

Geography GK

129+ Questions for Competitive Exams

A curated question bank covering **World Geography** and **Indian Geography**, built for SSC CGL, CHSL, Railways (RRB), State PSCs, Bank exams, and other General Awareness sections. Every question includes four options, the correct answer, and a short explanation so you understand the *why*, not just the *what*.

Many questions here have actually appeared in SSC CGL papers between 2010 and 2016, and are tagged with their exam and year. Others cover static geography facts that are frequently repeated across competitive exams year after year.

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Tip: Cover the answer and explanation with your hand, attempt each question, then check yourself. Revisit any section where you score below 80%.

World Geography

1. Which is the largest desert in the world by area?

- (A) The Sahara
- ✓ (B) The Antarctic Desert
- (C) The Gobi Desert
- (D) The Arabian Desert

Answer: (B) The Antarctic Desert

Explanation: By strict definition (a region of very low precipitation), the Antarctic Desert is the largest in the world at about 14 million sq. km. The Sahara is the largest hot desert.

2. Which river flows through the greatest number of countries?

- (A) The Nile
- (B) The Amazon
- ✓ (C) The Danube
- (D) The Congo

Answer: (C) The Danube

Explanation: The Danube flows through 10 countries, including Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Romania, making it Europe's most international river.

3. Aconcagua, the highest peak outside Asia, is located in which country?

- (A) Chile
- ✓ (B) Argentina
- (C) Peru
- (D) Bolivia

Answer: (B) Argentina

Explanation: Aconcagua (6,961 m) lies in the Andes in Argentina and is the highest point in both the Western and Southern Hemispheres.

4. Which country is most commonly credited with the world's longest coastline?

- (A) Norway
- (B) Australia
- ✓ (C) Canada
- (D) Russia

Answer: (C) Canada

Explanation: Canada's coastline of about 202,080 km is the longest usually cited, due to its vast Arctic archipelago. Norway is a close contender because of its fjords.

5. Greenland, the world's largest island, is a territory of which country?

- (A) Iceland
- ✓ (B) Denmark
- (C) Norway
- (D) Canada

Answer: (B) Denmark

Explanation: Greenland is an autonomous territory of Denmark, though it governs most of its own domestic affairs.

6. Which river is traditionally considered the longest in the world?

- (A) The Amazon
- ✓ (B) The Nile
- (C) The Yangtze
- (D) The Mississippi

Answer: (B) The Nile

Explanation: The Nile (about 6,650 km) is traditionally cited as the longest river, though several modern studies argue the Amazon is longer depending on where its source is measured from.

7. Which country has the most time zones?

- (A) Russia
- (B) USA
- ✓ (C) France
- (D) China

Answer: (C) France

Explanation: France has 12 time zones once its overseas territories (like French Polynesia and French Guiana) are counted, more than any other country.

8. Vatican City, the smallest country in the world, is enclosed entirely within which city?

- (A) Milan
- ✓ (B) Rome
- (C) Naples
- (D) Venice

Answer: (B) Rome

Explanation: Vatican City, at just 0.49 sq. km, is an independent city-state located within Rome, Italy.

9. Mount Everest lies on the border between which two countries?

- (A) India and China
- ✓ (B) Nepal and China
- (C) Nepal and Bhutan
- (D) India and Nepal

Answer: (B) Nepal and China

Explanation: Everest (8,849 m) sits on the border of Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

10. Which country is known as the 'Land of the Rising Sun'?

- (A) China
- (B) South Korea
- ✓ (C) Japan
- (D) Thailand

Answer: (C) Japan

Explanation: Japan's name in Japanese, Nihon, translates roughly to 'origin of the sun,' giving rise to this nickname.

11. Which is the largest ocean in the world by area?

- (A) Atlantic Ocean
- (B) Indian Ocean
- ✓ (C) Pacific Ocean
- (D) Arctic Ocean

Answer: (C) Pacific Ocean

Explanation: The Pacific Ocean covers about 165 million sq. km, more than all the landmass on Earth combined.

12. Which country has the largest number of natural freshwater lakes?

- ✓ (A) Canada
- (B) USA
- (C) Russia
- (D) Finland

Answer: (A) Canada

Explanation: Canada holds more freshwater lakes than the rest of the world combined, a legacy of glacial activity during the last Ice Age.

13. The Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on Earth, is located in which country?

- (A) Peru
- ✓ (B) Chile
- (C) Bolivia
- (D) Argentina

Answer: (B) Chile

Explanation: The Atacama Desert in northern Chile receives almost no rainfall in some areas; parts of it have gone decades without recorded rain.

14. The Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the ocean, is located in which ocean?

- (A) Atlantic Ocean
- (B) Indian Ocean
- (C) Arctic Ocean
- ✓ (D) Pacific Ocean

Answer: (D) Pacific Ocean

Explanation: The Mariana Trench, reaching a depth of nearly 11,000 m at the Challenger Deep, lies in the western Pacific Ocean near Guam.

15. Which is the largest US state by area?

- (A) Texas
- (B) California
- ✓ (C) Alaska
- (D) Montana

Answer: (C) Alaska

Explanation: Alaska, at over 1.7 million sq. km, is more than twice the size of Texas, the second-largest state.

16. The Seine River flows through which European capital?

- (A) London
- ✓ (B) Paris
- (C) Rome
- (D) Madrid

Answer: (B) Paris

Explanation: The Seine flows through the heart of Paris and empties into the English Channel.

