



# Geography

## Previous Years Questions Compilation

### UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2020

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

**Rivers      Flows into**

1. Mekong    Andaman Sea
2. Thames    Irish Sea
3. Volga      Caspian Sea
4. Zambezi    Indian Ocean

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Q.2) Steel slag can be the material for which of the following?

1. Construction of base road
2. Improvement of agricultural soil
3. Production of cement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead and mercury.
2. Coal-fired power plants release sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen into the environment.
3. High ash content is observed in Indian coal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.4) What is the use of biochar in farming?

1. 'Biochar can be used as a part of the growing medium in vertical farming.
2. When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it promotes the growth of nitrogen fixing microorganisms.
3. When biochar is a part of the growing- medium, it enables the growing medium to retain water for a longer time.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.5) What is/are the advantages/advantages of zero tillage in agriculture?

1. Sowing of wheat is possible without burning the residue of the previous crop.
2. Without the need for nursery of rice saplings, direct planting of paddy seeds in the wet soil is possible.
3. Carbon sequestration in the soil is possible.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.6) According to India's National Policy on Biofuels, which of the following can be used as raw materials for the production of biofuels?

1. Cassava
2. Damaged wheat grains
3. Groundnut seeds
4. Horse gram
5. Rotten potatoes
6. Sugar beet

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Q.7) With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements:

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crops.
2. Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.8) The crop is subtropical in nature. A hard frost is injurious to it. It requires at least 210 frost free days and 50 to 100 centimeters of rainfall for its growth. A light well-drained soil capable of retaining moisture is ideally suited for the cultivation of the crop.

Which one of the following is that crop?

- (a) Cotton
- (b) Jute
- (c) Sugarcane
- (d) Tea



Q.9) With reference to the current trends in the cultivation of sugarcane in India, consider the following statements:

1. A substantial saving in seed material is made when 'bud chip settings' are raised in a nursery and transplanted in the main field.
2. When direct planting of setts is done, the germination percentage is better with single budded setts as compared to setts with many buds.
3. If bad weather conditions prevail when setts are directly planted, single-budded setts have better survival as compared to large setts.
4. Sugarcane can be cultivated using settings prepared from tissue culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Q.10) With reference to solar water pumps, consider the following statements:

1. Solar power can be used for running surface pumps and not for submersible Pumps.
2. Solar power can be used for running centrifugal pumps and not the ones with piston.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.11) In the context of India, which of the following is/are considered to be of practice(s) of eco-friendly agriculture?

1. Crop diversification
2. Legume intensification
3. Tensiometer use
4. Vertical farming

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.12) What are the advantages of fertigation in agriculture?

1. Controlling the alkalinity of irrigation water is possible.
2. Efficient application of Rock Phosphate and all other phosphatic fertilizers is possible.
3. Increased availability of nutrients to plants is possible.
4. Reduction in the leaching of chemical nutrients is possible.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Q.13) Consider the following minerals:

1. Bentonite
2. Chromite
3. Kyanite
4. Sillimanite

In India, which of the above is/are officially designated as major minerals?



- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Q.14) With reference to Ocean Mean Temperature (OMT), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. OMT is measured up to a depth of 26°C isotherm which is 129 meters in the southwestern Indian Ocean during January — March.
2. OMT collected during January — March can be used in assessing whether the amount of rainfall in the monsoon will be less or more than a certain long-term mean.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.15) With reference to chemical fertilizers in India, consider the following statements:

1. At present, the retail price of chemical fertilizers is market-driven and not administered by the Government.
2. Ammonia, which is an input of urea, is produced from natural gas.
3. Sulphur, which is a raw material for Phosphoric acid fertilizer, is a by-product of oil refineries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.16) Siachen Glacier is situated to the

- (a) East of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10°C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

**Answers:**

**1. c 2. d 3. d 4. d 5. d 6. a 7. a 8. a 9. c 10. d 11. d 12. c 13. d 14. b 15. b 16. d 17. c**



## UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2019

Q.1) With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country.
2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Central Government.
3. State Governments have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

**Glacier**

**River**

- |                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. Bandarpunch | Yamuna    |
| 2. Bara Shigri | Chenab    |
| 3. Milam       | Mandakini |
| 4. Siachen     | Nubra     |
| 5. Zemu        | Manas     |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 2 and 5
- (d) 3 and 5

Q.3) With reference to the cultivation of Kharif crops in India in the last five years, consider the following statements:

1. Area under rice cultivation is the highest.
2. Area under the cultivation of jowar is more than that of oilseeds.
3. Area of cotton cultivation is more than that of sugarcane.
4. Area under sugarcane cultivation has steadily decreased.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.4) Among the following, which one is the largest exporter of rice in the world in the last five years?

- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Vietnam



Q.5) The word 'Denisovan' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to-

- (a) fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
- (b) an early human species
- (c) a cave system found in North-East India.
- (d) a geological period in the history of the Indian subcontinent

Q.6) Consider the following pairs:

<b>Sea</b>	<b>Bordering country</b>
1. Adriatic Sea	Albania
2. Black Sea	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5. Red Sea	Syria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Asiatic lions are naturally found in India only.
- 2. A double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
- 3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.8) Consider the following States:

- 1. Chhattisgarh
- 2. Madhya Pradesh
- 3. Maharashtra
- 4. Odisha

With reference to the States mentioned above, in terms of percentage of forest cover to the total area of the State, which one of the following is the correct ascending order?

