Maharashtra Board Class 12 Geography Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :3 Hour	**Maximum Marks :**70	**Total Questions :**24

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

- You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes

- This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

- The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers,

- The paper has four Sections.

- Section A is compulsory - All questions in Section A must be answered.

- You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice.

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1. Explain the human factors affecting the distribution of population.

Solution:

Concept: The distribution of population across the world is influenced not only by natural factors but also by several **human factors**. These factors relate to economic activities, social development, political conditions, and technological progress that attract or discourage people from living in certain areas.

Step 1: Economic opportunities.

Availability of employment opportunities is one of the most important factors affecting population distribution. Regions with industries, trade, and business activities attract more people in search of jobs and better livelihoods.

Step 2: Social and cultural factors.

Education, healthcare facilities, housing, and cultural attractions encourage people to settle in certain areas. Cities with better social infrastructure tend to have higher population density.

Step 3: Political stability and government policies.

Stable political conditions and supportive government policies promote settlement in a region. Areas with conflict or political instability usually have lower population density.

Step 4: Technological development.

Advances in technology allow people to inhabit areas that were previously considered unsuitable for settlement. For example, irrigation systems, transportation networks, and modern infrastructure help support larger populations.

Step 5: Urbanization.

The growth of cities and urban centers attracts people from rural areas in search of employment, education, and better living conditions, leading to higher population concentration in urban regions.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Human factors affecting population distribution include **economic opportunities, social facilities, political stability, technological development, and urbanization**.

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2. Why is the literacy rate considered an indicator of socio-economic development?

Solution:
Concept: The **literacy rate** refers to the percentage of people in a population who can read and write with understanding. It is considered an important indicator of socio-economic development because education plays a vital role in improving the quality of life and economic progress of a society.

Step 1: Improvement in knowledge and skills.
Higher literacy levels help people acquire knowledge and develop skills. Educated individuals are better equipped to participate in economic activities and contribute to national development.

Step 2: Better employment opportunities.
Literacy increases the chances of getting better jobs and higher incomes. Skilled and educated workers contribute more effectively to economic growth.

Step 3: Social awareness and decision making.
Literate people are more aware of their rights and responsibilities. They can make informed decisions related to health, family planning, and social issues.

Step 4: Improvement in health and living standards.
Education helps people understand the importance of hygiene, nutrition, and healthcare, which improves overall living conditions and reduces poverty.

Step 5: Promotion of gender equality.
Higher literacy rates, especially among women, promote gender equality and empower women to participate actively in social and economic activities.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> The literacy rate is an indicator of socio-economic development because it improves **employment opportunities, social awareness, health, and overall quality of life**.

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3. Why are weight-losing industries located near sources of raw materials?

Solution:
Concept: Weight-losing industries are industries in which the raw materials lose a significant portion of their weight during the manufacturing process. Because of this loss, it becomes economical to locate these industries close to the sources of raw materials.

Step 1: Reduction in transportation cost.

When industries are located near the source of raw materials, the cost of transporting bulky and heavy raw materials is reduced. Transporting lighter finished products is cheaper than transporting heavy raw materials.

Step 2: Loss of weight during processing.

In weight-losing industries, a large part of the raw material becomes waste during production. For example, in the sugar industry, a large quantity of sugarcane is required to produce a smaller amount of sugar.

Step 3: Saving time and energy.

Locating industries near raw material sources reduces the time and energy required for transporting raw materials over long distances.

Step 4: Examples of such industries.

Industries like **sugar, cement, and pulp industries** are commonly located near raw material sources because their raw materials lose weight during processing.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Weight-losing industries are located near raw material sources to reduce transportation cost because the raw materials lose a large part of their weight during production.

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4. Explain how factors like illiteracy and poverty affect regional development.

Solution:

Concept: Regional development refers to the economic and social progress of different regions within a country. Factors such as **illiteracy and poverty** can significantly slow down development by limiting human potential, productivity, and access to opportunities.

Step 1: Impact of illiteracy on development.

Illiteracy limits people's ability to acquire knowledge and skills. Without education, individuals cannot access better employment opportunities, which slows economic growth and development in a region.

Step 2: Low productivity and limited innovation.

Regions with high levels of illiteracy often experience lower productivity because workers lack the training and technical knowledge required for modern industries and agriculture.

Step 3: Effects of poverty on development.

Poverty reduces people's ability to invest in education, healthcare, and better living conditions. Poor families often struggle to meet basic needs, which prevents long-term development.

Step 4: Cycle of underdevelopment.

Illiteracy and poverty reinforce each other. Lack of education leads to low income, and low income prevents access to education and resources, creating a continuous cycle of underdevelopment.