17. Which is the largest country in Africa by area?

- (A) Nigeria
- (B) Democratic Republic of Congo
- ✓ (C) **Algeria**
- (D) Sudan

Answer: (C) Algeria

Explanation: Algeria, at about 2.38 million sq. km, became Africa's largest country after South Sudan split from Sudan in 2011.

18. The Andes, the longest mountain range in the world, run along which coast of South America?

- (A) Eastern coast
- ✓ (B) **Western coast**
- (C) Northern coast
- (D) Southern tip only

Answer: (B) Western coast

Explanation: The Andes stretch roughly 7,000 km along South America's western edge, passing through seven countries.

19. Most of the Amazon rainforest lies within which country?

- (A) Peru
- (B) Colombia
- ✓ (C) **Brazil**
- (D) Venezuela

Answer: (C) Brazil

Explanation: About 60% of the Amazon rainforest lies within Brazil's borders, with the rest spread across eight other countries.

20. As of 2026, which is the most populous country in the world?

- (A) China
- ✓ (B) **India**
- (C) USA
- (D) Indonesia

Answer: (B) India

Explanation: India overtook China in 2023 to become the world's most populous nation, now home to over 1.4 billion people.

21. Switzerland's federal structure divides the country into administrative units called:

- (A) Provinces
- ✓ (B) **Cantons**
- (C) Prefectures
- (D) Districts

Answer: (B) Cantons

Explanation: Switzerland comprises 26 cantons, each with significant autonomy over local governance.

22. Which is the longest river in Europe?

- (A) The Danube
- (B) The Rhine
- ✓ (C) The Volga
- (D) The Dnieper

Answer: (C) The Volga

Explanation: The Volga, flowing entirely within Russia, stretches about 3,530 km and is Europe's longest river.

23. Which is the largest hot desert in Asia?

- (A) The Thar Desert
- ✓ (B) The Gobi Desert
- (C) The Kara-Kum Desert
- (D) The Rub' al Khali

Answer: (B) The Gobi Desert

Explanation: The Gobi Desert, spanning Mongolia and northern China, is Asia's largest desert at about 1.3 million sq. km.

24. The Ural Mountains are traditionally considered the boundary between which two continents?

- (A) Asia and Africa
- ✓ (B) Europe and Asia
- (C) Europe and Africa
- (D) Asia and North America

Answer: (B) Europe and Asia

Explanation: The Ural Mountains run roughly north to south through Russia and form the conventional dividing line between Europe and Asia.

25. Turkey is a transcontinental country situated in which two continents?

- (A) Asia and Africa
- (B) Europe and Africa
- ✓ (C) Asia and Europe
- (D) Europe and North America

Answer: (C) Asia and Europe

Explanation: Turkey spans both Europe (the small Thrace region) and Asia (the larger Anatolian peninsula), separated by the Bosphorus Strait.

26. Which sea is the largest in the world by surface area?

- (A) The Mediterranean Sea
- (B) The Caribbean Sea
- ✓ (C) The Philippine Sea
- (D) The South China Sea

Answer: (C) The Philippine Sea

Explanation: The Philippine Sea, part of the western Pacific, covers roughly 5 million sq. km, making it the largest of the world's seas.

27. Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, is located in which country?

- (A) Brazil
- ✓ (B) Venezuela
- (C) Colombia
- (D) Guyana

Answer: (B) Venezuela

Explanation: Angel Falls, with a total drop of 979 m, is located in Canaima National Park in Venezuela.

28. The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Atlantic Ocean with which sea?

- (A) The Red Sea
- (B) The Black Sea
- ✓ (C) The Mediterranean Sea
- (D) The Arabian Sea

Answer: (C) The Mediterranean Sea

Explanation: The Strait of Gibraltar, only about 13 km wide at its narrowest, links the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. This question has appeared in SSC CGL.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

29. Which is the longest continuous railway line in the world?

- (A) Canadian Pacific Railway
- ✓ (B) Trans-Siberian Railway
- (C) Canadian National Railway
- (D) Trans-Australian Railway

Answer: (B) Trans-Siberian Railway

Explanation: The Trans-Siberian Railway spans about 9,289 km connecting Moscow to Vladivostok, making it the longest continental railway.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

30. Which ocean has the widest continental shelf?

- (A) Indian Ocean
- (B) Atlantic Ocean
- ✓ (C) Arctic Ocean
- (D) Antarctic Ocean

Answer: (C) Arctic Ocean

Explanation: The Arctic Ocean has an unusually wide continental shelf, particularly along the Siberian coast, due to the shallow seas surrounding it.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

Indian Physical Geography: Mountains, Rivers, Deserts, Coasts & Forests

31. Which is the longest river in India?

- (A) Godavari
- (B) Yamuna
- ✓ (C) Ganga
- (D) Narmada

Answer: (C) Ganga

Explanation: The Ganga flows roughly 2,525 km through India and is the country's longest river, central to its culture, agriculture, and religion.

32. Which Indian state has the largest forest area (not percentage)?

- (A) Mizoram
- (B) Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Chhattisgarh

Answer: (C) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: Madhya Pradesh has the largest total forest area of any Indian state, though Mizoram has the highest forest cover as a percentage of its land.

33. Which is the tallest mountain peak in India?

- (A) Nanda Devi
- ✓ (B) Kangchenjunga
- (C) K2
- (D) Kamet

Answer: (B) Kangchenjunga

Explanation: Kangchenjunga (8,586 m), on the Sikkim-Nepal border, is India's highest peak and the world's third-highest mountain.

