

GS-I: GEOGRAPHY

Answer Writing Workbook

Previous Year Questions · 2013 to 2024

Name: _____

Roll No: _____ Batch: _____

Start Date: _____ Target Date: _____

How to Use This Workbook

Answer Space Allocation:

5 Marks — 1 A4 page of writing space (~50 words)
10 / 12.5 Marks — 2 A4 pages of writing space (~150–200 words)
15 Marks — 3 A4 pages of writing space (~250 words)

Each Question Header Shows:

Question Number · Sub-Theme · UPSC Year · Marks

Track Your Performance:

Use the Date / Score / Remarks line below each question card.
Get your answers evaluated and note the score for revision tracking.

Total Questions: 88 | Sections: 5 | Years: 2013–2024

Q.1 · Climatology	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.2 · Climatology	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.3 · Climatology	UPSC 2022	15 Marks

Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.4 · Climatology	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.5 · Climatology	UPSC 2024	15 Marks

What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.6 · Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.7 · Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA


INDIA

Q.8 · Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	UPSC 2017	10 Marks

How does the cryosphere affect global climate?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.9 · Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

How does the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.10 · Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	UPSC 2020	10 Marks

How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.11 · Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

Why is India taking keen interest in resources of Arctic Region?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.12 · Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.13 · Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.14 · Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	UPSC 2020	10 Marks

Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.15 · Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.16 · Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____

Q.17 · Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.18 · Monsoon Systems	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

How far do you agree that the behavior of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscapes? Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.19 · Monsoon Systems	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.20 · Monsoon Systems	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

Why is the South-West monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.21 · Oceanography	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.22 · Oceanography	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and the coastal environment? Give suitable examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.23 · Oceanography	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.24 · Oceanography	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


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2. Distribution of Key Natural Resources

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.25 · Energy Resources & Fuel Security	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


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Q.26 · Energy Resources & Fuel Security	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.27 · Energy Resources & Fuel Security	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.28 · Energy Resources & Fuel Security	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.29 · Energy Resources & Fuel Security	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.30 · Energy Resources & Fuel Security	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.31 · Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	UPSC 2020	**15 Marks**

Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.32 · Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	UPSC 2023	**15 Marks**

Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.33 · Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.34 · Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	UPSC 2022	15 Marks

Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.35 · Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.36 · Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.37 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

In what way can flood be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA


INDIA

Q.38 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

In what way micro-watershed Development projects help in water conservation in drought prone and semi-arid regions of India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.39 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.40 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.41 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.42 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2018	15 Marks

The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system. How can it be made effective in urban areas?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.43 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.44 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


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Q.45 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.46 · Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	UPSC 2024	15 Marks

The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


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3. Factors Responsible for Location of Industries

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.47 · Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.48 · Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	UPSC 2023	15 Marks

From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.49 · Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	UPSC 2017	10 Marks

In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development. Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.50 · Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	UPSC 2017	**10 Marks**

Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulse because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.51 · Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	UPSC 2014	**10 Marks**

Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.52 · Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	UPSC 2014	**10 Marks**

Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


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Q.53 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.54 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

Analyze the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.55 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2019	10 Marks

Can the strategy of regional-resource based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.56 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2019	10 Marks

Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.57 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2013	**5 Marks**

Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____

Q.58 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.59 · Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	UPSC 2018	**15 Marks**

What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identify industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.60 · Tertiary Sector: Transport, Tourism & Services	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.61 · Tertiary Sector: Transport, Tourism & Services	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.62 · Tertiary Sector: Transport, Tourism & Services	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

4. Important Geophysical Phenomena

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.63 · Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.64 · Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called "Phailin". How are the tropical cyclones named across the world?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____

Q.65 · Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.66 · Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.67 · Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.68 · Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	UPSC 2024	15 Marks

What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.69 · Landslides & Slope Instability	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

Bring out the causes for more frequent landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____

Q.70 · Landslides & Slope Instability	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.71 · Landslides & Slope Instability	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides. Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.72 · Volcanic Activity & Desertification	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.73 · Volcanic Activity & Desertification	UPSC 2020	10 Marks

The process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA



5. Geographical Features and Their Location

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.74 · Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

Assess the impact of global warming on coral life system with examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.75 · Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	UPSC 2018	15 Marks

Define blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.76 · Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	UPSC 2019	10 Marks

Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.77 · Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.78 · Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	UPSC 2023	15 Marks

Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forests regions of India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.79 · Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.80 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.81 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.82 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree north and on the western side of the continents. Why?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA


INDIA

Q.83 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2022	15 Marks

Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.84 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2015	**12.5 Marks**

Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.85 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.86 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghat. Why?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.87 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of Fold Mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.88 · Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	UPSC 2017	10 Marks

How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA