

ICSE Board Class 10 Geography (H.C.G Paper -2) 2026 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :8
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General Instructions

1. *Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*
2. *You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*
3. *This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*
4. ***The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.***
5. *Attempt all questions from **Section A** and any four questions from **Section B**.*
6. *The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets[].*

Part I (30 Marks)

(Attempt **all** questions from this **Part**)

1(i)(a). What is the social significance of the temple that is found at the six-figure grid reference 362001?

Correct Answer: (A) The temple is a place of worship and the site of an annual fair (Mela).

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In topographical maps, religious structures often serve as the primary social and cultural hubs for the local population.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

A temple found in a rural or semi-arid region like the one shown in map extract G43S7 often represents the community's center.

Beyond daily worship, such temples frequently host "Melas" or annual fairs, which are significant social events where people from various settlements gather for trade and social interaction.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The social significance is that it acts as a venue for communal gatherings and annual fairs.

💡 Quick Tip

For social significance of religious buildings in ICSE topography, "Annual Fair" or "Place of Worship" are the standard expected answers.

1(i)(b). What is the reason for very few settlements in the southeastern quarter of the map extract?

Correct Answer: (A) Rugged terrain and dense forest cover.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Settlement distribution is heavily influenced by physical relief and land use restrictions (like forests).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The southeastern quarter of the G43S7 map depicts the Abu hills, characterized by high relief and steep slopes (indicated by dense contour lines).

Furthermore, large parts of this region are marked in green as 'Reserved Forest,' which prohibits large-scale human habitation and agricultural development.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The primary reasons are the mountainous relief (Aravalli range) and the presence of protected forests.

💡 Quick Tip

Look for the color "Green" (forest) or "Brown" (hills) on the map to justify sparse settlement patterns.

1(ii)(a). What is .3r in grid square 3501?

Correct Answer: (A) Relative height of a sand dune is 3 meters.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The symbol 'r' on a topo map denotes "relative height" or "relative depth" of a specific land feature.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the dry regions represented in G43S7, the dots often indicate sand dunes.

The notation .3r implies that the height of that specific sand dune from its immediate base to its top is 3 meters.

Step 3: Final Answer:

It represents a relative height of 3 meters for a sand dune.

💡 Quick Tip

Always specify the feature (sand dune/embankment/river bank) along with the numerical height when defining relative height.

1(ii)(b). Identify one relief feature found in the grid square 3796.

Correct Answer: (A) Ridge (or Spur).

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Relief features are identified by the pattern and orientation of brown contour lines.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Grid square 3796 typically contains elongated contour lines that indicate a long, narrow elevation.

This feature is a Ridge. If the contours point towards lower ground in a V-shape, it indicates a Spur.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The relief feature is a Ridge.

💡 Quick Tip

V-shaped contours pointing to higher ground represent a Valley; V-shaped contours pointing to lower ground represent a Spur.

1(iii)(a). The area shown on the map extract has seasonal streams, but in 3903 a large perennial water source can be seen. What may be the reason for the presence of this large perennial source of water?

Correct Answer: (A) It is a man-made reservoir or tank constructed for water storage.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In arid or semi-arid regions, water is stored in tanks or reservoirs to provide a year-round supply despite seasonal rainfall.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Grid square 3903 contains a blue-tinted area, which represents perennial water.

The presence of a dam or embankment nearby suggests that rainwater is harvested and stored to prevent it from drying up during the hot season.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The perennial nature is due to a perennial tank or reservoir used for irrigation or drinking.

💡 Quick Tip

Blue color in a water body = Perennial (water throughout the year).

Black color in a water body = Seasonal (water only during rainy season).

1(iii)(b). Which other source of water seen on the map extract is perennial?

Correct Answer: (A) Lined Perennial Wells.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Wells that tap into the permanent water table are considered perennial.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Throughout the map, small blue solid circles are found.

These symbols represent lined perennial wells, which provide water throughout the year.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Lined perennial wells are another perennial source of water.

💡 Quick Tip

A solid blue circle represents a lined perennial well, whereas a hollow blue circle represents an unlined perennial well.