34. Which state does NOT form part of the Himalayan mountain system?

- (A) Uttarakhand
- ✓ (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Sikkim
- (D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (B) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh lies in the Gangetic plains and does not have Himalayan mountain ranges within its borders, unlike its northern neighbours.

35. What is the approximate age of the Aravalli Range, one of the world's oldest fold mountain systems?

- (A) 370 million years
- (B) 470 million years
- (C) 570 million years
- ✓ (D) 670 million years

Answer: (D) 670 million years

Explanation: Geologists estimate the Aravalli Range at roughly 670 million years old, making it older than even the Himalayas.

36. Which is the highest peak in South India?

- ✓ (A) Anaimudi
- (B) Dodabetta
- (C) Doddabetta
- (D) Mahendragiri

Answer: (A) Anaimudi

Explanation: Anaimudi, part of the Western Ghats in Kerala, rises to 2,695 m and is the highest peak south of the Himalayas.

37. Parasnath Hill, the highest point in Jharkhand and an important Jain pilgrimage site, has a height of approximately:

- (A) 1,600 m
- (B) 1,565 m
- ✓ (C) 1,365 m
- (D) 1,260 m

Answer: (C) 1,365 m

Explanation: Parasnath Hill stands at about 1,365 m and is considered sacred in Jainism as the site where many Tirthankaras attained liberation.

38. Which of these rivers is NOT a tributary of the Yamuna?

- (A) Betwa
- (B) Chambal
- (C) Ken
- ✓ (D) Ram Ganga

Answer: (D) Ram Ganga

Explanation: The Ram Ganga is a tributary of the Ganga, not the Yamuna. Betwa, Chambal, and Ken all join the Yamuna.

39. The river known internationally as the 'Yarlung Zangbo' is called what after it enters India?

- (A) Ganga
- (B) Indus
- ✓ (C) Brahmaputra
- (D) Mahanadi

Answer: (C) Brahmaputra

Explanation: The Yarlung Zangbo, which originates in Tibet, becomes the Brahmaputra after entering Arunachal Pradesh.

40. The Narmada Valley lies between which two mountain ranges?

- (A) Bhander and Maikal
- (B) Satpura and Aravalli
- ✓ (C) Satpura and Vindhya
- (D) Vindhya and Aravalli

Answer: (C) Satpura and Vindhya

Explanation: The Narmada flows through a rift valley between the Satpura and Vindhya ranges, one of the few major Indian rivers to do so.

41. Which river infamously changed its course in 2008, causing a major flood disaster in Bihar?

- (A) Ganga
- (B) Gandak
- ✓ (C) Kosi
- (D) Ghaghra

Answer: (C) Kosi

Explanation: The Kosi River breached its embankment in 2008, shifting course and displacing millions. It is often called the 'Sorrow of Bihar' for this history.

42. What is the largest desert in India?

- (A) Rann of Kutch
- ✓ (B) Thar Desert
- (C) Cholistan Desert
- (D) Registan Desert

Answer: (B) Thar Desert

Explanation: The Thar Desert, spread across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana, is India's largest desert.

43. The Thar Desert is also known by which other name?

- (A) Golden Desert
- ✓ (B) Great Indian Desert
- (C) Rajputana Desert
- (D) Marusthali

Answer: (B) Great Indian Desert

Explanation: The Thar Desert is commonly called the 'Great Indian Desert' in geographic literature.

44. Which Rajasthan city, known for its golden sandstone architecture, is called the 'Golden City'?

- (A) Jodhpur
- (B) Udaipur
- ✓ (C) Jaisalmer
- (D) Bikaner

Answer: (C) Jaisalmer

Explanation: Jaisalmer earns its nickname from the yellow sandstone used throughout its forts and havelis, which glows gold at sunset.

45. What is the approximate total length of India's coastline?

- (A) 6,100 km
- ✓ (B) 7,517 km
- (C) 8,200 km
- (D) 9,000 km

Answer: (B) 7,517 km

Explanation: India's coastline, including its mainland and island territories, spans approximately 7,516.6 km.

46. India's mean sea level, the reference point for measuring elevation, is calculated from which coast?

- (A) Mumbai
- ✓ (B) Chennai
- (C) Kochi
- (D) Visakhapatnam

Answer: (B) Chennai

Explanation: The Survey of India uses the mean sea level recorded at Chennai as the standard reference datum for elevation measurements.

47. Which Indian state has the longest coastline?

- (A) Andhra Pradesh
- (B) Maharashtra
- ✓ (C) Gujarat
- (D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (C) Gujarat

Explanation: Gujarat's coastline stretches about 1,600 km, the longest of any Indian state, ahead of Andhra Pradesh.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

48. How many Indian states share a coastline with the sea?

- (A) 7
- (B) 8
- ✓ (C) 9
- (D) 10

Answer: (C) 9

Explanation: Nine coastal states border the sea: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal.

49. The coast of Tamil Nadu is known by which name?

- (A) Circar Coast
- (B) Konkan Coast
- (C) Malabar Coast
- ✓ (D) Coromandel Coast

Answer: (D) Coromandel Coast

Explanation: Tamil Nadu's eastern coastline along the Bay of Bengal is called the Coromandel Coast.

50. Kanyakumari, India's southernmost mainland point, is also historically known as:

- ✓ (A) Cape Comorin
- (B) Cape Verde
- (C) Cape Town
- (D) Cape Horn

Answer: (A) Cape Comorin

Explanation: The British-era name 'Cape Comorin' referred to the same location now known as Kanyakumari.

