

CUET 2026 May 20 Shift 1 Geography

Question Paper (Memory-Based) with Solutions

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. With reference to water resources in India, consider the given statements:

1. India accounts for about 4% of the world's water resources.
2. Agriculture accounts for the highest share of total water used in India.
3. Groundwater utilization is very low in the states of Punjab and Haryana.
4. Lagoons and Backwaters are found along the coasts of Kerala and Odisha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1, 2 and 4
- (B) 2, 3 and 4
- (C) 1 and 3
- (D) All of the above

Correct Answer: (A) 1, 2 and 4

Solution:

Let us examine each statement carefully.

Step 1: Statement 1

India accounts for about 4% of the world's water resources

This statement is:

Correct

India has nearly:

18%

of the world's population but only about:

4%

of global freshwater resources.

Step 2: Statement 2

Agriculture accounts for the highest share of water use in India

This statement is:

Correct

Agriculture consumes the largest portion of water in India mainly due to:

- Irrigation needs
- Water-intensive crops
- Large agricultural sector

Step 3: Statement 3

Groundwater utilization is very low in Punjab and Haryana

This statement is:

Incorrect

Punjab and Haryana have:

very high groundwater utilization

because of intensive irrigation and tube-well farming.

Step 4: Statement 4

Lagoons and Backwaters are found along the coasts of Kerala and Odisha

This statement is:

Correct

Examples include:

- Kerala Backwaters
- Chilika Lake in Odisha

Thus, correct statements are:

1, 2 and 4

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Correct
- Option (B): Incorrect because statement 3 is false
- Option (C): Incorrect because statement 3 is false
- Option (D): Incorrect because all statements are not correct

Therefore:

(A)

Quick Tip: Punjab and Haryana have:

high groundwater exploitation

due to intensive irrigation farming.

2. If you are traveling on the Orient Express railway line from West to East, in which order will you cross these cities?

1. Budapest (Hungary)
2. Paris (France)
3. Istanbul (Turkey)
4. Vienna (Austria)

- (A) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3
(B) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3
(C) 4 – 2 – 1 – 3
(D) 2 – 4 – 3 – 1

Correct Answer: (B) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3

Solution:

The historic:

Orient Express

connected Western Europe with Eastern Europe and Turkey.

Traveling from:

West → East

the cities are crossed in the following geographical order.

Step 1: Paris

Paris is located in:

France

which lies in Western Europe.

Thus Paris comes first.

Step 2: Vienna

Vienna is the capital of:

Austria

and lies east of France.

Thus Vienna comes after Paris.

Step 3: Budapest

Budapest is the capital of:

Hungary

which lies further east of Austria.

Thus Budapest comes next.

Step 4: Istanbul

Istanbul is located in:

Turkey

and lies furthest east among the given cities.

Thus the final sequence is:

$2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 3$

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Incorrect order of Vienna and Budapest
- Option (B): Correct
- Option (C): Incorrect because Paris is westernmost
- Option (D): Incorrect because Istanbul comes after Budapest

Therefore:

(B)

Quick Tip: Orient Express route:

Paris \rightarrow Vienna \rightarrow Budapest \rightarrow Istanbul

3. Arrange the following railway stations of the Trans-Canadian Railway from West to East:

1. Winnipeg
2. Vancouver
3. Montreal
4. Calgary

- (A) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3
- (B) 4 – 2 – 1 – 3
- (C) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3
- (D) 3 – 1 – 4 – 2

Correct Answer: (A) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3

Solution:

The:

Trans-Canadian Railway

extends across Canada from the Pacific Coast in the west to the eastern regions of Canada.

To arrange the stations from:

West → East

we identify their geographical positions.

Step 1: Vancouver

Vancouver is located in:

British Columbia

on the Pacific Coast and is the westernmost city among the given options.

Thus Vancouver comes first.

Step 2: Calgary

Calgary is located in:

Alberta

east of British Columbia.

Thus Calgary comes after Vancouver.

Step 3: Winnipeg

Winnipeg is located in:

Manitoba

which lies east of Alberta.

Thus Winnipeg comes next.

Step 4: Montreal

Montreal is located in:

Quebec

in eastern Canada.

Thus Montreal comes last.

