

ANANTAM IAS · PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION PAPER

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Geography Optional

Paper I · Principles of Geography

2026

Time allowed: **Three hours** Maximum marks: **250**

Typeset from the question paper published by the Union Public Service Commission. English text of all 28 printed questions, with marks and section as printed.

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS.
2. Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
3. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each Section.
4. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
7. Illustrate your answers with suitable sketches, maps and diagrams wherever considered necessary. These shall be drawn in the space provided for answering the question itself.
8. Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

SECTION A

Q1. Answer the following in about 150 words each. **10×5=50**

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|------------|--|-----------|
| (a) | What is 'Helical' flow? How Helical flow accounts for meander modifications? | 10 |
| (b) | Define 'pseudo monsoon' and explain its spatial distribution. | 10 |
| (c) | How are seamounts and Guyots the same and different? Comment. | 10 |
| (d) | How a 'Solum' as a concept different from 'Pedon'? Describe. | 10 |
| (e) | With suitable examples describe the hazards of flood plain settlement. | 10 |

Q2.

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|------------|--|-----------|
| (a) | “Environmental geomorphology deals with the impact of natural landforms and processes.” Elucidate with suitable examples. | 20 |
| (b) | Discuss the potential consequences of the collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) for the world. | 15 |
| (c) | “Overgrazing has become an alarming situation of bioloss in many bio-geographical regions of the world.” Illustrate with examples. | 15 |

Q3.

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|------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | Describe the general characteristics and structure of a thunderstorm and suggest suitable classification of thunderstorm. | 20 |
| (b) | Anthropogenic impacts have caused major global and regional changes and imbalances in ecosystem. Elucidate with examples. | 15 |
| (c) | What is scarification? List out various impacts and examples of scarification on land. | 15 |

Q4.

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|------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | How does the annual variations in temperature and precipitation influence plants growth, development and distribution? How do animals cope up with variations in climate? | 20 |
| (b) | Examine the importance of axis of dilation of airmasses in frontogenesis and the origin of Temperate cyclones. | 15 |
| (c) | Construction of large dams poses serious challenges. Describe the threats and solutions associated with it. | 15 |

SECTION B

Q5. Answer the following in about 150 words each. **10×5=50**

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|------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | “Systematic Geography is essentially analytical and makes generic concepts and Universal Laws.” Elucidate with examples. | 10 |
| (b) | Critically examine the significance of five functioning forms with regard to agricultural regions of the world proposed by D. Whittlesey. | 10 |
| (c) | “The majority of migrants go only a short distance.” Explain with examples. | 10 |
| (d) | “Sustainable development requires Intergenerational and Intragenerational equity.” Comment with examples. | 10 |
| (e) | “Under what situations Von Thunen's model of agricultural location is still rational.” Justify with examples. | 10 |

Q6.

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|------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | Discuss the Geometry of Land Values in Urban Community and delimiting the Central Business District (CBD) in detail. | 20 |
| (b) | Analyse the measuring patterns of settlement in relation to the nearest Neighbour Index and Rank-Size-Rule in detail. | 15 |
| (c) | Write an essay on disease and global warming according to the report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). | 15 |

Q7.

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|------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | What are the main concerns of radical geography? Describe the salient features and objectives of radicalism in geography. | 20 |
| (b) | Discuss agricultural productivity and techniques adopted for computing efficiency in the levels of agricultural productivity. | 15 |
| (c) | Elaborate partition of Indian subcontinent and international migration in detail. | 15 |

Q8.

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|------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | What are the principles of urban planning? Critically analyse town planning in India in the post independence period. | 20 |
| (b) | What are the approaches of human development? Describe in detail the measures for computing human development index. | 15 |

(c) Explain the Rimland Theory with reference to ongoing geopolitical scenario in the world.

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