1(iv)(a). While travelling for work from Dhaneri (3100) to Marwada (3197) along the metalled road, Sahil crossed over a number of ‘causeways’. Why are causeways present in the area shown on the map extract?

Correct Answer: (A) The region has many seasonal streams that remain dry for most of the year.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A causeway is a raised road across a minor stream or dry bed.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The region receives seasonal rainfall, and most streams are dry (indicated by black lines). Instead of building expensive bridges for every minor stream, causeways are used to allow traffic across the dry stream beds.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Causeways are cost-effective solutions for crossing seasonal, non-perennial streams.

💡 Quick Tip
Causeways are proof of seasonal rainfall in the area.

1(iv)(b). Identify the drainage pattern seen in the grid square 3697.

Correct Answer: (A) Dendritic drainage pattern.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Drainage patterns describe how the network of main streams and tributaries are arranged.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In grid square 3697, the tributaries join the main stream like the branches of a tree. This tree-like arrangement is known as a Dendritic drainage pattern.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The drainage pattern is Dendritic.

💡 Quick Tip

Dendritic = Tree-like branches.
Trellis = Right-angled branching.
Radial = Flowing outwards from a hill.

1(v)(a). What is the difference in altitude between the highest point on the map extract and the contour height in grid square 3203?

Correct Answer: (A) 1442 meters.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept: Altitude difference is the vertical distance between two specific points on a map.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

$$\text{Difference} = \text{Height of Highest Point} - \text{Contour Height in Square}$$

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The highest point on map G43S7 is the Triangulated Station Δ 1722.

The contour height in grid square 3203 is typically 280 meters.

$$1722 - 280 = 1442 \text{ meters}$$

Step 4: Final Answer:

The difference in altitude is 1442 meters.

💡 Quick Tip

Locate Triangulated Heights (Δ) or Spot Heights (.) to find the peak elevations on a topo sheet.

1(v)(b). What is the black horizontal line made between 98 and 99 northings called?

Correct Answer: (A) Line of Latitude.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Maps use a combination of local grid systems (Eastings/Northings) and global geographic systems (Latitude/Longitude).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The horizontal black lines that cut across the red grid represent Latitude.

In map G43S7, the line between 98 and 99 northings is the $24^{\circ}45'$ N Latitude line.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The black horizontal line is a Line of Latitude.

💡 Quick Tip

Horizontal Black Line = Latitude.

Vertical Black Line = Longitude.

2(i). Mark and name an old fold mountain range of India.

Correct Answer: Aravalli Range.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Old fold mountains were formed millions of years ago and have been significantly eroded.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Aravalli Range is the oldest fold mountain range in India, stretching across Rajasthan and reaching Delhi.

It should be marked in the northwestern part of the Indian mainland.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Aravalli Range.

💡 Quick Tip

Always use a brown line to mark mountain ranges on a map of India.

2(ii). Mark with an arrow and name the river also known as the 'Sorrow of Bihar'.

Correct Answer: Kosi River.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Certain rivers are known as 'sorrows' due to their frequent and devastating floods.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Kosi River originates in the Himalayas and flows through Nepal into Bihar, India.

It is notorious for changing its course frequently and causing massive floods, thus earning the name "Sorrow of Bihar."

Step 3: Final Answer:

River Kosi.

 Quick Tip

Damodar is the "Sorrow of Bengal," and Kosi is the "Sorrow of Bihar." Don't confuse the two!

3(i). Mawsynram, the rainiest place in the world, gets the rain from:

- (a) South-west monsoon wind - Arabian Sea branch
- (B) South-west monsoon wind - Bay of Bengal branch
- (C) Western Disturbance
- (D) North-east monsoon wind

Correct Answer: (B) South-west monsoon wind - Bay of Bengal branch

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Mawsynram's high rainfall is a result of the orographic lift of moisture-laden monsoon winds.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Mawsynram is located in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya.

The Bay of Bengal branch of the South-west monsoon moves northward and gets trapped in the funnel-shaped topography of these hills.

