

**ANALYSIS / APPROACH / SOURCE / STRATEGY : GEOGRAPHY MAINS 2011 PAPER I**

- Harsh V. Singh

Difficulty Level (DL) : Easy (E), Medium (M), Difficult (D)

Nature of Question (Nature) : Fundamental, Conceptual, Conventional (F), Current Affairs (CA), Fundamental Current Affairs (FCA) , Unconventional (U)

APP / UAPP : **Approachable Questions (APP)**: Your limit / **Unapproachable (UAPP)** (beyond your limit)

Color codes: **Green - preferred questions;** **Black – choices;** **Red – avoidable questions**

	DL	Nature	APP.	Sources Key Books / Test Series(TS -2011)	TOPICS (Topic no.s given directly from syllabus. Kindly refer to the syllabus given below after this table)	Remarks
1-(a) Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism (12)	M	F	APP.	TS (T 1 ,5a.) Indian and US Government supported websites and STRAHLER AND STRAHLER(S & S)	Newly added topic in syllabus (1.4) Geomorphology	A good question to answer as basic ideas associated with the two concepts need to be given with a few diag.
1-(b) Rossby waves and Jet Stream (12)	M	F	APP.	Critchfield	Topic in syllabus (2.6) Climatology	Explain these upper air circulations and give diag.

1-(c). Salinity patterns in Indian Ocean (12)	M	F	APP.	TS (T 1, 8b) Sharma and Vatthal, NCERT	In syllabus (3.2) Oceanography	Briefly give horizontal and vertical patterns with diag.
1-(d). Soil profile in Zonal and Azonal soils (12)	E	F	APP.	TS(T2 1c) S &S	In syllabus(4.2 & 4.3) Biogeography	Easy question, attempt with diag.
1-(e). Marine Ecosystem (12)	M-D	F	APP.	BOOKS Internet	Indirect but in syllabus.(5.5) Environmental Geography	Explain the marine eco. And give its various components.
2-(a) Name the climatically controlled agents of erosion. Explain how they differ in terms of properties of matter. Compare the landforms produced by each one of them. (30)	M	F	APP.	TS (T 1 4b, 5b) S & S, Thornbury	Indirect (1.1) Geomorphology	Give glacial, fluvial, aolian etc agents with diag.s

CLASS ROOM IAS MAINS TEST SERIES 2012

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2-(b) Explain the concept of Isostasy as postulated by Airy and Pratt. (30)	E	F	APP.	TS (T1, 2a) S &S, Savinder Singh	In syllabus(1.8) Geomorphology	Easy question, give the compensation and floatation concepts with diag.s
3-(a) Give an account of global distribution of precipitation. (30)	E	F	APP.	TS (T 1, 1c) S &S, NCERT	In syllabus (2.9) Climatology	Give the regions of high , moderate, seasonal and scarce precipitation with diag.
3-(b) "Contemporary global climate change is an anthropogenic phenomenon." Discuss. (30)	M	FCA	APP.	TS (T2, 2b) S&S, NCERT, The Hindu, Yojna	in syllabus (2.13) Climatology	Give various causes due to man – industrial, agricultural, deforestation, lifestyle among other.
4-(a) "Temperature, salinity and density differences in ocean water are the prime causes of ocean water circulation." Elaborate. (30)	M	F	APP.	TS (T1, 1c, 2a, T 7 8b)) S & S NCERT, Sharma & vatthal	mixed topics from syllabus (3.2 & 3.3) Oceanography	state how the three factors cause circulation due to gradients created.
4.(b) 'Define the term biome. List the terrestrial biomes and describe the characteristics of Savanna biome. (30)	E-M	F	APP.	S & S, NCERT, GC leong various Websites,	in syllabus (5.1 & 5.5) Environmental Geography	Easy question , give various biomes and features of Savanna.
5.(a) Welfare Approach in Human Geography (12)	E	F	APP.	TS (T2, 5b) Majid Hussain,	In syllabus (6.6) Perspectives in Human Geography	- Easy question, attempt conventionally

5-(b) Secondary cities in the context of urbanization in developing world. (12)	M	FCA	APP	TS (T3, 3a) Ramchandran, Yojna, Hindu	Indirect but from syllabus (8.17) Population and Settlement Geography	The present lesser role and need for increased role should be central concept in this answer
5-(c) Isodapane in the Theory of Industrial Location (12)	E-M	F	APP	Hartshorne & Alaxander (H & A), K . Sidhartha	IN SYLLABUS (10.6) Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography	Easy question, attempt conventionally, draw diag.
5-(d). Population and Food Security (12)	M	FCA	APP	TS(T2, 5c) (H & A), NCERT, Hindu, Yojna	IN SYLLABUS (7.7 & 8.5) Economic Geography	Define how large population base, skewed food basket, more land and agri. Product being used for cash crops and bio - energy sources
5-(e). Ingredients of Sustainable Development. (12)	M	FCA	APP	TS (t 9 ,2b) Multiple sources	IN SYLLABUS (5.7, 8.18,9.7) Regional Planning	Balance between our developmental needs and carrying capacity of the planet, in different domains of life, should be covered. Cover food, energy, natural resources, population, industrial growth, landuse, climate needs to be covered.

