

CUET PG 2026 Geography Question Paper with Solutions (Memory Based)

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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General Instructions

1. The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
2. There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
3. +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
4. For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
5. Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
6. You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
7. Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
8. All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

1. Which layer of the Earth's atmosphere contains the ozone layer?

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

Correct Answer: (B) Stratosphere

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Earth's atmosphere is vertically divided into several layers based on temperature and composition: Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Thermosphere, and Exosphere.

The ozone layer is a highly concentrated region of ozone (O_3) molecules that plays a crucial role in absorbing harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the Sun.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Troposphere is the lowest layer where all weather events occur.

Above the troposphere lies the Stratosphere, which extends from about 10 km to 50 km above the Earth's surface.

The ozone layer is primarily situated within the lower portion of the stratosphere, roughly

between 15 km and 35 km altitude.

Because the ozone layer absorbs UV radiation, the temperature in the stratosphere increases with altitude, making it stable and free of weather disturbances.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The ozone layer is contained within the Stratosphere.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the mnemonic TR-ST-ME-TH-EX for the layers of the atmosphere from bottom to top: Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Thermosphere, Exosphere.

2. Which landform is created by the erosional work of a glacier?

- (A) Delta
- (B) U-shaped Valley
- (C) Sand Dune
- (D) Flood Plain

Correct Answer: (B) U-shaped Valley

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Landforms are created by various geomorphic agents such as rivers (fluvial), glaciers (glacial), wind (aeolian), and waves (coastal).

These agents create distinct landforms through the processes of erosion (wearing away) and deposition (dropping sediment).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Option (A) Delta: This is a depositional landform created by a river at its mouth.

Option (B) U-shaped Valley: As a glacier moves down a pre-existing river valley (which is typically V-shaped), it plucks and abrades the sides and bottom, widening and deepening the valley into a characteristic 'U' shape.

This is a classic glacial erosional landform.

Option (C) Sand Dune: This is an aeolian (wind) depositional landform found in deserts and coastal regions.

Option (D) Flood Plain: This is a fluvial depositional landform created by a river depositing sediment over its valley floor during floods.

Step 3: Final Answer:

A U-shaped valley is created by glacial erosion.

 Quick Tip

To easily differentiate valley types: Rivers cut down actively to form V-shaped valleys, whereas massive, slow-moving glaciers bulldoze through valleys to carve out U-shaped valleys.

3. Who proposed the Continental Drift Theory in 1912?

- (A) Isaac Newton
- (B) Alfred Wegener
- (C) Charles Darwin
- (D) Alexander von Humboldt

Correct Answer: (B) Alfred Wegener

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Continental Drift Theory suggests that the Earth's continents have moved over geologic time relative to each other, appearing to have "drifted" across the ocean bed.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Alfred Wegener, a German meteorologist and geophysicist, formally proposed the Continental Drift Theory in 1912.

He hypothesized that all modern continents were once united in a single supercontinent called "Pangea" (meaning "all earth").

Pangea was surrounded by a massive global ocean called "Panthalassa".

He used evidence like the jigsaw fit of continents, matching fossil records across oceans, and paleoclimatic evidence to support his theory.

Isaac Newton is known for the laws of motion and gravity.

Charles Darwin is known for the theory of evolution by natural selection.

Alexander von Humboldt was a pioneer of physical geography and biogeography.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Alfred Wegener proposed the Continental Drift Theory.

 Quick Tip

Wegener's theory was initially rejected because he could not provide a satisfactory mechanism for the movement of continents. It was later validated by the theory of Plate Tectonics in the 1960s.

4. What is the correct sequence of coal types from lowest to highest carbon content?

- (A) Lignite → Peat → Bituminous → Anthracite
- (B) Peat → Lignite → Bituminous → Anthracite
- (C) Peat → Bituminous → Lignite → Anthracite
- (D) Lignite → Bituminous → Peat → Anthracite

Correct Answer: (B) Peat → Lignite → Bituminous → Anthracite

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Coal is a fossil fuel formed from the remains of ancient plant life that underwent heat and pressure over millions of years (a process called coalification).