51. Which type of forest occupies the largest area in India?

- (A) Montane Wet Temperate Forest
- (B) Sub-tropical Dry Evergreen Forest
- (C) Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest
- ✓ (D) Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

Answer: (D) Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

Explanation: Tropical Moist Deciduous forests, found across large parts of the Eastern Ghats and the Indo-Gangetic belt, cover the most area of any forest type in India.

52. The birch tree, often used historically to write on as a substitute for paper, is found in which Indian region?

- (A) Aravallis
- ✓ (B) Himalayas
- (C) Nilgiris
- (D) Vindhyas

Answer: (B) Himalayas

Explanation: Birch trees grow at high altitudes in the Himalayan region and were historically used to write ancient Sanskrit manuscripts.

53. Teak forests, valued for high-quality timber, are especially prominent in which Indian state?

- ✓ (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Jharkhand
- (D) Karnataka

Answer: (A) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under teak forests in India, particularly in its southern districts.

54. Butea monosperma, a tree known for its bright orange-red flowers, is commonly called:

- (A) Bauhinia variegata
- (B) Jacaranda
- ✓ (C) Flame of the Forest
- (D) Silk Cotton Tree

Answer: (C) Flame of the Forest

Explanation: Butea monosperma, also called 'Palash', is popularly known as the 'Flame of the Forest' for its vivid blossoms that appear before its leaves.

55. Which state does NOT form part of the Narmada river basin?

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Maharashtra

Answer: (B) Rajasthan

Explanation: The Narmada basin covers Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, but not Rajasthan.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

56. The Indus River originates from which mountain range?

- (A) Hindukush range
- (B) Himalayan range
- (C) Karakoram range
- ✓ (D) Kailash range

Answer: (D) Kailash range

Explanation: The Indus originates near Lake Mansarovar in the Kailash range of Tibet, before flowing through Ladakh and into Pakistan.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

57. The Konkan Railway connects which two cities?

- (A) Goa and Mangalore
- ✓ (B) Roha and Mangalore
- (C) Kanyakumari and Mangalore
- (D) Kanyakumari and Mumbai

Answer: (B) Roha and Mangalore

Explanation: The Konkan Railway runs approximately 741 km along India's west coast, linking Roha in Maharashtra to Mangalore in Karnataka.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

58. Loktak, famous for its floating islands called phumdis, is a:

- (A) Valley
- ✓ (B) Lake
- (C) River
- (D) Mountain Range

Answer: (B) Lake

Explanation: Loktak Lake in Manipur is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is known for its unique floating vegetation.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

59. The Indira Gandhi Canal, the longest irrigation canal in India, primarily benefits which state?

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Haryana
- ✓ (C) Rajasthan
- (D) Gujarat

Answer: (C) Rajasthan

Explanation: The Indira Gandhi Canal, originally called the Rajasthan Canal, irrigates the arid Thar Desert region of Rajasthan.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

60. The 'Doab' refers to:

- (A) A hilly plateau
- ✓ (B) Land between two rivers
- (C) A coastal delta
- (D) A glacial valley

Answer: (B) Land between two rivers

Explanation: 'Doab' is a term for fertile land lying between two converging rivers, such as the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

61. The Bhilai Steel Plant, one of India's major integrated steel plants, is located in which state?

- (A) Jharkhand
- (B) Odisha
- ✓ (C) Chhattisgarh
- (D) West Bengal

Answer: (C) Chhattisgarh

Explanation: Bhilai Steel Plant, set up with Soviet collaboration in the 1950s, is located in Chhattisgarh.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

62. Peninsular India is predominantly covered by which zonal soil type?

- ✓ (A) Red and yellow soil
- (B) Alluvial soil
- (C) Forest soil
- (D) Saline soil

Answer: (A) Red and yellow soil

Explanation: The Deccan Plateau and much of southern India are dominated by red and yellow soils, formed from the weathering of crystalline rocks.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

63. Which Indian river flows through a rift valley?

- (A) Krishna
- (B) Cauvery
- ✓ (C) Narmada
- (D) Tapti

Answer: (C) Narmada

Explanation: Both the Narmada and Tapti flow through rift valleys, but the Narmada is the classic example most frequently tested.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

64. India's shore-based integrated steel plant is located at:

- (A) Tuticorin
- (B) Salem
- ✓ (C) Visakhapatnam
- (D) Mangalore

Answer: (C) Visakhapatnam

Explanation: Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is unique among India's major steel plants for being located directly on the coast, allowing it to import raw materials by sea.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

65. The North-South Corridor, part of India's National Highways Development Project, connects:

- ✓ (A) Srinagar and Kanyakumari
- (B) Mumbai and Chennai
- (C) Amritsar and Kolkata
- (D) Hyderabad and Bhopal

Answer: (A) Srinagar and Kanyakumari

Explanation: The North-South Corridor links Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir to Kanyakumari at India's southern tip.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

66. Which is the largest river in Peninsular India by length and basin area?

- (A) Krishna
- ✓ (B) Godavari
- (C) Cauvery
- (D) Mahanadi

Answer: (B) Godavari

Explanation: The Godavari, sometimes called the 'Dakshin Ganga', is the largest river system in Peninsular India.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

67. Which is the only major perennial river in Peninsular India?

- (A) Godavari
- ✓ (B) Cauvery
- (C) Krishna
- (D) Bhima

Answer: (B) Cauvery

Explanation: Unlike most Peninsular rivers that rely heavily on monsoon rain, the Cauvery maintains substantial year-round flow, aided by its Western Ghats catchment.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

