

## VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

*Each question carries 2 marks. Answer to these questions should not exceed 40 words.*

**Q.1. What are the names of the two states where the highest peaks are located ?**

- Ans.** (i) In the State of Uttarakhand, Nanda Devi and **Mount Kamet** are **located**.  
(ii) In the State of Sikkim, Kanchenjunga is located.

**Q.2. What are riverine islands ?**

- Ans.** (i) The rivers coming from the northern mountains are involved in depositional work.  
(ii) In the lower course, due to the gentle slope, the velocity of the river decreases. This results in the formation of riverine islands.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

*Each question carries 3 marks. Answer to these questions should not exceed 60 words.*

**Q.1. Describe the geological features of the Himalayas and the Peninsular Plateau.**

Ans. (a) Himalayan mountains :

- (i) From the view point of geology, Himalayan mountains form an unstable zone.
- (ii) The whole mountain system of Himalaya represents a very youthful topography with high peaks, deep valleys and fast flowing rivers.
- (iii) These are structurally folded mountains.

(b) Peninsular Plateau :

- (i) Geologically the Peninsular Plateau constitutes one of the ancient landmasses on the earth's surface.
- (ii) It was supposed to be one of the most stable land blocks.

Q.2. Describe the main features of the *Himachal* or lesser Himalayas ?

Ans. The main features of the *Himachal* or lesser Himalayas are as follows :

- (i) It is the most rugged mountain system.
- (ii) It is composed of highly compressed and altered rocks.
- (iii) Its altitude varies between 3,700 and 4,500 metres and the average width is of 50 km.
- (iv) Its prominent ranges are the *Pir Panjal*, the *Dhauladhar* and the *Mahabharat*. The *Pir Panjal* range is the longest range.
- (v) The famous Kashmir valley and the Kangra and the Kullu valley are situated in this range.
- (vi) This region is well-known for hill stations, namely, Mussoorie, Nainital and Ranikhet.

Q.3. What are the features of the *Great Himalayas* or *Inner Himalayas* or the *Himadri* ?

Ans. The features are as follows :

- (i) It is the most continuous range consisting of the loftiest peaks with an average height of 6,000 metres. All the prominent Himalayan peaks are in this range.
- (ii) Its folds are asymmetrical in nature.
- (iii) The core of this part of the Himalayas is composed of granite.



- (iv) It is perennially snow bound (see picture given above).
- (v) A number of glaciers descend from it.

Q.4. Describe the features of the *outer Himalayas* or the *Shiwaliks*.

Ans. The features of the *outer Himalayas* or the *Shiwaliks* are as given below :

- (i) They extend over a width of 10-50 km.
- (ii) Their altitude vary between 900 and 1,100 metres.
- (iii) These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges located farther north.
- (iv) These valleys are covered with thick gravel and alluvium.
- (v) The longitudinal valley lying between lesser Himalayas and the Shiwaliks are known as Duns. Dehra Dun, Kotli Dun and Patli Dun are some of the well-known Duns.

**Q.5. Describe the divisions of the Himalayas that have been demarcated by the river valleys.**

**Ans.** The divisions of the Himalayas demarcated by the river valleys are as given below :

- (i) **Punjab Himalayas** : The part of Himalayas lying between Indus and Satluj has been traditionally known as Punjab Himalayas. It is also known regionally as Kashmir and Himachal Himalaya from west to east.
- (ii) **Kumaon Himalayas** : It is the part of the Himalayas lying between the Satluj and the Kali rivers.
- (iii) **Nepal Himalayas** : It is the part of the Himalayas lying between the Kali and the Teesta rivers.
- (iv) **Assam Himalayas** : It is demarcated by the Teesta and the Dihang rivers.

**Q.6. Which region is known as *terai* ? Which people have been settled here and how ?**

- Ans.** (a) In the northern plains, south of the *bhabar* region, the streams and rivers re-emerge and create a wet, swampy and marshy region that is known as *terai*.
- (b) Once it was a thickly forested region full of wild life.
- (c) However, at the time of Partition of India, the forests had been cleared to create agricultural land.
- (d) The migrants from Pakistan were settled here.
- (e) Dudhwa National Park on Indo-Nepal border in Uttar Pradesh is in this region.

**Q.7. Write a short note on *Purvachal* or the Eastern Hills.**

- Ans.** (a) Beyond the Dihang Gorge, the Himalayas bend sharply to the south and spread along the eastern boundary of India.



**Mizo hills**

- (b) They are known as the *Purvachal* or the Eastern hills and mountains.
- (c) These are composed of strong sandstones which are sedimentary rocks.
- (d) They are covered with dense forests. They run as parallel ranges and valleys.
- (e) The *Purvachal* comprises the Patkai hills, the Naga hills, the Manipur hills and the Mizo hills (See picture given above).