The winds are forced to rise abruptly, cooling and releasing torrential rain.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The rain is provided by the South-west monsoon wind - Bay of Bengal branch.

 Quick Tip

The "funneling effect" of the Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia hills is the reason for the world's highest rainfall in this region.

3(ii). Choose the characteristic that is true about Laterite soil.

- (a) It is a clayey soil.
- (b) It is moisture retentive.
- (c) It is rich in calcium.
- (D) It undergoes desilication.

Correct Answer: (D) It undergoes desilication.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Laterite soil forms under conditions of high temperature and heavy rainfall with distinct wet and dry periods.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Heavy tropical rains cause intense leaching, which washes away the silica from the soil, leaving behind aluminum and iron oxides.

This process is known as desilication.

Laterite soils are generally porous, low in fertility, and not moisture-retentive.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct characteristic is that it undergoes desilication.

 Quick Tip

Keyword for Laterite Soil = Leaching / Desilication.

3(v). Identify the type of coal that has the highest calorific value.

- (a) Peat
- (b) Lignite
- (c) Bituminous
- (D) Anthracite

Correct Answer: (D) Anthracite

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Calorific value of coal is determined by its carbon content.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Anthracite is the highest grade of coal, containing over 80% to 95% carbon.

It burns with a blue flame, produces very little smoke or ash, and has the highest heating potential.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Anthracite has the highest calorific value.

💡 Quick Tip

Ranking of coal (worst to best): Peat < Lignite < Bituminous < Anthracite.

3(viii). Which industry is ideally located close to the raw material producing area?

- (a) Silk industry
- (b) Jute industry
- (c) Cotton textile industry
- (D) Sugar industry

Correct Answer: (D) Sugar industry

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

Industries that use perishable or weight-losing raw materials are located at the source.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Sugarcane is heavy and bulky to transport.

More importantly, the sucrose content in the cane starts decreasing rapidly within 24 hours of being harvested.

To maximize sugar yield and minimize transportation costs, sugar mills are situated in the sugarcane-growing belts.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Sugar industry is raw-material oriented.

💡 Quick Tip

Industries like Sugar and Iron & Steel are "Weight-Losing" and thus always located near raw materials.

3(ix). Which of the following is NOT suitable for composting?

- (a) Fruit peels
- (b) Egg shells
- (C) Neem soap
- (D) Used tea leaves

Correct Answer: (C) Neem soap

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Composting is a process of decomposing organic waste into nutrient-rich soil. Non-biodegradable or chemically treated items disrupt this process.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

(a) Fruit peels, (b) Egg shells, and (d) Tea leaves are all natural organic matter that micro-organisms can easily break down.
(c) Soap, even if it contains "Neem," is a processed product containing chemical surfactants, salts, and fats. These can be harmful to composting organisms (like worms and bacteria) and are not natural soil builders.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Neem soap is not suitable for composting.

💡 Quick Tip

Only biological waste from kitchens (greens) and gardens (browns) should go into a compost bin. Avoid chemicals, plastics, and metals.

3(x). The picture given below depicts the use of waterway as a means of transport. Identify the pair of cities which are most likely to be the terminal cities for the waterway shown in the above picture:



- (A) Prayagraj and Haldia
- (b) Mumbai and Goa
- (c) Chennai and Vishakhapatnam
- (d) Kochi and Mangaluru

Correct Answer: (A) Prayagraj and Haldia

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The image shows a cargo vessel moving through an inland riverine waterway.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

National Waterway 1 (NW-1) is the most prominent inland waterway in India, operating on the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system.

It connects **Prayagraj** in Uttar Pradesh to **Haldia** in West Bengal.

The other options provided are coastal shipping routes (Mumbai-Goa, Kochi-Mangaluru, Chennai-Vizag) which involve the sea, whereas the picture clearly shows a river/canal setting with a specific type of barge.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The terminal cities for this inland waterway are Prayagraj and Haldia.

💡 Quick Tip

NW-1: Prayagraj to Haldia (Ganga).

NW-2: Sadiya to Dhubri (Brahmaputra).

NW-3: Kottapuram to Kollam (West Coast Canal).