

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Ques - What do you understand by theory of continental drift? Discuss prominent evidences in its support. (100 words)

The intro clearly states who proposed the theory, when, and its basic premise (Pangaea, Laurasia, Gondwana). It's a good start.

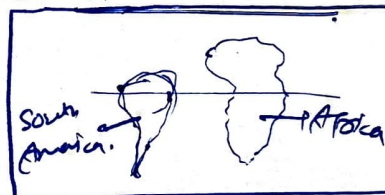
The Continental drift theory was proposed by Alfred Wegner in 1912. This theory states that the continents were part of one large Supercontinent called 'Pangaea'. Then the continent broke down firstly into two halves one is Laurasia (north) and Gondwana (south) the other.

Evidences supporting this theory :

1. Jig Saw fit

↳ The fit of continents like the east coast of South America fits perfectly with west coast of Africa.

↳ Bullard Super computer Based Reconstruction also proved it



2. Fossil Evidence

↳ The fossils of mesosaurs (a water reptile) found in Brazil and South Africa

↳ deposits of gold of Brazil and China also have similar properties

3. Geological Structure

↳ Similar mountain ranges, rock strata found in different continents

↳ For ex:- mountains of North America and UK and France

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Glacial deposits

↳ In Africa, India, Australia and South America have same glacial deposits.

↳ They all were part of Gondwana crust.

improve the sentence formation

Limitations:

✓ Explain only some evidences but cannot gave their physical force

✓ Can't explain forces behind the breaking of Continents Pangaea

✓ Can't explain the mechanism of drift theory

But it could not explain the formation of continents but laid the foundation of upcoming theories such as Plate tectonics, Sea floor spreading etc. Some evidences support today's plate movement of continents.

The limitations are correctly identified (lack of a viable

mechanism/force). The

concluding remark rightly points out its foundational role for plate tectonics.

Q. Why are the world's fold mountain system located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association b/w the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes & volcanoes. (150 words)

The fold mountain system is formed when two oceanic/continental plates move towards each other and their is folding of continental margin. Some examples of fold mountains are Himalayas (India), Alps mountains etc. Most of the fold mountains are formed at convergent boundary of continental-continental, continental-oceanic.

Reason behind located along margin of continents

L1. Convergent boundary and Plate tectonics

- 1) fold mountains are formed at Convergent Plate boundaries rather than in the interior
- 2) when two plates move towards each other there is folding which form fold mountains

L2. Compression

- 1) Collision of plates causes horizontal compression, folding of sediments and uplift of crust

L3. Subduction Zones

- 1) The denser plate (i.e. oceanic) subduct under lighter plate that is continental
- 2) This cause, folding, faulting and mountain formation

Example of fold mountains on Continental margin

1. Himalayan on margin of India - Eurasia plate.

↳ Continental-continental collision

2. Rockies on western north America due to oceanic and continental collision

3. Alps on margin of Eurasian and African plates.

4. Shown in figure (1)

Association with earthquakes and volcanoes

1. Seismic Activities

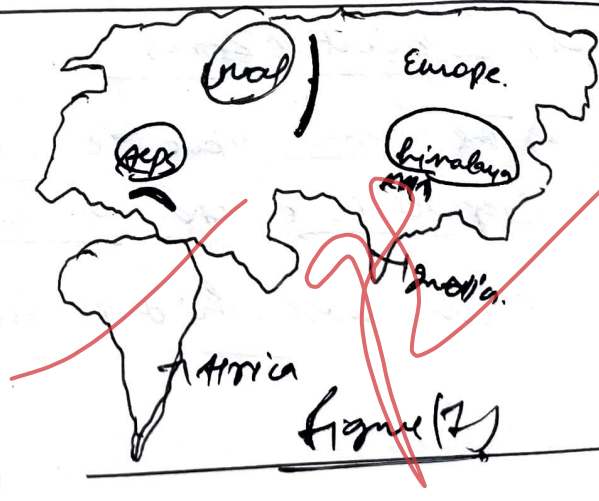
↳ Convergent margin are zone of intense tectonic stress

↳ for eg! Himalaya, Andes are formed due to earthquake

2. Volcanos

↳ islands of Japan, mountains of Indonesia, Philippine, are volcanic mountains

↳ They are in region of 'Ring of fire'



The global distribution of fold mountains is governed
by tectonic plate boundaries. This shows that
nature can create such beautiful structures which
plays important role in supporting human life on
Earth

Links distribution to plate boundaries. The second sentence is a bit general and doesn't fully synthesize the core ideas of the question (margins, EQ,

States the location and mentions climatic and anthropogenic conditions. "Gathara desert" is presumably Sahara Desert. Anthropogenic conditions are less about the initial location and more about desertification/expansion

Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30° North and on western side of continents. why? (200 marks)

The major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30° north. because the climatic conditions, anthropogenic conditions are in favour of them. Some examples of them are Thar desert, Sahara desert (Africa) etc.