The quality and rank of coal are determined by its carbon content, which increases over time with greater heat and pressure.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Peat: The first stage of coal formation. It has the lowest carbon content (less than 60%) and a high moisture content.
 2. Lignite: Often called brown coal, it has a slightly higher carbon content (about 60-70%) and is mainly used for electricity generation.
 3. Bituminous: A soft, black coal with a carbon content of around 70-86%. It is widely used in power generation and steel making.
 4. Anthracite: The highest rank of coal. It is a hard, glossy black coal with the highest carbon content (86-97%) and the lowest moisture content.
- Therefore, the correct sequential order from lowest to highest carbon content is Peat, Lignite, Bituminous, and Anthracite.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct sequence is Peat → Lignite → Bituminous → Anthracite.

💡 Quick Tip

Use the mnemonic PLBA (Please Leave Before Afternoon) to remember the sequence: Peat, Lignite, Bituminous, Anthracite.

5. In which stage of the Demographic Transition Model do birth and death rates both become low?

- (A) Stage I – High Stationary Stage
- (B) Stage II – Early Expanding Stage
- (C) Stage III – Late Expanding Stage
- (D) Stage IV – Low Stationary Stage

Correct Answer: (D) Stage IV – Low Stationary Stage

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Demographic Transition Model (DTM) describes how the population of a country changes over time as it transitions from a pre-industrial to an industrialized economic system.

It is based on historical population trends of birth rates and death rates.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Stage I (High Stationary): Both birth rates and death rates are high and fluctuating, resulting in slow population growth.

Stage II (Early Expanding): Death rates drop rapidly due to improvements in healthcare and sanitation, but birth rates remain high, causing rapid population growth.

Stage III (Late Expanding): Birth rates begin to fall due to various social changes (urbanization, education of women, contraception), and population growth begins to slow down.

Stage IV (Low Stationary): Both birth rates and death rates become low and stabilize, leading to a stationary or very slowly growing population.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Both birth and death rates become low in Stage IV – Low Stationary Stage.

 Quick Tip

Many highly developed nations (like Japan and parts of Europe) are currently in Stage IV or even moving into a theoretical Stage V, where birth rates fall below death rates causing a population decline.

6. The Suez Canal connects which two major bodies of water?

- (A) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea
- (B) Arabian Sea and Red Sea
- (C) Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
- (D) Persian Gulf and Mediterranean Sea

Correct Answer: (A) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt, widely considered one of the world's most important maritime trade routes.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Opened in 1869, the Suez Canal cuts across the Isthmus of Suez.

It connects the Mediterranean Sea to the north with the Red Sea to the south.
By doing so, it provides a direct route for ships traveling between Europe and Asia.
Before its construction, ships had to navigate all the way around the southern tip of Africa (the Cape of Good Hope), which added thousands of miles and weeks to the journey.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.

💡 Quick Tip

To avoid confusion, remember that the Panama Canal connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, while the Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

7. Which state in India has the highest literacy rate according to the 2011 Census?

- (A) Tamil Nadu
- (B) Kerala
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Himachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: (B) Kerala

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Census of India systematically collects demographic data every ten years. The 2011 Census provides the definitive statistics for literacy rates across different states and union territories. Literacy in India is defined as the ability of a person aged 7 years and above to read and write with understanding in any language.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to the 2011 Census of India, the national average literacy rate was 74.04%. Among the states, Kerala recorded the highest literacy rate at 94.00% (males 96.11%, females 92.07%).

Following Kerala, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep (91.85%) and the state of Mizoram (91.33%) had the next highest rates.

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh all have strong literacy rates (around 80-82%), but they are lower than Kerala's.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India.

 Quick Tip

While Kerala has the highest literacy rate, Bihar had the lowest literacy rate at 61.80% according to the same 2011 Census.

8. The Big Bang Theory is related to the origin of which entity?

- (A) Earth
- (B) Solar System
- (C) Universe
- (D) Milky Way Galaxy

Correct Answer: (C) Universe

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Big Bang Theory is the leading cosmological model explaining the existence of the observable universe from its earliest known periods through its subsequent large-scale evolution.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The theory proposes that the universe began from a singular, extremely hot, and dense state approximately 13.8 billion years ago.

From this initial singularity, the universe rapidly expanded and cooled, allowing the formation of subatomic particles, and eventually simple atoms.

