

Unit Nine: Diaspora

Lesson I

What is Diaspora?

The term 'diaspora' is used to refer to people who have left their homelands and settled in other parts of the world, either because they were forced to do so or because they wanted to leave on their own. The word is increasingly used for such people as a collective group and/or a community. The world has seen many diasporas but scholars have been studying the phenomenon with great interest only in recent decades.

Among the great diasporas of history is that of the Jewish people, who were forced to leave their lands in ancient times. The movement of Aryans from Central Europe to the Indian sub-continent thousands of years ago is also a noteworthy diaspora, although the causes of this diaspora are unclear. In twentieth century history, the Palestinian diaspora has attracted a lot of attention and been a cause of concern for world leaders because of the plight of Palestinians. There have been massive diasporas in Africa, too, over the centuries, either because of war or because of the ravages of nature. But the chief reason why the phenomenon of diaspora is attracting so much attention now is globalization.

A Choose the correct answer from the alternatives:

1x5=5

(a) The word 'decade' refers to-----

- i. Thirty years ii. Fifty years iii. Ten years iv. Five years

(b) What does 'diaspora' means-----

- i. people live their own country ii. People go abroad
iii. People work in other countries iv. People leave their own countries and settle in other parts of the world

(c) The synonym of 'noteworthy' is-----

- i. insignificant ii. noticeable iii. invaluable iv. appreciable

(d) The Aryans came to the Indian Sub-continent from-----

- i. America ii. Africa iii. Central Europe iv. Europe

(e) In Africa there have been-----

- i. Massive diaspora ii. A little diaspora iii. No diaspora iv. Very little diaspora

B. Answer the following Question:

2x5=10

- (a) Why do people leave their own countries?
(b) Do you think that there have been massive diaspora in Africa?
(c) Why is diaspora attracting so much attention?
(d) How do the twentieth century Palestinian Diasporas draw the attention of the world leaders?
(e) Why have the scholars been studying about the diasporas with great interest?

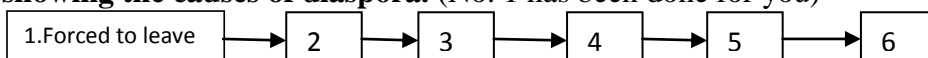
2. Read the passage and complete the table below with the given information.

1x10=10

Who/what	Source / Event	Where/ Place	when
(i)-----	have been studying	In other parts of the world	(ii)-----
They	(iii)-----	To become so	Since long
Jewish People	Were forced	(iv) -----	in ancient times
A notable diaspora	is	(v)-----	(vi)-----
Plestinian Diaspora	(vii)-----	A cause of concern	(viii)-----
(ix)-----	Have been diasporas	in Africa	(x)-----

Or

Based on your reading of the Passage below, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow-chart showing the causes of diaspora. (No. 1 has been done for you)



3. Summarize the text.

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