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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

World Physical Geography — GS-I

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

28 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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28 Questions across 3 Sections

1. Geomorphology (landforms, earth's interior)	9Q
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Geomorphology (landforms, earth's interior)

2025 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q14. Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses.

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q14. How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?

2022 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q13. Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks.

2021 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q20. Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer.

2020 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q12. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone.

2017 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q20. How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q13. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and earthquakes and volcanoes.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q14. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in the Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos.

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q19. (a) What do you understand by the theory of 'continental drift'? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. (100 words) (b) The recent cyclone on east coast of India was called 'Phailin'. How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate. (100 words)

Climatology (atmosphere, climate)

2024 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q17. What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain.

2024 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q18. What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?

2024 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q19. What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q15. Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q19. Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries.

2022 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q18. The troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How?

2021 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q13. Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples.

2020 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q13. The process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples.

2017 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q15. What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia?

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2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q17. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Niño effect. Do you agree?

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q20. (a) Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. (100 words) (b) What do you understand by the phenomenon of 'temperature inversion' in meteorology? How does it affect weather and the habitants of the place? (100 words)

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q21. Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 deg N latitudes and on the western side of the continents. Why?

Oceanography (oceans, currents)

2022 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q19. What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in fishing industry of the world.

2019 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q15. How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples.

2018 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q16. What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem?

2017 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q17. Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multidimensional effects.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q19. Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing, and navigation?