**Q.8. Describe the main features of the eastern extension of the Central Highlands.**

- Ans.** (i) The Mahadev, the Kaimur hills and the Maikal range form the eastern extension of the Central Highlands.
- (ii) The Chotanagpur Plateau is the eastern extension of the Central Highlands.
- (iii) An eastern extension of the Central Highlands is formed by the Raj Mahal Hills, to the south of which lies large reserve of mineral resources in the Chotanagpur Plateau.



- (iv) The plateau is a store-house of minerals which has played a crucial role in the industrialisation of the country.
- (v) The coastal region and island groups provide sites for fishing and port activities. Thus, the diverse physical features of the land have immense future possibilities of development.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTION

Each question carries 5 marks. Answer to these questions should not exceed 120 words.

**Q. Describe the main features of Peninsular Plateau.**

**Ans.** The main features of peninsular plateau are as given below :

- (i) It is a tableland composed of the old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks.
- (ii) The plateau has broad and shallow valleys and rounded hills.
- (iii) It consists of two broad divisions, namely, the central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.
- (iv) The part of the peninsular plateau lying to the north of the Narmada river is known as Central Highlands.
- (v) Its rivers – the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and the Ken flow from southwest to northeast that indicates its slope.
- (vi) The Deccan Plateau is a triangular land mass that lies to the south of river Narmada.
- (vii) The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats are the western and the eastern edges of the Deccan Plateau respectively.
- (viii) It has a black soil area that is known as Deccan Trap. This is of volcanic origin, hence the rocks are igneous.
- (ix) The Aravali hills lie on the western and northwestern margins of the peninsular plateau.

## FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Each question carries 2 marks. Answer to these questions should not exceed 40 words.

**Q.1. Why are the northern plains the most fertile region of India ?**

- Ans.** (i) The northern plains have been formed by the interplay of the three major river systems, namely the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, along with their tributaries.
- (ii) This fertile plain was formed over millions of years by the deposition of alluvium in a vast basin at the foothills of the Himalayas.

**Q.2. What are the two main differences between the Bhabar and Terai regions ?**

- Ans.** The northern rivers, in the Bhabar, deposit pebbles in a narrow belt of about 8 to 16 km in width lying parallel to the slopes of the Shiwaliks.

All the streams disappear in this *bhabar* belt.

In the *terai* region, south of this belt, the streams and rivers re-emerge and create a wet, swampy, and marshy region. This is a thickly forested region full of wildlife. It has national parks like Dudhwa National Park.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Each question carries 3 marks. Answer to these questions should not exceed 60 words.

**Q.1. What are the redeeming features of the three physical divisions of India ?**

- Ans.** (i) The Himalayan mountain system represents a very youthful topography with high peaks, deep valleys and fast-flowing rivers.
- (ii) The northern plains are formed of alluvial deposits.
- (iii) The peninsular plateau is composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks with gently rising hills and wide valleys.

**Q.2. How do geographical units of India contribute to the development of the country ?**

- Ans.** (i) The northern plains are the granaries of the country. They provide the base for early civilisations.
- (ii) The plateau is a storehouse of minerals, which has played a crucial role in the industrialisation of the country.
- (iii) The coastal region and island groups provide sites for fishing and port activities.

**Q.3. How does each physiographic region of India complement the other and make the country richer in its natural resources ?**

- Ans.** Each physiographic region complements the other and makes the country richer in its natural resources :
- (i) The northern mountains are the major sources of water and forest wealth.
- (ii) The northern plains are the granaries of the country. They provide the base for early civilisations.
- (iii) The plateau is a store-house of minerals which has played a crucial role in the industrialisation of the country.
- (iv) The coastal region and island groups provide sites for fishing and port activities. Thus, the diverse physical features of the land have immense future possibilities of development.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTION

Each question carries 5 marks. Answer to these questions should not exceed 120 words.

**Q. What are Coastal plains ? Compare the features of Western Coastal plains and Eastern Coastal plains.**

- Ans.** (a) Coastal plains : These are narrow coastal strips, running along the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east. These are known as the western coast and the eastern coast or the coastal plains.



(b) Comparison between Western and Eastern coastal plains is given below :

Western Coastal Plains	Eastern Coastal Plains
<p>(i) Western Coastal plains are sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.</p> <p>(ii) It is a narrow plain.</p> <p>(iii) It consists of three sections. The northern part of the coast is called the Konkan (Mumbai-Goa), the Central stretch is called the Kannad Plain while the southern part is called the Malabar Coast.</p>	<p>(i) The Eastern Coastal plains are along the Bay of Bengal.</p> <p>(ii) These are wide and level.</p> <p>(iii) Its northern part is known as Northern Circar while the southern part is known as the Coromandel Coast.</p> <p>Large rivers – Mahanadi, Godavari, the Krishna and Kaveri – have formed extensive delta on this coast. Lake Chilika is an important feature along the Eastern Coast.</p>

## MAP BASED QUESTION

Q. On the political outline map of India locate and label the following :

- (i) Shiwalik Range
- (ii) Western Ghats
- (iii) Anai Mudi
- (iv) Patkai Bum
- (v) Chotanagpur Plateau.

Ans. See the map.