Giant clouds of these primordial elements later coalesced through gravity to form stars and galaxies, including our Milky Way.

The origin of the Solar System and the Earth is explained by a later process called the Nebular Hypothesis, which occurred about 4.6 billion years ago.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Big Bang Theory relates to the origin of the Universe.

 Quick Tip

Edwin Hubble's observation of the "redshift" of distant galaxies provided key evidence for the expanding universe, which is the cornerstone of the Big Bang Theory.

9. Which type of farming is characterized by "slash and burn" techniques?

- (A) Plantation Farming
- (B) Intensive Farming

- (C) Shifting Cultivation
- (D) Mixed Farming

Correct Answer: (C) Shifting Cultivation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

"Slash and burn" is an agricultural method where a patch of forest or wildland is cleared by slashing the vegetation and burning the debris.

The ashes from the burnt vegetation enrich the soil with nutrients, temporarily making it fertile for crop production.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

This method is primarily characteristic of Shifting Cultivation.

Farmers cultivate the cleared land for a few years until the soil loses its fertility.

Once the land becomes barren, the farmers shift to a new patch of land and repeat the process, allowing the old patch to naturally regenerate over several years.

Plantation farming involves growing a single cash crop on a large scale.

Intensive farming involves high inputs of capital and labor to maximize yield from a small area of land.

Mixed farming involves a combination of growing crops and raising livestock.

Step 3: Final Answer:

"Slash and burn" techniques are a characteristic of Shifting Cultivation.

💡 Quick Tip

Shifting cultivation is known by different local names worldwide: Jhumming (Northeast India), Milpa (Central America), Roca (Brazil), and Ladang (Indonesia/Malaysia).

10. What is the name of the line that separates India and China?

- (A) Radcliffe Line
- (B) McMahon Line
- (C) Durand Line
- (D) Line of Control

Correct Answer: (B) McMahon Line

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

International boundary lines are established through historical treaties and agreements to delineate the sovereign territories of neighboring countries.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The McMahon Line is the effective boundary between China and India in the eastern sector. It was negotiated and drawn by Sir Henry McMahon during the 1914 Simla Convention between British India and Tibet.

Let us review the other options:

Option (A) Radcliffe Line separates India and Pakistan (as well as India and Bangladesh).

Option (C) Durand Line separates Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Option (D) Line of Control (LoC) is the military control line between the Indian and Pakistani controlled parts of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The McMahon Line separates India and China.

💡 Quick Tip

China officially disputes the McMahon Line, claiming that Tibet was not a sovereign state and therefore lacked the authority to sign the 1914 treaty, leading to ongoing border tensions.

11. Which map projection is most suitable for showing equatorial regions?

- (A) Mercator Projection
- (B) Conical Projection
- (C) Cylindrical Projection
- (D) Polar Projection

Correct Answer: (C) Cylindrical Projection

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Map projections transform the spherical Earth onto a flat 2D surface. Because a sphere cannot be flattened without distortion, different "developable surfaces" (cylinder, cone, or plane) are used to minimize distortion in specific areas.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

A Cylindrical Projection is created by wrapping a conceptual cylinder around the Earth, usually touching it at the Equator.

Because the projection surface touches the globe exactly at the Equator, the distortion is minimal in the equatorial regions and increases as one moves towards the poles.

Conical Projections use a cone that typically touches the globe along a mid-latitude parallel, making them ideal for temperate or mid-latitude regions.

Polar (or Azimuthal/Planar) Projections use a flat plane tangent to one of the poles, making them best for mapping polar regions.

While Mercator is a specific type of cylindrical projection, the generic term "Cylindrical Projection" is the fundamental category best suited for equatorial mapping.

Step 3: Final Answer:

A Cylindrical Projection is most suitable for showing equatorial regions.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the matching pairs for minimal distortion: Cylindrical → Equator, Conical → Mid-latitudes, Azimuthal/Planar → Poles.

12. The Mohorovicic Discontinuity separates which two layers of the Earth?

- (A) Crust and Mantle
- (B) Mantle and Outer Core
- (C) Outer Core and Inner Core
- (D) Lithosphere and Asthenosphere

Correct Answer: (A) Crust and Mantle

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The interior of the Earth is divided into compositional layers: the crust, mantle, and core. Seismic waves change velocity abruptly as they pass through materials of different densities. These abrupt changes are called discontinuities.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Mohorovičić discontinuity, often simply called the "Moho," is the boundary that separates the Earth's crust from the underlying mantle.

