

CBSE Class 09 Social Science
NCERT Solutions
Chapter 2 Geography
Physical Features of India

Question 1: Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below.

(i) A landmass bounded by sea on three sides is referred to as

- (a) Coast
- (b) Island
- (c) Peninsula
- (d) none of the above

Answer : (c) Peninsula

(ii) Mountain ranges in the eastern part of India forming its boundary with Myanmar are collectively called as

- (a) Himachal
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Purvachal
- (d) none of the above

Answer : c) Purvanchal

(iii) The western coastal strip, south of Goa is referred to as

- (a) Coromandel
- (b) Konkan

(c) Kannad

(d) Northern Circar

Answer :(b) Kannad

(iv) The highest peak in the Eastern Ghats is

(a) Anai Mudi

(b) Kanchenjunga

(c) Mahendragiri

(d) Khasi

Answer : (c) Mahendragiri

Question 2:Answer the following questions briefly.

(i).What are tectonic plates?

Answer :(i) The crust (upper part) of the earth has been formed out of seven major and some minor plates. These are called tectonic plates.

A Tectonic plate (also called lithospheric plate) is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock, generally composed of both continental and oceanic lithosphere. Plate size can vary greatly, from a few hundred to thousands of kilometers across; the Pacific and Antarctic Plates are among the largest. Plate thickness also varies greatly, ranging from less than 15 km for young oceanic lithosphere to about 200 km or more for ancient continental lithosphere.

(ii).Which continents of today were part of the Gondwana land?

Answer :(ii)South America, part of Africa (south Africa including Madagascar), part of Asia (India, Arabia, Malaya), Australia and Antarctica continents were parts of the Gondwana land.

(iii).What is the *bhabar*?

Answer : (iii) The Bhabar is that narrow belt of the plain which is covered with pebbles and lies along the foothills of the Shiwaliks from the Indus to the Teesta.

(iv). Name the three major divisions of the Himalayas from north to south.

Answer : i The 3 major divisions of the Himalayas from North to South are as follows

(a) The Great or Inner Himalayas or the Himadri It is a continuous range consisting of the highest peaks.

(b) Himachal or Lesser Himalayas The range lying to the South of the Himadri is known as Himachal or Lesser Himalayas.

(c) Shiwaliks The outermost range of the Himalayas is known as the Shiwaliks. These are the foothill ranges and represent the southernmost division of the Himalayas.

(v). Which plateau lies between the Aravali and the Vindhyan ranges?

Answer : (v) The Malwa plateau lies between the Aravali and the Vindhya Ranges.

(vi). Name the island group of India having coral origin.

Answer (vi) Lakshadweep Islands is the island group of India having coral origin

Question 3. Distinguish between

(i) Converging and diverging tectonic plates

Answer: (i)

Converging Tectonic Plates	Diverging Tectonic Plates
When tectonic plates move towards each other, they are called converging plates.	When tectonic plates move away from each other, they are called diverging plates.
They collide or crumble or one of them slides under the other while moving towards each other.	They do not collide or crumble while moving away from each other.
	Diverging plates cause fractures in the

Converging plates cause folds.	crust
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(ii) *Bhangar and Khadar*

Ans (ii)

Bhangar	Khadar
These are the older alluvium or old soil and form the largest part of the Northern Plains.	The newer and younger deposits of the flood plains. Renewed every Year.
Lies above flood plains of rivers.	Is newer, younger deposit of flood
Presents a terrace like feature.	Contains calcerous deposits locally known as Kankar.
Less fertile	More fertile

(iii) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

Ans : (iii)

Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
Mark the western edge of the Deccan Plateau	Mark the eastern edge of the Deccan Plateau
Continuous, can be crossed through the passes only.	Discontinuous, irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.
Higher; average elevation is 900–1600 meters	Lower; average elevation is 600 meters
This range is a source of many large rivers.	No big river originates from this range.
It experiences orographic rain mostly in summer due to the summer monsoons. The climate is hot and moist.	It receives rain both in summer and winter, especially in winter through winter monsoons. However, here the rain is lesser than the western strip.

Soil is highly fertile. Rice, spices, rubber and fruits like coconuts, cashew nuts etc. are grown	Soil is not as fertile as western ghats. Rice, ground nuts, cotton, tobacco, coconuts etc. are grown
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Question 4. Describe how the Himalayas were formed.

Answer : According to the Theory of Plate Tectonics, the Earth's crust was initially a single, giant super-continent called Pangea.

- (a) The oldest landmass of India (peninsular part) was a part of Gondwana land.
- (b) Gondwana land included India, Australia, South Africa and South America as one single landmass.
- (c) Convectional currents split the crust into a number of pieces, thereby leading to the drifting of the Indo – Australian plate after being separated from the Gondwana land towards the North.
- (d) The Northward drift resulted in the collision of the plate with the much larger Eurasian plate.
- (e) Due to this collision the sedimentary rocks which were accumulated in the geosyncline known as the Tethys, were folded to form the mountain systems of Western Asia and Himalaya.
- (f) The Himalayas represent a youthful topography with high peaks, deep valleys and fast following rivers.