> **Quick Tip**
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> Illiteracy and poverty slow regional development by reducing education, productivity, income levels, and access to opportunities, thereby creating a cycle of underdevelopment.

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5. Distinguish between Physical Geography and Human Geography.

Solution:
Concept: Geography is broadly divided into two main branches: **Physical Geography** and **Human Geography**. Physical geography focuses on natural features and processes of the Earth, while human geography studies human activities and their relationship with the environment.

Step 1: Meaning of Physical Geography.
Physical geography deals with natural features of the Earth such as landforms, climate, rivers, soils, vegetation, and oceans. It studies the natural processes that shape the Earth's surface.

Step 2: Meaning of Human Geography.
Human geography studies the distribution and activities of human populations on the Earth. It examines aspects such as settlements, population, culture, economic activities, and human interaction with the environment.

Step 3: Key differences between the two branches.

Physical Geography	Human Geography
Studies natural features of the Earth	Studies human population and activities
Includes landforms, climate, rivers, soils, and vegetation	Includes settlements, economy, culture, and population
Focuses on natural processes	Focuses on human–environment interaction

Step 4: Conclusion.
Thus, physical geography focuses on the Earth's natural environment, whereas human geography focuses on human activities and their relationship with the environment.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Physical Geography** studies natural features like landforms and climate, while **Human Geography** studies human population, settlements, and economic activities.

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6. Distinguish between Primary Economic Activities and Secondary Economic Activities.

Solution:
Concept: Economic activities are classified into different sectors based on the nature of work involved. **Primary economic activities** involve the direct extraction of natural resources, while **secondary economic activities** involve processing raw materials into finished goods.

Step 1: Meaning of Primary Economic Activities.
Primary economic activities are those activities that involve the extraction and use of natural resources directly from the Earth. Examples include agriculture, fishing, mining, forestry, and hunting.

Step 2: Meaning of Secondary Economic Activities.

Secondary economic activities involve the processing and manufacturing of raw materials obtained from primary activities into finished or semi-finished goods.

Step 3: Key differences between the two activities.

Primary Economic Activities	Secondary Economic Activities
Involve extraction of natural resources	Involve processing of raw materials
Depend directly on nature	Depend on industries and manufacturing
Examples: agriculture, fishing, mining	Examples: manufacturing, construction, factories
Provide raw materials for industries	Produce finished goods from raw materials

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, primary activities focus on obtaining natural resources, while secondary activities transform those resources into usable products.

Quick Tip

Primary Activities → Extraction of natural resources (agriculture, mining). **Secondary Activities** → Processing raw materials into finished goods (manufacturing, industries).

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7. Distinguish between Physical Regions and Political Regions.

Solution:

Concept: Regions can be classified based on different characteristics. **Physical regions** are defined by natural features such as landforms and climate, whereas **political regions** are defined by administrative or governmental boundaries created by humans.

Step 1: Meaning of Physical Regions.

Physical regions are areas that share similar natural characteristics such as mountains, rivers, plains, climate, soil, and vegetation. These regions are formed naturally and are not influenced by human decisions.

Step 2: Meaning of Political Regions.

Political regions are areas defined by human-made administrative boundaries for the purpose of governance and administration. These regions include countries, states, districts, and cities.

Step 3: Key differences between the two regions.

Physical Regions	Political Regions
Based on natural features of the Earth	Based on administrative and political boundaries
Formed naturally by landforms, climate, and vegetation	Created by governments for administration
Examples: mountains, plains, deserts	Examples: countries, states, districts
Boundaries may change gradually	Boundaries are clearly defined on maps

Step 4: Conclusion.
Thus, physical regions are determined by natural geographical features, while political regions are determined by human administrative divisions.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> **Physical Regions** are based on natural features like mountains and plains, whereas **Political Regions** are based on administrative boundaries such as countries and states.

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8. Discuss the latest trends in Geography as a discipline.

Solution:
Concept: Geography as a discipline has evolved significantly over time. Modern geography integrates scientific techniques, technology, and interdisciplinary approaches to study the relationship between humans and the environment.
Step 1: Use of geospatial technologies.
One of the latest trends in geography is the use of technologies such as **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**, **Remote Sensing**, and **Global Positioning Systems (GPS)** to collect, analyze, and interpret spatial data.
Step 2: Environmental and sustainability studies.
Modern geography increasingly focuses on environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable development.
Step 3: Interdisciplinary approach.
Geography now integrates knowledge from other disciplines such as economics, sociology, environmental science, and urban planning to better understand complex geographical issues.
Step 4: Urban and regional planning.
Geographers are actively involved in urban planning, transportation planning, and regional development to improve living conditions and manage urban growth.
Step 5: Focus on human–environment interaction.
Recent geographical studies emphasize understanding how human activities affect the environment and how environmental changes impact human societies.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Modern geography emphasizes **geospatial technologies (GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing), environmental sustainability, interdisciplinary research, and urban planning**.