- (a) 2-3-1-4
- (b) 2-3-4-1
- (c) 3-2-4-1
- (d) 3-2-1-4

Q.9) Consider the following pairs

<b>Famous place</b>	<b>River</b>
1. Pandharpur	Chandrabhaga



2. Tiruchirappalli      Cauvery
3. Hampi                      Malaprabha

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.10) Why are dewdrops not formed on a cloudy night?

- (a) Clouds absorb the radiation released from the Earth's surface.
- (b) Clouds reflect back the Earth's radiation.
- (c) The Earth's surface would have a low temperature on cloudy nights.
- (d) Clouds deflect the blowing wind to ground level.

Q.11) Consider the following pairs:

<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Naturally found in</b>
1. Blue-finned Mahseer	Cauvery River
2. Irrawaddy Dolphin	Chambal River
3. Rusty-spotted Cat	Eastern Ghats

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.12) What is common to the places known as Aliyar, Isapur and Kangsabati?

- (a) Recently discovered uranium deposits
- (b) Tropical rain forests
- (c) Underground cave systems
- (d) Water reservoirs

Q.13) On 21st June, the Sun

- (a) does not set below the horizon at the Arctic Circle
- (b) does not set below the horizon at Antarctic Circle
- (c) shines vertically overhead at noon on the Equator
- (d) shines vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn

Q.14) Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone?

- (a) Manas National Park
- (b) Namdapha National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Valley of Flowers National Park

**Answers:**

**1. a 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. a 10. b 11. d 12. d 13. a 14. d**



## UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2018

Q.1) Which of the following leaf modifications occur(s) in the desert areas to inhibit water loss?

1. Hard and waxy leaves
2. Tiny leaves
3. Thorns instead of leaves

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

<b>Town sometime mentioned in news</b>	<b>Country</b>
1. Aleppo	Syria
2. Kirkuk	Yemen
3. Mosul	Palestine
4. Mazar-i-Sharif	Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 4
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 and 4

Q.3) With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements:

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.4) In which one of the following States is Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Nagaland

Q.5) Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up in the recent past due to human activities ?

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only



- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3

Q.6) Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Pune

Q.7) The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.

1. When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
2. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.8) With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under Conservation Agriculture?

1. Avoiding the monoculture practices
2. Adopting minimum tillage
3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
4. Using crop residues to cover the soil surface
5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3 and 4
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (c) 2, 4 and 5
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Q.9) Consider the following pairs :

<b>Regions sometimes mentioned in news</b>	<b>Country</b>
1. Catalonia	Spain
2. Crimea	Hungary
3. Mindanao	Philippines
4. Oromia	Nigeria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

Q.10) Which one of the following is an artificial lake?

- (a) Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)
- (b) Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)
- (c) Nainital (Uttarakhand)
- (d) Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)



Q.11) Consider the following statements

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.12) Which of the following is/are the possible consequence/s of heavy sand mining in riverbeds?

1. Decreased salinity in the river
2. Pollution of groundwater
3. Lowering of the water table

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1,2 and 3

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3

Q.14) With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements :

1. High content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
2. Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer:**

**1. d 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. d 6. a 7. c 8. d 9. c 10. a 11. d 12. b 13. d 14. b**



## UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2017

Q.1) Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five states only.
2. Western Ghats are spread over five states only.
3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Q.3) With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterized by a difference in sea surface temperature between the tropical Western Indian Ocean and the tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.4) Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar?

- (a) Sumatra
- (b) Borneo
- (c) Java
- (d) Sri Lanka

Q.5) With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into the Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only



(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.6) If you travel by road from Kohima to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 9

Q.7) From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?

- (a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- (b) Nallamala Forest
- (c) Nagarhole National Park
- (d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

Q.8) At one of the place in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, 'you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometers and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the seafloor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- (a) Bhavnagar
- (b) Bheemunipatnam
- (c) Chandipur
- (d) Nagapattinam

**Answer:**

**1. c 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. c**



## UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2016

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Famous Place	Region
1. Bodhgaya	Baghelkhand
2. Khajuraho	Bundelkhand
3. Shirdi	Vidarbha
4. Nasik	Malwa
5. Tirupati	Rayalaseema

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (c) 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5

Q.2) Which of the following is/are tributary/ tributaries of Brahmaputra?

- 1. Dibang
- 2. Kameng
- 3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.3) In which of the following regions of India are shale gas resources found?

- 1. Cambay Basin
- 2. Cauvery Basin
- 3. Krishna-Godavari Basin

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.4) With reference to 'Initiative for Nutritional Security through intensive Millets Promotion', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. This initiative aims to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies, and to demonstrate value addition techniques, in an integrated manner, with a cluster approach.
- 2. Poor, small, marginal and tribal farmers have a larger stake in this scheme.



3. An important objective of the scheme is to encourage farmers of commercial crops to shift to millet cultivation by offering them free kits of critical inputs of nutrients and micro-irrigation equipment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.5) Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Rajasthan

Q.6) Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaken?

- (a) Cauvery and Tungabhadra
- (b) Godavari and Krishna
- (c) Mahanadi and Son
- (d) Narmada and Tapti

Q.7) Consider the following pairs:

Community sometimes in the affairs of mentioned in the news

- 1. Kurd : Bangladesh
- 2. Madhesi : Nepal
- 3. Rohingya : Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

**Answers:**

**1. c 2. d 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. b 7. c**