Question 5. Which are the major physiographic divisions of India? Contrast the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau.

Answer : The major physiography divisions of India are :

- (i) The Himalayan Mountains
- (ii) The Northern Plains
- (iii) The Peninsular Plateau
- (iv) The Indian Desert

(v) The Coastal Plains

(vi) The Islands

The Himalayan Region	The Peninsular Plateau
Young fold mountains made from the uplift of the strata formed by the sedimentary rocks.	Created from igneous and metamorphic rocks after splitting of Gondwanaland.
Consists of the loftiest mountains and deep valleys	Consists of broad and shallow valleys, and rounded hills
The ranges have I-shaped and U-shaped valleys.	It has horsts, rift valleys and troughs.
It is the origin of perennial rivers.	It has rainfed, seasonal rivers.
From the point of view of geology, this region forms an unstable zone	This region forms a stable zone

Question 6. Give an account of the Northern Plains of India.

Answer : (a) The Himalayan uplift out of the Tethys sea and subsidence of the Northern flank of the peninsular plateau resulted in the formation of a large basin. In course of time, this depression gradually got filled with deposition of sediments from rivers flowing from the mountains in the north and led to formation of the fertile Northern plains.

(b) It spreads over an area of 7 lakh sq km. The plain is about 2400 km long and 240-230 km broad

(c) It is a densely populated and an intensively cultivated area.

(d) With its adequate water supply and favourable climate, it is agriculturally a very productive part of India

(e) The Northern plains are broadly divided into 3 sections.

(f) The Western part of the Northern plains is called the Punjab plains, formed by the Indus and its tributaries.

(g) The Ganga plain extends between the Ghaggar and the Teesta rivers, spread over the states of Haryana, Delhi, UP, Bihar and West Bengal.

(h) The Brahmaputra Plain to the East of the Ganga plains lies the Brahmaputra plain covering the areas of Assam and Arunachal

Pradesh.

(I) The difference in relief has led the North Indian Plains to be divided into four zones : (i) Bhabhar, (ii) Tarai, (iii) Bangar and (iv) Khadar.

Question 7. Write short notes on the following.

(i) The Indian Desert

Answer : The Indian desert lies towards the Western margin of the Aravalli hills.

It is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes.

This region receives very low rainfall, below 150 mm per year.

It has arid climate with low vegetation cover.

Streams appear during the rainy season. Soon they disappear into the sand as they do not have enough water to reach the sea.

Luni is the only large river in this region.

Barchan (Crescent shaped dunes) cover the larger areas but longitudinal dunes become more prominent near the Indo – Pakistan border.

The Indian desert is popularly known as the Thar desert.

(ii) The Central Highlands

Answer : (ii) The Peninsular plateau consists of two broad divisions, namely the central highlands and the Deccan plateau.

The part of the Peninsular plateau lying to the north of the Narmada river covering a major area of the Malwa plateau is known as the Central Highlands.

They are bound by the Vindhya Range from the south and by the Aravalli hills from the north-west.

The further westward extension gradually merges with the sandy and rocky desert of Rajasthan.

The flow of the rivers draining this region, namely the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and Ken is from south-west to north-east.

The central highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east.

The eastward extensions of their plateau are locally known as 'Bundelkhand' and Baghelkhand.

The Chhotanagpur plateau marks the further eastward extension drained by the Damodar

river.

(iii) The Island groups of India

Answer : India has two groups of islands namely the Lakshadweep group and the Andaman and Nicobar group.

(a) The Lakshadweep Islands Group lie close to the Malabar coast of Kerala.

These islands are composed of small coral islands.

Earlier, they were known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive. In 1973, these were renamed as the Lakshadweep.

They cover a small area of 32 sq km.

Kavaratti Island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep.

This island group has a great diversity of flora and fauna.

The Pitti Island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.

(b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The elongated chain of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extending from north to south are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

They are bigger in size and more numerous and scattered than the Lakshadweep Islands.

The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories, the Andaman in the north and Nicobar in the south.

It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of the submarine mountains.

These islands are of great – strategic importance for the country.

They have great diversity of flora and fauna.

These islands lie close to the equator experience equatorial climate and have thick forest cover.

MAP SKILLS

On an outline map of India show the following.

(i) Mountain and hill ranges – the Karakoram, the Zaskar, the Patkai Bum, the Jaintia, the Vindhya range, the Aravali, and the Cardamom hills.

(ii) Peaks – K2, Kanchenjunga, Nanga Parbat and the Anai Mudi.

(iii) Plateaus, Chotanagpur and Malwa

(iv) The Indian Desert, Western Ghats, Lakshadweep Islands

Answer