Therefore, the correct sequence is:

$$2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 3$$

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Correct
- Option (B): Incorrect because Vancouver is westernmost
- Option (C): Incorrect placement of Calgary and Winnipeg
- Option (D): Reverse order

Therefore:

(A)

Quick Tip: West to East across Canada:

Vancouver → Calgary → Winnipeg → Montreal

4. With reference to Human Development (HD), consider the following statements:

1. Growth is quantitative and value-neutral, whereas development is qualitative.
2. Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq and Prof. Amartya Sen worked together on human development concepts.
3. Equity, Sustainability, Productivity, and Empowerment are the four pillars of human development.
4. High level of human development is always directly linked to the high income level of a country.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2, 3 and 4

(C) 1 and 3

(D) All of the above

Correct Answer: (A) 1, 2 and 3

Solution:

Let us examine each statement carefully.

Step 1: Statement 1

Growth is quantitative and value-neutral, whereas development is qualitative

This statement is:

Correct

Economic growth mainly refers to:

- Increase in output
- Increase in income
- Quantitative expansion

Development includes:

- Improvement in quality of life
- Education
- Health
- Social welfare

Thus development is qualitative in nature.

Step 2: Statement 2

Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq and Prof. Amartya Sen worked together on human development concepts

This statement is:

Correct

Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq introduced the:

Human Development Report

with intellectual support from:

Prof. Amartya Sen

Step 3: Statement 3

Equity, Sustainability, Productivity and Empowerment are the four pillars of human development

This statement is:

Correct

These are widely recognized as the:

four pillars of Human Development

Step 4: Statement 4

High level of human development is always directly linked to high income level

This statement is:

Incorrect

High income alone does not guarantee:

- Better education
- Better healthcare
- Equality
- Human welfare

Some countries may have:

high income but moderate human development

Thus correct statements are:

1, 2 and 3

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Correct
- Option (B): Incorrect because statement 4 is false
- Option (C): Incomplete
- Option (D): Incorrect because all statements are not correct

Therefore:

(A)

Quick Tip: Four pillars of Human Development:

Equity, Sustainability, Productivity, Empowerment

5. Consider the following statements regarding intensive subsistence agriculture:

1. It is widely practiced in densely populated regions of monsoon Asia.
2. The size of land holdings is generally very large.
3. Machinery is fully utilized, and manual labor is minimal.
4. Yield per unit area is high, but labor productivity is low.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) 1 and 4
- (D) 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (C) 1 and 4

Solution:

Let us examine each statement carefully.

Step 1: Statement 1

It is widely practiced in densely populated regions of monsoon Asia

This statement is:

Correct

Intensive subsistence agriculture is common in:

- India
- China
- Bangladesh
- Southeast Asian countries

where population density is very high.

Step 2: Statement 2

The size of land holdings is generally very large

This statement is:

Incorrect

In intensive subsistence farming:

land holdings are usually very small

due to:

- High population pressure
- Fragmentation of land

Step 3: Statement 3

Machinery is fully utilized, and manual labor is minimal

This statement is:

Incorrect

This type of agriculture is:

- Labor intensive
- Dependent heavily on human labor
- Less mechanized

Step 4: Statement 4

Yield per unit area is high, but labor productivity is low

This statement is:

Correct

Large labor input increases:

production per unit area

but because many workers are involved:

labor productivity remains low

Thus, correct statements are:

1 and 4

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Incorrect because statement 2 is false
- Option (B): Incorrect because statements 2 and 3 are false
- Option (C): Correct
- Option (D): Incorrect because statement 3 is false

Therefore:

(C)

Quick Tip: Intensive subsistence agriculture:

Small farms + High labor input + High yield per area

6. Match List-I (National Waterway) with List-II (Stretch):

List-I (National Waterway)		List-II (Stretch)	
(A)	NW 1	(1)	Sadiya to Dhubri
(B)	NW 2	(2)	Prayagraj to Haldia
(C)	NW 3	(3)	Kakinada to Puducherry
(D)	NW 4	(4)	Kottapuram to Kollam

Choose the correct option:

- (A) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- (B) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (C) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3
- (D) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

Correct Answer: (A) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

Solution:

Let us match each National Waterway correctly.