68. India shares its longest international boundary with which country?

- (A) Nepal
- (B) Pakistan
- (C) China
- ✓ (D) Bangladesh

Answer: (D) Bangladesh

Explanation: India's border with Bangladesh runs about 4,096 km, the longest of any of its international boundaries.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

69. Jog Falls, one of India's tallest waterfalls, is formed on which river?

- (A) Kaveri
- (B) Godavari
- ✓ (C) Sharavati
- (D) Krishna

Answer: (C) Sharavati

Explanation: Jog Falls in Karnataka is formed where the Sharavati River drops nearly 253 m.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

70. Tropical evergreen forests in India are most extensively found along:

- (A) Semi-arid Gujarat
- (B) Eastern Ghats
- ✓ (C) Western Ghats
- (D) Central Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (C) Western Ghats

Explanation: The high rainfall along the Western Ghats supports dense tropical evergreen forest cover, home to exceptional biodiversity.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

71. Which Indian state is surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides?

- (A) Nagaland
- (B) Assam
- (C) Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ (D) Tripura

Answer: (D) Tripura

Explanation: Tripura's geography leaves it bordered by Bangladesh on three sides, with only a narrow corridor connecting it to the rest of India.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

72. The Tehri Dam, one of India's tallest dams, is built on which river?

- (A) Alaknanda
- ✓ (B) Bhagirathi
- (C) Ganga (mainstream)
- (D) Hooghly

Answer: (B) Bhagirathi

Explanation: The Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand is built on the Bhagirathi River, one of the two headstreams that form the Ganga.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

73. Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station, lies within which mountain range?

- (A) Vindhya
- (B) Satpura
- ✓ (C) Aravalli
- (D) Sahyadri

Answer: (C) Aravalli

Explanation: Mount Abu sits within the Aravalli Range and is the highest point in Rajasthan at about 1,722 m.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

74. Pachmarhi, a popular Madhya Pradesh hill station, is nicknamed the:

- ✓ (A) Queen of the Satpuras
- (B) Queen of the Nilgiris
- (C) Queen of the Hills
- (D) Queen of the Aravallis

Answer: (A) Queen of the Satpuras

Explanation: Pachmarhi sits within the Satpura Range and is often called the 'Queen of the Satpuras' for its scenic beauty.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

75. The forest ecosystem of the Sundarbans is best classified as:

- (A) Scrub jungle
- ✓ (B) Mangrove forest
- (C) Deciduous forest
- (D) Tundra

Answer: (B) Mangrove forest

Explanation: The Sundarbans, spanning India and Bangladesh, is the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the Bengal tiger.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

76. Which mountain range is recognised as an ecological hotspot of India?

- ✓ (A) Western Ghats
- (B) Eastern Ghats
- (C) Western Himalayas
- (D) Eastern Himalayas

Answer: (A) Western Ghats

Explanation: The Western Ghats are recognised as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

77. Integral Coach Factory, which manufactures railway coaches, is located at:

- (A) Jamshedpur
- (B) Chittaranjan
- ✓ (C) Perambur
- (D) Varanasi

Answer: (C) Perambur

Explanation: The Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Chennai, is one of India's principal railway coach manufacturing units.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

Indian Economic & Infrastructure Geography

78. India's High Yielding Variety (HYV) programme is also known as the:

- (A) Traditional Agriculture
- ✓ (B) New Agricultural Strategy
- (C) White Revolution
- (D) Blue Revolution

Answer: (B) New Agricultural Strategy

Explanation: The HYV programme, launched in the 1960s, formed the core of India's 'New Agricultural Strategy' and drove the Green Revolution.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

79. 'Operation Flood', one of independent India's major agricultural initiatives, focused on:

- (A) Increasing irrigation facilities
- (B) Flood control
- ✓ (C) Increasing milk production
- (D) Increasing foodgrain production

Answer: (C) Increasing milk production

Explanation: Operation Flood, launched in 1970, made India the world's largest milk producer and is widely known as the White Revolution.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

80. Which country is best known for pioneering efficient drip irrigation techniques?

- (A) India
- ✓ (B) Israel
- (C) Sri Lanka
- (D) England

Answer: (B) Israel

Explanation: Israel's arid conditions led it to develop and refine drip irrigation, a technology now used worldwide to conserve water.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

81. The 'total population divided by available arable land area' defines:

- (A) Population density
- (B) Nutritional density
- ✓ (C) Agricultural density
- (D) Industrial density

Answer: (C) Agricultural density

Explanation: Agricultural density measures how many people depend on a given unit of cultivable land, an important indicator of land pressure.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

82. An irrigation project is classified as 'major' if its culturable command area exceeds:

- (A) 2,000 hectares
- ✓ (B) 10,000 hectares
- (C) 20,000 hectares
- (D) 50,000 hectares

Answer: (B) 10,000 hectares

Explanation: In India, irrigation projects are classified as major when the culturable command area exceeds 10,000 hectares.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

83. Which country has among the highest population densities in the world, per SSC's frequently tested comparison?

- (A) Canada
- (B) Sweden
- ✓ (C) India
- (D) Greenland

Answer: (C) India

Explanation: Compared to sparsely populated countries like Canada, Sweden, and Greenland, India has a much higher population density due to its large population on limited land.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

84. Which was historically the most densely populated major Indian state (as per earlier census data frequently referenced in exams)?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ (C) West Bengal
- (D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (C) West Bengal