6-(a) Discuss the impact of positivism in paradigm shift in Geography. (30)	D	F	UAPP		INDIRECT(6) Perspectives in Human Geography	
6-(b) Enumerate alternative strategies of planning for backward regions. (30)	M-T	FCA	APP	TS (T3, 7b) Multiple sources	IN SYLLABUS (9.5) Regional Planning	
7-(a) Distinguish between boundaries and frontiers. Identify different types of boundaries. (30)	E	FCA	APP	TS (T3 , 2b) Dorling Kinderslay map, Majid Husain	IN SYLLABUS (10.9) Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography	Give difference between the two and give different types of boundaries (geometric, along natural features, in water bodies, disputed, division etc.)
7-(b) Mention the agricultural regions as classified by Whittlesley and discuss their relevance. (30)	E-M	F	APP	TS Any standard book (all are giving same thing) on the topic or the internet	IN SYLLABUS (7.5) Economic Geography	Easy question, answer conventionally

Analysis: Geography MAINS PAPER I (2011)

The paper in general has been easy to moderate and the length of the paper is also in tune with the pattern and length as seen in the last 2-3 years. Except for 1-2 questions rest was relatively easy and moderate level, directly from the syllabus and manageable for students who have comprehensively covered the syllabus.

Yet in this type for papers where difficulty level is easy to moderate, what matters the most is **how the answers have been written as every aspirants seems to have attempted the paper fully**. So the **differentiator is the presentation style and answer quality**. So out all those aspirants who have written these questions earlier, the ones who have improved their answers after discussion and analysis would be gaining the maximum.

The paper was lengthy and with maximum no. of questions ever asked in a Geography optional paper, with a total of 22 questions. It covered all the 10 sections of the syllabus of the paper 1. As expected, Map was not there and we can safely predict that maps in Paper 1 are history now. Many questions have been repeated from the past years. New areas added to the syllabus in 2008 have also been emphasized and will also be emphasized in near future.

One should start the paper with Easy (**green coloured**) and easy moderate level questions (Black coloured) and leave the questions

with difficult level (**Red coloured**), if any other choices are available. This paper did not necessitate attempting any difficult level questions, which was not the case last year.

If the selection and sequence of answering this paper is to be considered then Question no. 7b, 7a; 8a, 8b; 2b, 2a; 1d, 1b,...; 5a, 5c, ... will be a good way. All the questions give good scope of putting diag.s.

Many questions in the paper have been asked in previous years and even in future this could not be completely ruled out.

Further, near future the paper will be of these types only, with some modification in difficulty level expected. Now the need is for **extensive syllabus coverage and focus on answer quality & presentation style.**

Key Reference Books for Geography Mains paper I

- NCERT Books on Geography
- Physical geography by Savinder Singh
- Human Geography by Mahjid Husain
- Rupa made simple series
- Spectrum Guide for geography optional

CLASS ROOM IAS MAINS TEST SERIES 2012

General Studies, Public Administration, Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Hindi Literature

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Geography Syllabus

PAPER I : PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHY (116 ,29 +)

SECTION I:PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY(62, 20+)

I. GEOMORPHOLOGY (18 , 5 +)

1. Factors controlling landform development.
2. Endogenetic and exogenetic forces.
3. Origin and evolution of earth crust.
4. [Fundamentals of geomagnetism.](#)
5. Physical conditions of earth's interior.
6. Geosynclines.
7. Continental drift.
8. Isostasy.
- (*Sea floor spreading*)
9. Plate tectonics.
10. Recent views on mountain building.
11. Vulcanicity. (*Volcanicity*).
12. Earthquakes and [tsunamis.](#)
13. Concepts of geomorphic cycles and [landscape dev.](#)
- (*Landforms associated with fluvial , arid , glacial , coastal and karst cycle.)*
14. Denudation chronology.
15. [Channel morphology.](#)
16. [Erosion surfaces.](#)
17. Slope development.
- (*Ground water*)
18. [Applied Geomorphology : Geohydrology , economic geology and environment.](#)

Note : 5+ : New added topics(Blue colored)

II. CLIMATOLOGY (14 ,4+)

1. Temperature and pressure belts of the World.
2. [Heat budget of the earth.](#)
3. Atmospheric circulation.
4. [Atmospheric stability and instability.](#)
5. Planetary and local winds.
6. Monsoons and jet streams.

