

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Questions


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Question 1:

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Which one of the following forms of settlement develops along either side of roads, rivers or canals?

1. Circular
2. Linear
3. Cross-Shaped
4. Square

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 2 : Linear



UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 1 Detailed Solution

1. Linear pattern

In such settlements houses are located along a road, railway line, river, canal edge or along a levee. **Hence Option B is the correct answer.**

2. Rectangular pattern

Such patterns of rural settlements are found in plain areas or wide intermontane valleys. The roads are rectangular and cut each other at right angles.

3. Circular pattern

Circular villages develop around lakes, tanks and sometimes the village is planned in such a way that the central part remains open and is used for keeping the animals to protect them from wild animals.

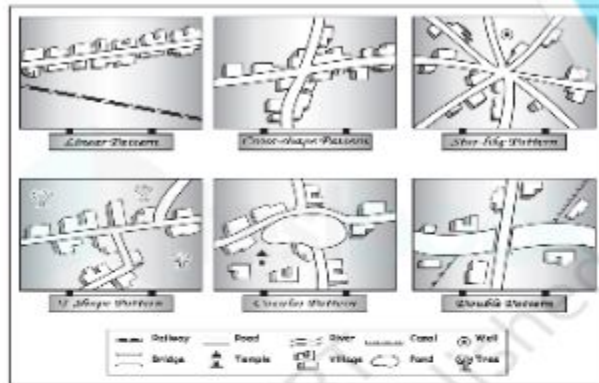


Fig. 10.5: Rural Settlement Patterns

4. Star like pattern

Where several roads converge, star shaped settlements develop by the houses built along the roads.

5. T-shaped, Y-shaped, Cross-shaped or cruciform settlements

T-shaped settlements develop at tri-junctions of the roads while Y-shaped settlements emerge as the places where two roads converge on the third one and houses are built along these roads.

Cruciform settlements develop on the cross-roads and houses extend in all the four directions.

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Question 2:

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Arrange the correct order of the process of soil-erosion from the following:

1. Splash erosion
2. Sheet erosion
3. Rill erosion
4. Gully erosion

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

1. 1 - 2 - 4 - 3

2. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

3. 2 - 1 - 4 - 3

4. 2 - 1 - 3 - 4

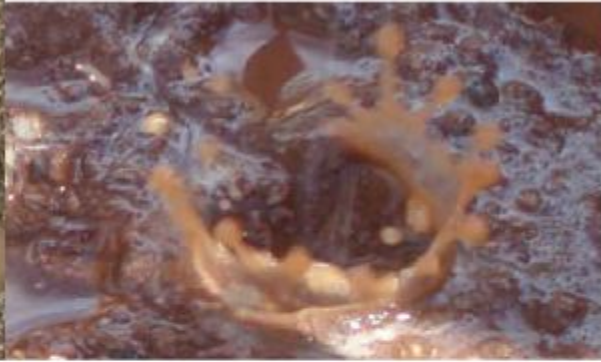
Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 2 : 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 2 Detailed Solution

- The correct order of the process of soil erosion is Splash erosion - Sheet erosion - Rill erosion - Gully erosion. Hence **Option B is the correct answer.**
- **Splash erosion or raindrop impact** represents the first stage in the erosion process. Splash erosion results from the bombardment of the soil surface by raindrops. Raindrops behave as little bombs when falling on exposed or bare soil, displacing soil particles and destroying soil structure.





Splash erosion

- **Sheet erosion** (the second stage) occurs as a shallow 'sheet' of water flowing over the ground surface, resulting in the removal of a uniform layer of soil from the soil surface.



Sheet erosion

- **Rill erosion** occurs when runoff water forms small channels as it concentrates down a slope. These rills can be up to 0.3m deep.



Rill erosion

- If they become any deeper than 0.3m they are referred to as **gully erosion**, which forms the last stage.



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Gully erosion

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Question 3:

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Consider the following statements regarding the migration trends in the country:

1. The stream of intra-state migrants was dominated by female migrants.
2. Men predominate the rural to urban stream of inter-state migration.
3. Work and employment have remained the main cause for male migration while it is only around 2 percent for the females.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 3 only

2. 1 and 3 only

3. 2 and 3 only

4. All of the above

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 4 : All of the above

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 3 Detailed Solution


- In India, during 2011, out of 455.0 million migrants, enumerated on the basis of the last residence, 141.9 million had changed their place of residence in the last ten years. Out of these, 118.7 million were **intra-state migrants**.
- The stream was **dominated by female migrants**. Most of these were migrants related to marriage. It is clearly evident that **females predominate the streams of short distance rural to rural migration** in both types of migration. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
- Contrary to this, **men predominate the rural to urban stream of inter-state migration** due to **economic reasons**. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**
- Apart from these streams of internal migration, India also experiences **immigration from and emigration to the neighbouring countries**.
- On the basis of the figures, it can be seen that the reasons for migration of males and females are different.
- For example, **work and employment have remained the main cause for male migration (26 per cent)** while it is only 2.3 per cent for the females. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**
- Contrary to this, about **67 percent of females move out from their parental houses following their marriage**.
- This is the most important cause in the rural areas of India except in Meghalaya where reverse is the case.