Reason behind their formation

① Hot and warm currents such as Agulhas, Gulf Stream current are flow on western coast of north continents.

② Rainfall scanty in areas of west-north of Africa

As Sahara desert lies in high-pressure zone (20-30°) where air descend, warm, dries, preventing formation of clouds and rainfall

④ Rain shadow effect as in Atlas mountains to the north west of Sahara create rain-shadow zone

eg: Atacama desert of South America.



Q2. Anthropogenic activities

The division into climatic and anthropogenic is fine, but the anthropogenic part is less relevant to the core question of initial location.

Major factual error regarding ocean currents.

Overemphasis on anthropogenic factors for a question about natural desert location.

Focus on: Addressing the "why" of the specific location with accurate climatic factors. Distinguish between natural desert formation and anthropogenic desertification. Severe correction needed on ocean currents.

The need of hour is to think about our unsustainable activities. We cannot change our activities but we can change our green economy. Prioritize the sustainable activities to prevent further desert due to our activities.

Focuses entirely on anthropogenic desertification, which was not the main thrust of the question (which was about natural location).

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

admission to
the office of
the Secretary
Candidates
must fill
this on the
margin

Ques Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesia & Philippines.
Ans The formation of thousands of islands in Indonesia and Philippines is due to volcanic activity.
There are 17,500 islands in Indonesia archipelago and about 7,000 islands in Philippines archipelago.

Reasons behind formation of islands

1. Volcanism and island Building

↳ Due to subduction, magma rises and form volcanos

↳ these volcanos over time cool down and form islands

for eg: 1. Indonesia has the highest number of volcanos (highest in the world)

2. Phillipine also has many volcanos

eg: Mayon, Taal etc

2. Tectonic activities

↳ There is subduction of Indo-australian Plate beneath the Eurasian plate

↳ leads to cause of volcanism in islands of Indonesia i.e. Jawa, Sumatra etc.

↳ Subduction of Philippine sea Plate and Eurasian Plate

↳ cause volcanism in Cuzon, Visayas etc

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Q2. Pacific Ring of Fire

↳ Both coasts of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire' as shown in figure (1).

↳ This creates volcanic and tectonic activities.

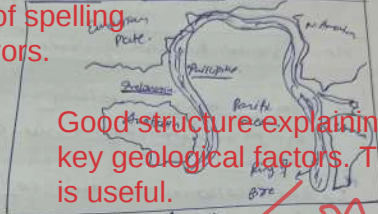


Figure (1)

↳ Sediment deposition and erosion activities

↳ Many rivers drain into Pacific ocean by passing through Indonesia and Philippines.

↳ For eg! Pamfanga, Agusan Rivers.

↳ They deposit sediments and form islands.

Shifts to geopolitical and environmental issues, which is not directly answering the "formation" question. It's a forward-looking statement but off-topic for the core question.

their beauty

Q. The Process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples (150 words).

Ans. Desertification is the process by which an area becomes desert due to soil degradation and decline in vegetation. This usually occurs in arid, semi-arid and dry areas. These areas are some examples.

Process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries 'reasons':

1. Anthropogenic activities
 - L1. Overgrazing leads to loss of vegetation.
 - L2. Unsustainable development leads to loss of water sources. which makes soil dry.
 - L3. Deforestation by human leads to desertification
for eg:- According to The Economic Times
India lost (1.6%) of humid primary forests
between 2019 - 2024.
 - L4. Land misuse causes the desertification of forest area.
for eg: cutting of amazon forests for road connectivity is misuse of land.
 - L5. Unsustainable farming leads to loss of fertility of soil and turns it into desert.

Examples to justify:

Ex 1. Bumdelkhand (India)

↳ Despite moderate rainfall; overgrazing and deforestation led to land degradation

Ex 2. Punjab and Haryana (India)

↳ Due to over-irrigation, unsustainable farming by using excessive fertilisers

According to report of Ministry of Jal Shakti, groundwater in Punjab is depleting

Ex 3. Aravalli Range (Central India)

↳ For farming two way of Aravalli and Sardar Sarovar diverted.

↳ which led to desertification of Aravalli

↳ Lake Fagubine in Western Rajasthan due to climate change which itself cause of human activities

↳ The Regions are shown on map in figure (2)

↳ Thar desert was once fertile region but turned desert due to human activities



Figure 2

Answer is a bit long but contains very relevant points. Can be condensed.

Logical flow from definition to reasons and strong examples.
* Content: Excellent understanding of the issue and very good, diverse examples. This is a strong answer in terms of content.

With increasing population pressure, unsustainable practices, and climate change, the risk of desertification now transcends climatic boundaries. This is becoming a threat to ecosystems and biodiversity of earth. Need of hour is to take strict steps to stop desertification.

Good summary of drivers and impact, and a call to action. Reinforces the "transcends climatic boundaries" idea

Many spelling and grammatical errors.

Focus on: Drastic improvement in spelling and grammar, and conciseness to meet word limits without losing the strong examples.