Step 1: National Waterway 1

NW 1

extends from:

Prayagraj to Haldia

Thus:

A → 2

Step 2: National Waterway 2

NW 2

is located on the Brahmaputra River from:

Sadiya to Dhubri

Thus:

$B \rightarrow 1$

Step 3: National Waterway 3

NW 3

lies in Kerala and extends from:

Kottapuram to Kollam

Thus:

$C \rightarrow 4$

Step 4: National Waterway 4

NW 4

extends from:

Kakinada to Puducherry

Thus:

$D \rightarrow 3$

Therefore, the correct matching is:

$A - 2, B - 1, C - 4, D - 3$

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Correct
- Option (B): Incorrect matching

- Option (C): Incorrect matching
- Option (D): Incorrect matching

Therefore:

(A)

Quick Tip: Important National Waterways:

NW 1 → Prayagraj to Haldia

NW 2 → Sadiya to Dhubri

NW 3 → Kottapuram to Kollam

7. The 'Neeru-Meeru' (Water and You) watershed development program in India is related to which state?

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Andhra Pradesh
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Maharashtra

Correct Answer: (B) Andhra Pradesh

Solution:

The:

Neeru-Meeru Programme

literally means:

“Water and You”

It is a watershed and water conservation programme launched in:

Andhra Pradesh

The programme focuses on:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Watershed development
- Groundwater recharge
- Conservation of water resources

Its main objective is:

sustainable management of water resources

especially in drought-prone areas.

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Incorrect
- Option (B): Correct
- Option (C): Incorrect
- Option (D): Incorrect

Therefore:

(B)

Quick Tip:

Neeru-Meeru → Andhra Pradesh

Focused on:

watershed development and water conservation

8. Which of the following statements correctly explains the major objective of the Green Revolution in India?

(A) To promote plantation agriculture in hilly regions

- (B) To increase agricultural production using HYV seeds, irrigation and fertilizers
(C) To encourage shifting cultivation in tribal areas
(D) To reduce cultivation of food grains

Correct Answer: (B) To increase agricultural production using HYV seeds, irrigation and fertilizers

Solution:

The:

Green Revolution

was introduced in India during the:

1960s

Its major aim was:

to increase food grain production

The Green Revolution emphasized:

- High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds
- Irrigation facilities
- Chemical fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Modern agricultural techniques

It helped India achieve:

self-sufficiency in food grains

especially in:

- Wheat
- Rice

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Incorrect
- Option (B): Correct
- Option (C): Incorrect

- Option (D): Incorrect

Therefore:

(B)

Quick Tip: Green Revolution focused on:

HYV seeds + Irrigation + Fertilizers

to increase food grain production.

9. The “Golden Quadrilateral” or “Chaturbhuj Yojna” in India is primarily associated with:

- (A) Development of inland waterways
- (B) Connecting major metropolitan cities through a highway network
- (C) Expansion of railway freight corridors
- (D) Construction of multipurpose river valley projects

Correct Answer: (B) Connecting major metropolitan cities through a highway network

Solution:

The:

Golden Quadrilateral Project

also known as:

Chaturbhuj Yojna

is one of India’s largest highway development projects.

It connects the four major metropolitan cities of India:

- Delhi
- Mumbai
- Chennai
- Kolkata

The project was launched under:

National Highways Development Programme (NHDP)

Its main objectives are:

- Faster transportation
- Better road connectivity
- Promotion of trade and commerce
- Reduction in travel time

Thus, it is mainly related to:

highway network development

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Incorrect
- Option (B): Correct
- Option (C): Incorrect
- Option (D): Incorrect

Therefore:

(B)

Quick Tip: Golden Quadrilateral connects:

Delhi → Mumbai → Chennai → Kolkata

through a major highway network.

10. Match List-I (Mineral) with List-II (Major Producer State):

List-I (Mineral)		List-II (State)	
(A)	Manganese	(1)	Rajasthan
(B)	Copper	(2)	Odisha
(C)	Bauxite	(3)	Madhya Pradesh
(D)	Mica	(4)	Andhra Pradesh

Choose the correct option:

- (A) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
- (B) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
- (C) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- (D) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

Correct Answer: (B) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

Solution:

Let us match each mineral with its major producer state.

Step 1: Manganese

Manganese

is a major mineral produced in:

Madhya Pradesh

Thus:

$A \rightarrow 3$

Step 2: Copper

Copper

is significantly produced in:

Rajasthan

especially in the Khetri region.

Thus:

$B \rightarrow 1$

Step 3: Bauxite

Bauxite

is largely produced in:

Odisha

Thus:

$C \rightarrow 2$

Step 4: Mica

Mica

is associated with:

Andhra Pradesh

Thus:

$D \rightarrow 4$

Therefore, the correct matching is:

$A - 3, B - 1, C - 2, D - 4$

Option analysis:

- Option (A): Incorrect matching
- Option (B): Correct
- Option (C): Incorrect matching
- Option (D): Incorrect matching

Therefore:

(B)

Quick Tip: Important mineral-producing states:

Copper → Rajasthan

Bauxite → Odisha

Mica → Andhra Pradesh