Explanation: West Bengal has historically ranked among India's most densely populated states, a fact frequently tested using 2001 Census data.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

85. As per the 2001 Census, which state recorded the highest population growth rate?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ (C) Nagaland
- (D) Sikkim

Answer: (C) Nagaland

Explanation: Nagaland recorded an unusually sharp population growth rate in the 2001 Census, a figure later revised due to enumeration discrepancies.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

86. The first non-stop, fully air-conditioned Durgam Express ran between:

- ✓ (A) Sealdah and New Delhi
- (B) Mumbai and Howrah
- (C) Bangalore and Howrah
- (D) Chennai and New Delhi

Answer: (A) Sealdah and New Delhi

Explanation: India's first Durgam Express, launched in 2009, connected Sealdah (Kolkata) to New Delhi without any scheduled stops.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

87. National Highway 2 (old numbering), which linked Delhi and Kolkata via Mathura and Varanasi, is part of which route?

- ✓ (A) The Grand Trunk Road corridor
- (B) The Golden Quadrilateral only
- (C) The East-West Corridor
- (D) The North-South Corridor

Answer: (A) The Grand Trunk Road corridor

Explanation: NH2 traces much of the historic Grand Trunk Road, connecting Delhi to Kolkata through Agra, Kanpur, and Varanasi.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

88. As of the mid-2010s, India's largest solar power plant was located at:

- (A) Nagercoil
- (B) Jaisalmer
- ✓ (C) Charanka (Patan), Gujarat
- (D) Rann of Kutch

Answer: (C) Charanka (Patan), Gujarat

Explanation: The Charanka Solar Park near Patan, Gujarat, was India's largest solar installation when this question was tested; larger parks like Bhadla in Rajasthan have since overtaken it.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

89. Which is the leading sesame-producing country in the world?

- (A) Mexico
- (B) USA
- (C) China
- ✓ (D) India

Answer: (D) India

Explanation: India has historically been among the world's largest producers and exporters of sesame seeds.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

90. Which of the following hill station and state pairings is INCORRECT?

- (A) Darjeeling – West Bengal
- (B) Mount Abu – Rajasthan
- (C) Kodaikanal – Tamil Nadu
- ✓ (D) Simla – Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (D) Simla – Uttar Pradesh

Explanation: Simla (Shimla) is the capital of Himachal Pradesh, not Uttar Pradesh, making this pairing incorrect.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

91. Rihand Dam, an important multipurpose project, primarily provides irrigation benefits to:

- (A) Gujarat and Maharashtra
- (B) Odisha and West Bengal
- ✓ (C) **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**
- (D) Kerala and Karnataka

Answer: (C) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

Explanation: The Rihand Dam on the Rihand River (a Son tributary) supports irrigation and power generation for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

92. A narrow strip of land connecting two larger landmasses is called a(n):

- (A) Cape
- ✓ (B) **Isthmus**
- (C) Strait
- (D) Peninsula

Answer: (B) Isthmus

Explanation: An isthmus is a narrow land bridge, such as the Isthmus of Panama, connecting two larger areas of land.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

93. Large-scale maps that show both natural and man-made features in detail are called:

- (A) Thematic maps
- (B) Atlas maps
- (C) Wall maps
- ✓ (D) **Topographic maps**

Answer: (D) Topographic maps

Explanation: Topographic maps use contour lines and detailed symbols to represent both physical terrain and human-made structures.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

94. The bark of which tree is used as a common cooking spice (condiment)?

- ✓ (A) **Cinnamon**
- (B) Clove
- (C) Neem
- (D) Palm

Answer: (A) Cinnamon

Explanation: Cinnamon spice comes from the inner bark of trees in the Cinnamomum genus, dried and rolled into sticks.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

Atmosphere, Climate & Natural Phenomena

95. Indian Standard Time (IST) is based on the local time at which longitude?

- (A) 75.5°E
- ✓ (B) 82.5°E
- (C) 90.5°E
- (D) 0° (Prime Meridian)

Answer: (B) 82.5°E

Explanation: IST is calculated from 82.5°E longitude, which passes through Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, roughly the geographic center of India.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

96. Which is the lowest layer of Earth's atmosphere, where weather phenomena occur?

- (A) Stratosphere
- (B) Thermosphere
- ✓ (C) Troposphere
- (D) Mesosphere

Answer: (C) Troposphere

Explanation: The Troposphere extends up to about 12-18 km and contains nearly all of the atmosphere's water vapor and weather activity.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

97. Earth's atmosphere is held close to the surface primarily due to:

- ✓ (A) Gravity
- (B) Wind currents
- (C) Cloud cover
- (D) Earth's rotation

Answer: (A) Gravity

Explanation: Earth's gravitational pull keeps atmospheric gases from escaping into space, holding the atmosphere in place.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

98. The age of the Earth is most reliably determined using which method?

- (A) Geological Time Scale
- ✓ (B) Radiometric Dating
- (C) Gravity method
- (D) Fossilization method

Answer: (B) Radiometric Dating

Explanation: Radiometric dating measures the decay of radioactive isotopes in rocks and minerals to estimate Earth's age at about 4.54 billion years.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

99. Roughly what fraction of the Earth's land surface is classified as desert?

- (A) One-tenth
- ✓ (B) One-fifth
- (C) One-third
- (D) One-sixth

Answer: (B) One-fifth

Explanation: Deserts (including cold deserts) cover approximately one-fifth of Earth's total land surface, according to commonly used exam figures.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2011

