.

Q18. A river flowing across the Peninsular Plateau encounters a steep drop and forms a waterfall. Why are waterfalls common in some plateau regions?

Ans.- Plateau surfaces can be uneven and rocky. When a river encounters a steep change in elevation, it descends sharply and forms a waterfall.

F. WESTERN AND EASTERN GHATS

Q19. Naman compares the Western and Eastern Ghats. He notices that the Western Ghats are more continuous, while the Eastern Ghats are more broken. State another major difference.

Ans.- The Western Ghats are generally higher, whereas the Eastern Ghats are generally lower and more discontinuous.

Q20. Why are many rivers flowing towards the Arabian Sea relatively short?

Ans.- The Western Ghats lie relatively close to the Arabian Sea, so many rivers have a shorter distance to travel before reaching the sea.

G. INDIA'S COASTS

Q21. Aarohi finds that many rivers on the west coast form estuaries, while major rivers on the east coast form large deltas. Explain this difference.

Ans.- Many west-flowing rivers are relatively short and swift and form estuaries. Major east-flowing rivers travel across broad plains and deposit sediments near their mouths, forming deltas.

Q22. A farmer wants to cultivate crops in a fertile delta formed by a major river. Why can a delta provide favourable conditions for agriculture?

Ans.- Rivers deposit nutrient-rich sediments in their deltas. The resulting fertile and relatively level land can provide favourable conditions for farming.

Q23. A port city develops on the coast and becomes an important centre for trade. Which geographical feature makes such economic activity possible?

Ans.- Its coastal location provides access to the sea, allowing ports, shipping and maritime trade to develop.

H. ISLANDS OF INDIA

Q24. Kunal is preparing a presentation on India's islands. He learns that Lakshadweep is in the Arabian Sea, while the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the Bay of Bengal. State one major difference between them.

Ans.- Lakshadweep is an archipelago of coral islands, while the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are an island group with volcanic islands and a different geological setting.

Q25. Tara reads that Barren Island has an active volcano. Why is this geographically significant?

Ans.- Barren Island is significant because it is the only active volcano in India.

I. SUNDARBANS

Q26. A wildlife researcher visits the Sundarbans and observes mangrove vegetation and many animals. Why is the region environmentally unique?

Ans.- The Sundarbans lie in the delta of the Ganga, Brahmaputra and their tributaries, where river, land and sea environments meet. This creates a distinctive ecosystem with rich biodiversity.

Q27. Why are mangrove ecosystems important in a deltaic coastal environment such as the Sundarbans?

Ans.- Mangroves are adapted to coastal and tidal conditions. They provide habitats for wildlife and help maintain the ecological balance of coastal environments.

J. HILLS OF THE NORTHEAST

Q28. Raghav visits Meghalaya and sees lush forests, waterfalls and living root bridges. What does this tell us about the region's physical environment?

Ans.- The region receives heavy rainfall and has hilly terrain, creating favourable conditions for dense vegetation, forests and waterfalls.

Q29. A local community guides the roots of trees over many years to create a bridge. Why is this an example of adaptation?

Ans.- People are using locally available living trees and roots to create a useful structure suited to the region's wet, hilly environment.

K. HIGHER-ORDER COMPETENCY

Q30. Riya says, "Geography only tells us about mountains, rivers and deserts." Arjun says, "Geography also helps us understand how people live." Who is correct? Explain.

Ans.- Arjun is correct. Geography includes physical features and their relationship with human life. Landforms, climate, water and resources influence agriculture, occupations, settlements, transport and culture.

Q31. Imagine that the Gangetic Plains had steep, rocky terrain instead of mostly level land. How might this affect agriculture and transportation?

Ans.- Agriculture would become more difficult because cultivation and irrigation would be harder on steep, rocky land. Roads and railways would also be more difficult to construct.

Q32. Suppose a village in the Thar Desert suddenly receives a reliable supply of water throughout the year. Predict two possible changes in its activities.

Ans.- More land could potentially be brought under cultivation, and new economic activities or settlements could develop because reliable water would reduce a major environmental limitation.

Q33. Imagine that the Himalayas did not have large snowfields and glaciers. How could this affect India's river systems?

Ans.- The supply of meltwater to major Himalayan rivers would be affected, which could influence water availability for agriculture, settlements and other human activities.

Q34. A government plans a railway through a mountainous region and another through a plain. Which project would require more adaptation to the physical landscape? Explain.

Ans.- The mountainous railway would require more adaptation because of steep slopes, valleys and uneven terrain. Tunnels, bridges, curves and protective structures may be necessary.

Q35. A coastal village has both a fertile delta and access to the sea. Suggest two economic activities that could develop there and explain why.

Ans.- Agriculture can develop because deltaic soils are fertile, while fishing and maritime trade can develop because of access to the sea.

Q36. A student says, “India's geographical diversity is a challenge because every region is different.” Another says, “It is also an advantage.” Explain.

Ans.- Different environments can create challenges such as water scarcity, difficult terrain or extreme climate. At the same time, diversity provides different resources and opportunities, including fertile agricultural land, forests, minerals, fisheries, tourism and varied ecosystems.

Q37. How does geographical diversity influence the lifestyle of people in India?

Ans.- It influences food, clothing, houses, occupations, transport and settlement patterns. For example, people in deserts adapt to water scarcity, while people in fertile plains can depend more heavily on agriculture.

Q38. Explain the relationship between rivers and human civilisation in India.

Ans.- Rivers provide water, fertile sediments and transportation routes. These advantages encourage agriculture, settlements, trade and economic activities, so many important settlements developed around river systems.

Q39. “People adapt to their environment, but the environment also provides opportunities.” Explain with examples from the chapter.

Ans.- People in the Thar Desert conserve and store water because of scarcity. In the Gangetic Plains, fertile soils and water support agriculture. On the coasts, access to the sea supports fishing, ports and trade.

Q40. What is the main message of the chapter Geographical Diversity of India?

Ans.- India has great geographical variety—from the Himalayas and plains to deserts, plateaus, coasts, islands and northeastern hills. This diversity shapes the environment as well as people's livelihoods, settlements, cultures and history.

QUICK COMPETENCY REVISION

- Mountains → water sources, biodiversity, difficult terrain and adaptation.
- Plains → fertile soils, water, agriculture, dense settlements and transport.
- Deserts → low rainfall, water scarcity, adaptation and water conservation.
- Plateaus → old landforms, minerals, forests, rivers and waterfalls.
- Coasts → fishing, ports, trade, estuaries, deltas and tourism.
- Islands → distinctive geological origins, marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Core idea → geographical conditions influence human life, while people adapt to their environment.