7. Air masses and (*FRONTS*) [frontogenesis.](#)
8. Temperate and tropical cyclones.
9. Types and distribution of precipitation.
10. Weather and climate.
11. Koppen's , thornthwaite's and Threwartha's classification of world Climates.
12. Hydrological cycle.
- (*Climate Change.*)
13. [Global climatic changes and role and response of man in climatic changes.](#)
14. [Appied climatology and urban climate.](#)

III. OCEANOGRAPHY (10 , 3+)

1. Bottom topography of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.
2. Temperature and salinity of oceans.
3. Heat and salt budgets.
4. Ocean deposits.
5. (*Ocean currents*) Waves currents and tides.
6. Marine resources : biotic, mineral and energy resources.
7. Coral reefs , [coral bleaching.](#)
8. Sea level changes.
9. [Law of the sea .](#)
10. [Marine pollution.](#)

IV. BIOGEOGRAPHY (10, 2+)

1. Genesis of soils.
2. Classification and distribution of soils.
3. Soil profile.
4. Soil erosion, [degradation](#) and conservation.
5. Factors influencing world distrib. of plants and animals.
6. Problems of deforestation and conservation measures.
7. Social forestry.
8. Agro forestry.
9. [Wild Life.](#)
10. [Major gene pool centres.](#)

V. ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY (10 , 6 +)

1. [Principle of ecology.](#)
2. Human ecological adaptations.

- (Transformation of nature by man)
- 3. [Influence of man on ecology and environment.](#)
- 4. Global and [regional ecological changes and imbalances](#) (-problems of pollution , global warming, reduction of biodiversity & depletion of forests.)
- 5. Ecosystem their management and conservation.
- 6. Environmental. degradation , mangmnt and conservation.
- 7. [Biodiversity and sustainable development.](#)
- 8. [Environmental policy.](#)
- 9. [Environmental hazards and remedial measures.](#)
- 10. [Environmental education and legislation.](#)

SECTION II : HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (54 , 9 +)

VI. PERSPECTIVES IN HUMAN GEOG. (9 , 1)

1. Areal differentiation.
2. Regional Synthesis.
3. Dichotomy and dualism
4. Environmentalism.
5. Quantitative revolution and locational analysis.
6. Radical , behavioural, human and welfare apprchs.
7. [Languages , religions and secularization.](#)
8. Cultural regions of the world.
9. Human development index.

VII. ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY (11 , 1)

1. World economic dev. : measurement and problems.
2. World resources and their distribution.
3. Energy crisis.
4. The limits to growth.
5. World agriculture : typology of agricultural regions.
6. Agricultural inputs and productivity.
7. Food and nutrition problem.
8. [Food Security](#)
9. Famine : causes , effects and remedies.
10. World Industries : locational patterns and problems
11. Patterns of world trade.

VIII. POPULATION AND SETTLEMENT GEOG. (18 , 5 +)

1. Growth and distribution of world population.

2. Demographic attributes.
3. Causes and consequences of migration.
4. Concepts of over-, under- and optimum population
5. World population problems and [policies.](#)
6. [Social well-being and quality of life.](#)
7. [Population as social capital.](#)
8. Types and patterns of rural settlements.
9. [Environmental issues in rural settlements.](#)
10. Hierarchy of urban settlements.
11. [Urban morphology.](#)
12. Concepts of Primate city and rank-size rule.
13. Functional classification of towns.
14. Sphere of urban influence.
15. Rural- urban fringe.
16. Satellite towns.
17. Problems [and remedies](#) of urbanization.
18. [Sustainable dev. of cities.](#)

IX. REGIONAL PLANNING (7 , 1)

1. Concept of a region.
2. Types of regions and methods of regionalization.
3. Growth centre and growth poles.
4. Regional imbalances.
5. [Regional Dev. strategies.](#)
6. Environmental issues in regional planning.
7. Planning for sustainable dev.

X. MODELS, THEORIES AND LAWS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (9, 1)

1. Systems analysis in Human geography.
2. Malthusian, Marxian and Demographic Transition models.
3. Central Place theory of Christaller and Losch.
4. [Perroux and Boudeville.](#)
5. Van Thunen's model of agricultural location.
6. Weber's model of Industrial location.
7. Rostov's model of stages of growth.
8. Heartland and Rimland theories.
9. Laws of international boundaries and frontiers.