It was discovered in 1909 by Croatian seismologist Andrija Mohorovičić, who observed that seismic waves suddenly speed up at this depth due to the higher density of mantle rocks (like peridotite) compared to crustal rocks.

Other major discontinuities include:

- Gutenberg Discontinuity: Separates the Mantle and Outer Core.
- Lehmann Discontinuity: Separates the Outer Core and Inner Core.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Mohorovicic Discontinuity separates the Crust and Mantle.

 Quick Tip

Use the mnemonic "CMRGL" to remember discontinuities from top to bottom: Conrad (Upper/Lower Crust), Moho (Crust/Mantle), Repetti (Upper/Lower Mantle), Gutenberg (Mantle/Outer Core), Lehmann (Outer/Inner Core).

13. What is the primary cause of the Coriolis Effect?

- (A) Earth's revolution around the Sun
- (B) Earth's rotation on its axis
- (C) Gravitational pull of the Moon
- (D) Uneven heating of the Earth's surface

Correct Answer: (B) Earth's rotation on its axis

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Coriolis Effect is an apparent deflection of moving objects (like wind and ocean currents) when viewed from a rotating reference frame, such as the Earth.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Because the Earth rotates on its axis from west to east, different latitudes travel at different linear speeds. The equator spins much faster than regions near the poles.

As air or water moves freely across the globe, the ground beneath it rotates.

This rotation causes freely moving fluids to deflect to the right of their path in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

Earth's revolution around the sun causes seasons.

The Moon's gravity primarily causes ocean tides.

Uneven heating of the Earth creates pressure gradients, which initiate the wind, but it does not cause the deflection (Coriolis).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The primary cause of the Coriolis Effect is the Earth's rotation on its axis.

 Quick Tip

The Coriolis force is zero at the equator and reaches its maximum at the poles. This is why cyclones rarely ever form exactly on the equator.

14. Which Indian river is known as the "Dakshin Ganga"?

- (A) Krishna River
- (B) Godavari River
- (C) Narmada River
- (D) Kaveri River

Correct Answer: (B) Godavari River

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Indian rivers are often given cultural and geographical epithets based on their size, religious significance, and utility.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Godavari is the longest river in peninsular India and the second-longest river in India after the Ganga.

Because of its immense length (about 1,465 km), large catchment area, and deep cultural and religious significance in southern India, it is often affectionately called "Dakshin Ganga" or the "Ganges of the South".

The river originates from Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra and flows eastwards into the Bay of Bengal.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Godavari River is known as the Dakshin Ganga.

💡 Quick Tip

Do not confuse "Dakshin Ganga" with "Ganga of the South". While Godavari is officially Dakshin Ganga (due to length/size), the Kaveri river is sometimes colloquially referred to as the Ganga of the South strictly due to its sacredness. In exam contexts, Dakshin Ganga is always Godavari.

15. The Isodapane concept in industrial location theory was introduced by whom?

- (A) Alfred Weber
- (B) August Lösch
- (C) Walter Christaller
- (D) Von Thünen

Correct Answer: (A) Alfred Weber

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Industrial location theories attempt to explain where and why specific industries choose to

establish their operations.

One of the most foundational theories relies heavily on the cost of transportation.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The concept of "Isodapane" was introduced by the German economist Alfred Weber in his Least Cost Theory (1909).

Weber used the term Isodapane to refer to contour lines of equal total transportation costs.

If an industry finds a location where the savings from cheap labor (or other agglomeration benefits) are greater than the extra transport costs indicated by the Isodapane, the industry might deviate from the absolute point of minimum transport cost.

August Lösch is known for his Profit Maximization Theory.

Walter Christaller developed the Central Place Theory.

Von Thünen created the Agricultural Location Model.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Isodapane concept was introduced by Alfred Weber.

 Quick Tip

To remember Weber's terms: Isotims are lines connecting points of equal transport cost for a single product/material. Isodapanes are derived from isotims and show equal total transport costs.