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
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Question 4:

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Consider the following statements regarding the growth of population in India:

1. The annual growth rate of India's population is 1.64 percent according to the 2011 census.
2. The growth rate of population has been affected by factors like birth rate, death rate and migration.
3. Kerala registered the highest growth rate of 9.4 percent among all states in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only

2. 1 and 3 only

3. 1 only

4. All of the above

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 1 : 1 and 2 only

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 4 Detailed Solution

Growth of Population

- Growth of population is the **change in the number of people living in a particular area between two points of time**. Its rate is expressed in percentage.
- Population growth has two components namely:
 - **Natural growth** - natural growth is analysed by **assessing the crude birth and death rates**.
 - **Induced growth** - induced components are explained by the **volume of inward and outward movement of people** in any given area.
- The decadal and annual growth rates of population in India are both very high and steadily increasing over time.
- The **annual growth rate of India's population is 1.64 percent** (2011). **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
- The growth rate of population in India over the last one century has been caused by annual birth rate and death rate and rate of migration and thereby shows different trends. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**

Regional Variation in Population Growth

- The growth rate of population during 1991- 2001 in Indian States and Union Territories shows a very obvious pattern.
- The States like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Puducherry, and Goa show a **low rate of growth not exceeding 20 per cent** over the decade.
- **Kerala registered the lowest growth rate (9.4)** not only in this group of states but also in the country as a whole. **Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- A continuous belt of states from west to east in the north-west, north, and north central parts of the country has a relatively higher growth rate than the southern states.
- It is in this belt comprising Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, the growth rate on the average remained 20-25 per cent.
- During 2001-2011, the **growth rates of almost all States and Union Territories have registered a lower figure compared to the previous decade**, namely, 1991-2001.
- The **percentage decadal growth rates of the six most populous** States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have all **fallen during 2001-2011** compared to 1991-2001, the fall being the lowest for Andhra Pradesh (3.5 percentage points) and highest for Maharashtra (6.7 percentage points).

- percentage points) and highest for Maharashtra (6.7 percentage points).
- Tamil Nadu (3.9 percentage points) and Puducherry (7.1 percentage points) have registered some increase during 2001-2011 over the previous decade.

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Question 5:

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Consider the following factors:

1. Availability of Water
2. Landforms
3. Climate
4. Soils

Which of the above factors influences population distribution?

1. 1, 2, 3

2. 1, 2, 4

3. 2, 3, 4

4. All of the above

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 4 : All of the above

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 5 Detailed Solution

Factors influencing the distribution of population

Availability of water:

- People prefer to live in areas where **freshwater is easily available**.
- It is because of this that **river valleys are among the most densely populated** areas of the world.

Landforms:

- People prefer living on **flat plains and gentle slopes**.
- This is because such areas are favourable for the production of crops and to build roads and industries.
- The mountainous and hilly areas hinder the development of the transport network and hence initially do not favour agricultural and industrial development. So, these areas tend to be less populated.
- The **Ganga plains are among the most densely populated areas** of the world while the mountain zones in the Himalayas are scarcely populated.

Climate:

- An extreme climate such as very hot or cold deserts are uncomfortable for human habitation.
- Areas with a **comfortable climate, where there is not much seasonal variation** attract more people.
- Areas with very heavy rainfall or extreme and harsh climates have low population.
- **Mediterranean regions** were inhabited from early periods in history due to their pleasant climate.

Soils:

- Areas which have **fertile loamy soils** have more people living on them as these can support intensive agriculture.

Since all the above factors influence the distribution of population, **Option D is the correct answer.**

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Question 6:

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Consider the following statements regarding Census-2011:

1. The percentage decadal growth of population during 2001-2011 has registered the sharpest increase since independence.
2. It created the National Population Register (NPR) which will build up a comprehensive identity database of usual residents of the country.

3. Census 2011 was conducted in two phases - the house listing phase and the population enumeration phase.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

1. 1 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. none of the above

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 1 : 1 only

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 6 Detailed Solution

The Correct answer is: 1 only

Key Points

- **Statement 1: The percentage decadal growth of population during 2001-2011 has registered the sharpest increase since independence.**
 - This statement is **incorrect**.
 - The decadal population growth rate from 2001 to 2011 was approximately 17.7%, which is ****not**** the highest since India's independence in 1947.
 - Earlier decades, such as 1971-1981, experienced higher growth rates, with some periods registering growth rates above 21%.
 - Therefore, the claim that the 2001-2011 decade saw the sharpest increase is false.
- **Statement 2: It created the National Population Register (NPR) which will build up a comprehensive identity database of usual residents of the country.**
 - This statement is **correct**.
 - The Census 2011 was instrumental in the creation of the National Population Register (NPR).
 - The NPR aims to compile a comprehensive identity database of all usual residents in India, serving as a foundational database for various governmental programs and initiatives.
 - The register includes demographic and biometric information, enhancing the accuracy and reliability of resident data.
- **Statement 3: Census 2011 was conducted in two phases - the house listing phase and the population enumeration phase.**
 - This statement is **correct**.
 - The Census 2011 was systematically carried out in two distinct phases:
 - **House Listing Phase:** This initial phase involved listing all the houses, collecting details about the infrastructure, amenities, and the number of households in each area.
 - **Population Enumeration Phase:** Following the house listing, this phase focused on

- enumerating the population, gathering demographic, social, and economic data of each individual residing in the listed households.
- Conducting the census in two phases ensures comprehensive data collection and minimizes errors.