100. Which atmospheric layer absorbs most of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation?

- (A) Troposphere
- ✓ (B) Stratosphere (Ozonosphere)
- (C) Ionosphere
- (D) Mesosphere

Answer: (B) Stratosphere (Ozonosphere)

Explanation: The ozone layer within the stratosphere absorbs the majority of incoming ultraviolet radiation, protecting life on Earth's surface.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

101. Frontal cyclones, formed at the boundary of contrasting air masses, are characteristic of which region?

- (A) Equatorial region
- (B) Tropical region
- ✓ (C) Mid-latitudinal region
- (D) Polar region

Answer: (C) Mid-latitudinal region

Explanation: Frontal (temperate) cyclones form where warm tropical air meets cold polar air, a pattern most common in the mid-latitudes.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

102. According to Ferrel's Law, the Coriolis force deflects moving air:

- (A) Left in both hemispheres
- (B) Right in both hemispheres
- ✓ (C) Right in the Northern Hemisphere, left in the Southern
- (D) Left in the Northern Hemisphere, right in the Southern

Answer: (C) Right in the Northern Hemisphere, left in the Southern

Explanation: The Coriolis effect, caused by Earth's rotation, deflects winds to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2013

103. What is the correct order of Earth's atmospheric layers, from the surface upward?

✓ (A) Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Ionosphere, Exosphere

(B) Mesosphere, Ionosphere, Exosphere, Troposphere, Stratosphere

(C) Ionosphere, Exosphere, Mesosphere, Troposphere, Stratosphere

(D) Exosphere, Troposphere, Ionosphere, Mesosphere, Stratosphere

Answer: (A) Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Ionosphere, Exosphere

Explanation: From the surface up, the layers are Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Thermosphere (which includes the Ionosphere), and finally the Exosphere.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

104. The term 'heat budget' refers to:

(A) Heat received from the Sun only

(B) Long-wave radiation from Earth only

(C) Heat transfer through molecular activity

✓ (D) The balance between incoming and outgoing radiation

Answer: (D) The balance between incoming and outgoing radiation

Explanation: Earth's heat budget describes the equilibrium between solar radiation absorbed and terrestrial radiation released back into space.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

105. Day and night remain equal in length throughout the year at which location?

(A) The Poles

(B) The Tropic of Cancer

✓ (C) The Equator

(D) 45°N latitude

Answer: (C) The Equator

Explanation: At the Equator, day and night are approximately equal (about 12 hours each) every day of the year, unlike other latitudes.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

106. An equinox occurs when the Sun is positioned directly above which line of latitude?

(A) Tropic of Capricorn

(B) Tropic of Cancer

(C) The Poles

✓ (D) The Equator

Answer: (D) The Equator

Explanation: During an equinox (around March 20-21 and September 22-23), the Sun's rays fall vertically on the Equator, giving nearly equal day and night worldwide.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

107. Sudden ocean waves triggered by undersea earthquakes or volcanic activity are called:

- (A) Tides
- ✓ (B) **Tsunamis**
- (C) Ocean currents
- (D) Cyclones

Answer: (B) Tsunamis

Explanation: Tsunamis are generated by sudden displacement of seawater, most often due to undersea seismic activity, and can strike coastlines with great force.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

108. A line connecting all places that experience an earthquake at the exact same time is called a(n):

- ✓ (A) **Homoseismal line**
- (B) Seismoline
- (C) Coseismal line
- (D) Isoleismal line

Answer: (A) Homoseismal line

Explanation: Homoseismal lines connect points where seismic waves from an earthquake arrive simultaneously, useful for locating the epicenter.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

109. A drainage pattern that develops on folded sedimentary rock, with tributaries joining main streams at sharp angles, is called:

- ✓ (A) **Trellis**
- (B) Dendritic
- (C) Radial
- (D) Deranged

Answer: (A) Trellis

Explanation: A trellis drainage pattern forms where alternating bands of hard and soft rock in folded terrain guide streams into a grid-like layout.

110. A depression in the land surface caused by the collapse of underlying limestone is called a sinkhole, a feature typical of which topography?

- (A) Desert topography
- (B) Tundra topography
- ✓ (C) **Karst topography**
- (D) Plain topography

Answer: (C) Karst topography

Explanation: Sinkholes form in karst landscapes, where slightly acidic water dissolves soluble bedrock like limestone over time.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

111. The 'graded profile' of a river, where erosion and deposition are in balance, refers to a:

- (A) Smooth curve in the upper course only
- (B) Smooth curve in the middle course only
- (C) Smooth curve in the lower course only
- ✓ (D) Smooth curve from source to mouth

Answer: (D) Smooth curve from source to mouth

Explanation: A graded river profile is a smooth, concave curve running the entire length of the river, from its source to its mouth.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

112. Terrace cultivation is primarily used on hill slopes to prevent:

- (A) Landslides
- ✓ (B) Soil erosion
- (C) Deforestation
- (D) Flooding

Answer: (B) Soil erosion

Explanation: Cutting hill slopes into level terraces slows down surface runoff, significantly reducing soil erosion on steep terrain.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

113. Which of the following is a natural source of air pollution?

- (A) Vehicle exhaust
- (B) Industrial smoke
- ✓ (C) Dust storms
- (D) Burning of plastic

Answer: (C) Dust storms

Explanation: Dust storms, along with volcanic eruptions and forest fires, are natural sources of air pollution, as opposed to human-made sources.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2014

114. Which statement about rainwater harvesting is FALSE?

- (A) It helps raise the water table
- (B) It helps meet rising water demand
- ✓ (C) It increases surface run-off losses
- (D) It is a method of water conservation