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9. Explain the relationship between population growth and migration.

Solution:

Concept: Population growth refers to the increase in the number of people living in a particular area, while migration refers to the movement of people from one place to another. Migration plays an important role in influencing the size and distribution of population.

Step 1: Migration as a factor of population change.

Population growth in a region depends not only on birth and death rates but also on migration. When people move into an area (immigration), the population increases, while when people move out (emigration), the population decreases.

Step 2: Impact on urban population growth.

Migration from rural areas to urban areas leads to rapid population growth in cities. People often migrate in search of employment, education, and better living conditions.

Step 3: Redistribution of population.

Migration redistributes population from densely populated regions to less populated areas or from rural regions to urban centers, affecting regional population patterns.

Step 4: Economic and social effects.

Migration can contribute to economic development by providing labor in industries and services. However, excessive migration can also create challenges such as overcrowding and pressure on urban resources.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Migration influences population growth by increasing population in destination areas (immigration) and decreasing it in origin areas (emigration), thereby affecting population distribution.

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10. Explain the physical factors affecting the location of industries.

Solution:

Concept: The location of industries is influenced by several physical factors related to natural resources and environmental conditions. These factors help industries operate efficiently by ensuring the availability of essential resources.

Step 1: Availability of raw materials.

Industries are often located near sources of raw materials to reduce transportation costs and ensure a continuous supply. For example, iron and steel industries are usually located near iron ore and coal deposits.

Step 2: Availability of water.

Many industries require large quantities of water for processing, cooling, and cleaning. Therefore, industries are commonly located near rivers, lakes, or other reliable water sources.

Step 3: Climate conditions.

Certain industries require specific climatic conditions for efficient production. For example, textile industries benefit from humid climates, which help prevent the breaking of threads.

Step 4: Availability of land.

Industries need adequate land for setting up factories, storage facilities, and infrastructure. Flat and accessible land is generally preferred for industrial development.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Important physical factors affecting the location of industries include **availability of raw materials, water supply, suitable climate, and adequate land**.

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11. Define a region and explain the factors on which regions are differentiated.

Solution:

Concept: A **region** is an area of the Earth's surface that is distinguished by certain common characteristics. These characteristics may be physical, cultural, economic, or political, which make the region different from surrounding areas.

Step 1: Meaning of a region.

A region is defined as a geographical area that has similar features such as climate, landforms, culture, language, or economic activities. Regions help geographers study and understand the Earth in a systematic way.

Step 2: Physical factors.

Physical characteristics such as relief, climate, soil, natural vegetation, and water bodies are important factors that differentiate regions. For example, mountains, plains, and desert regions are distinguished by their natural features.

Step 3: Cultural and social factors.

Regions may also be differentiated based on cultural aspects such as language, religion, traditions, and lifestyle of the people living in that area.

Step 4: Economic factors.

Economic activities like agriculture, industries, trade, and transportation can also define regions. For example, industrial regions and agricultural regions are classified based on economic functions.

Step 5: Political and administrative factors.

Political boundaries such as countries, states, and districts also create regions for administrative purposes.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> A **region** is an area with similar characteristics. Regions can be differentiated based on **physical, cultural, economic, and political factors**.

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12. Discuss why per capita income is not considered the only real indicator of regional development.

Solution:

Concept: Per capita income refers to the average income earned per person in a region or country. Although it is commonly used to measure economic progress, it does not fully reflect the overall level of development because development also includes social and human aspects.

Step 1: Does not reflect income distribution.

Per capita income shows only the average income and does not reveal how income is distributed among people. A region may have high per capita income but still suffer from large inequalities between rich and poor.

Step 2: Ignores social indicators.

Development also depends on factors such as education, healthcare, literacy rate, and life expectancy. Per capita income alone cannot measure these important aspects of human well-being.

Step 3: Does not consider quality of life.

Indicators like access to clean water, sanitation, housing, and environmental quality are essential for measuring the quality of life, which per capita income does not capture.

Step 4: Overlooks human development.

Human development focuses on expanding people's capabilities and opportunities. Therefore, broader indicators such as the **Human Development Index (HDI)** are used to provide a more comprehensive measure of development.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Per capita income alone cannot measure real development because it ignores **income inequality, education, healthcare, living standards, and overall human well-being**.