Additional Information

• Census in India:

- The Census of India is a decennial exercise that collects comprehensive data on the population, including demographics, socio-economic status, and housing conditions.
- It is one of the largest administrative tasks in the world, aiming to account for every resident in the country.
- The data collected is crucial for policy-making, planning, and the implementation of various government schemes.

• National Population Register (NPR):

- The NPR is a comprehensive identity database of usual residents in India.
- It includes demographic and biometric details to ensure accurate identification and to aid in the efficient delivery of services.
- The NPR plays a vital role in various governmental initiatives, including welfare schemes, security measures, and resource allocation.

• Decadal Growth Rate:

- The decadal growth rate is a measure of how much the population has increased over a ten-year period.
- Understanding growth rates helps in assessing the effectiveness of policies related to health, education, and infrastructure.
- High growth rates may indicate challenges in resource management, while lower rates can reflect successful family planning and socio-economic improvements.

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Question 7:

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Consider the following statements with reference to most western countries:

1. Males outnumber females in rural areas.
2. Females outnumber the males in urban areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only

2. 2 only

3. Both 1 and 2

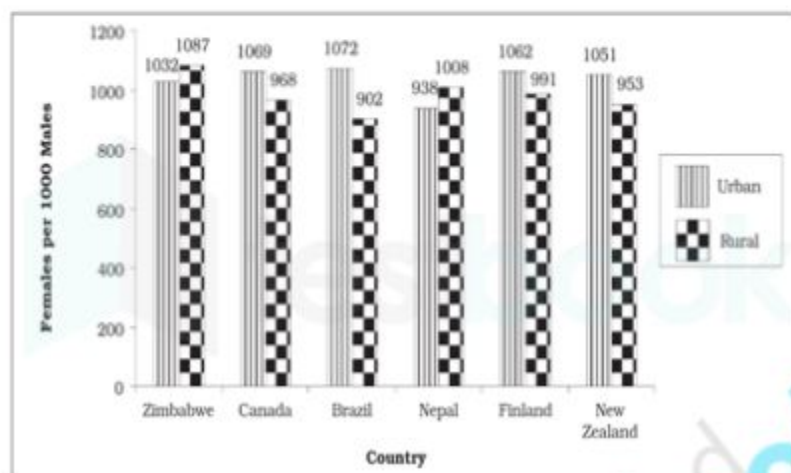
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 3 : Both 1 and 2

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 7 Detailed Solution

Rural Urban Composition



- The **rural and urban differences in sex ratio in Canada and West European** countries like Finland are **just the opposite of those in African and Asian countries** like Zimbabwe and Nepal respectively.
- In **Western countries, males outnumber females in rural areas and females outnumber the males in urban areas. Hence both the statements are correct.**
- In countries like Nepal, Pakistan and India the case is reversed.
- The excess of females in urban areas of U.S.A., Canada and Europe is the result of influx of females from rural areas to avail of the vast job opportunities.
- Farming in these developed countries is also highly mechanised and remains largely a male occupation.
- By contrast the **sex ratio in Asian urban areas remains male dominated** due to the predominance of male migration.
- Also, in countries like India, **female participation in farming activity in rural areas is fairly high.**
- Shortage of housing, high cost of living, paucity of job opportunities and lack of security in cities, discourage women from migrating from rural to urban areas.

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Question 8:

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Which one of the following continents has the highest growth of population?

1. Africa
2. South America
3. Asia
4. North America

Answer (Detailed Solution Below)

Option 1 : Africa

UPSC Prelims Geography Previous Year Questions Question 8 Detailed Solution

- **Africa has the highest population growth rate** as all three subregions growing over 2% are in Africa. Middle Africa is the only subregion growing over 3% followed by Western Africa and Eastern Africa growing over 2%. Hence **Option A is the correct answer.**
- The population growth rate of Africa (2.49%) is almost **double of the growth rate of second fastest growing continent Oceania (1.31%)**. Except for Africa and Oceania, the remaining **four continents have growth rates below 1%.**
- The Populations of Asia (0.86%), South America (0.83%) and North America (0.77%) are increasing at a similar rate.
- Eleven subregions have growth rates above 1%. **Europe is the only continent with a modest growth rate of 0.06%** as the lowest three ranked subregions are located in Europe. **Southern Europe and Eastern Europe have negative growth rates.**