Answer: (C) It increases surface run-off losses

Explanation: Rainwater harvesting is designed to capture and store run-off, reducing water losses rather than increasing them, making this statement false.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

115. Which industry is typically the largest consumer of water in India?

- (A) Textile industry
- (B) Engineering industry
- (C) Paper and pulp industry
- ✓ (D) Thermal power industry

Answer: (D) Thermal power industry

Explanation: Thermal power plants require enormous volumes of water for steam generation and cooling, making them India's largest industrial water consumer.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

116. Evergreen forests, which retain green foliage throughout the year, are most typical of which climate zone?

- (A) Mediterranean region
- ✓ (B) Monsoon climatic areas with high year-round rainfall
- (C) Desert region
- (D) Tundra region

Answer: (B) Monsoon climatic areas with high year-round rainfall

Explanation: High, well-distributed rainfall throughout the year, as found in tropical monsoon regions, supports evergreen forest growth without a pronounced dry season.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

117. The ash-grey soils typically found under high-latitude coniferous forests are known as:

- (A) Grey-Brown soils
- (B) Red and Yellow soils
- (C) Tundra soils
- ✓ (D) Podsoles

Answer: (D) Podsoles

Explanation: Podsoles form under cold, coniferous forest conditions and are characterised by their pale, ash-like upper layer.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2015

Solar System & General Geography Facts

118. Which is the second nearest star to Earth after the Sun?

- (A) Vega
- (B) Sirius
- ✓ (C) Proxima Centauri
- (D) Alpha Centauri A

Answer: (C) Proxima Centauri

Explanation: Proxima Centauri, part of the Alpha Centauri star system, lies about 4.24 light years from Earth, making it the closest star after the Sun.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

119. Which planet appears brightest when viewed from Earth?

- ✓ (A) Venus
- (B) Mercury
- (C) Jupiter
- (D) Mars

Answer: (A) Venus

Explanation: Venus reflects sunlight strongly due to its thick, highly reflective cloud cover, making it the brightest planet in Earth's sky.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

120. Which is the largest planet in the solar system?

- (A) Venus
- ✓ (B) Jupiter
- (C) Saturn
- (D) Uranus

Answer: (B) Jupiter

Explanation: Jupiter's mass exceeds that of all other planets in the solar system combined, making it by far the largest.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

121. On which date is Earth typically at its maximum distance from the Sun (aphelion)?

- (A) January 3
- (B) December 22
- (C) September 22
- ✓ (D) Around July 4

Answer: (D) Around July 4

Explanation: Earth reaches aphelion, its farthest point from the Sun in its elliptical orbit, around early July each year.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

122. A solar eclipse occurs when:

- (A) The Sun lies between the Moon and Earth
- (B) Earth lies between the Moon and Sun
- ✓ (C) **The Moon lies between the Sun and Earth**
- (D) The Moon is not aligned with the Sun-Earth line

Answer: (C) The Moon lies between the Sun and Earth

Explanation: A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes directly between the Sun and Earth, temporarily blocking sunlight from reaching part of the Earth's surface.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2016

123. Which region on Earth is generally understood to have the greatest biodiversity?

- ✓ (A) **Tropical regions**
- (B) Temperate regions
- (C) Monsoonal regions
- (D) Equatorial regions only

Answer: (A) Tropical regions

Explanation: Tropical regions, with their warm, stable climates and high rainfall, support the greatest concentration of plant and animal species on Earth.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

124. Who is credited with coining the term 'geography'?

- (A) Ptolemy
- ✓ (B) **Eratosthenes**
- (C) Hecataeus
- (D) Herodotus

Answer: (B) Eratosthenes

Explanation: The Greek scholar Eratosthenes (276-194 BCE) coined 'geographia', meaning 'Earth-writing', and is also known for calculating Earth's circumference.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

125. Which of the following areas was devastated by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2004?

- (A) Irian Jaya
- ✓ (B) **Sumatra**
- (C) Kalibangan
- (D) Java

Answer: (B) Sumatra

Explanation: The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake, one of the deadliest in recorded history, was centered off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2010

126. Earth functions as a giant magnet. In which direction does its magnetic field broadly extend?

- (A) West to East
- ✓ (B) North to South
- (C) South to North
- (D) East to West

Answer: (B) North to South

Explanation: Earth's magnetic field runs approximately from geographic north to south, generated by molten iron movement in its outer core.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

127. Which of the following is generally considered the largest living bird species on Earth?

- (A) Emu
- ✓ (B) Ostrich
- (C) Albatross
- (D) Siberian Crane

Answer: (B) Ostrich

Explanation: The ostrich, native to Africa, is the largest living bird by both height and weight, though it cannot fly.

128. A 'cultigen', a term relevant to agricultural geography, refers to:

- (A) A wild plant variety
- ✓ (B) A plant known only in cultivation, having arisen under domestication
- (C) A genetically modified crop
- (D) A hybrid seed variety

Answer: (B) A plant known only in cultivation, having arisen under domestication

Explanation: Cultigens are plants that exist only because of human cultivation and have no known wild ancestor form in nature.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2012

129. Which of the following resources is classified as renewable?

- (A) Uranium
- (B) Coal
- ✓ (C) Timber
- (D) Natural Gas

Answer: (C) Timber

Explanation: Timber, unlike fossil fuels and mined minerals, can be replenished through sustainable forestry and replanting, making it a renewable resource.

Appeared in: SSC CGL 2014