

MARKING SCHEME
SUBJECT- GEOGRAPHY (Theory)

Q No.	EXPECTED ANSWERS/VALUE POINTS	Distribution of marks 14 x1
SECTION A - Multiple Choice Questions(Q1-Q14)		
1	C. To study the factors that make the Earth a home for humans and the elements that sustain them.	1
2	B. Neodeterminism includes both human choice and environmental limitations in decision-making.	1
3	A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A	1
4	B. Identify why cultivators depend on this method	1
5	C. Small-scale industries can integrate selective, cost-effective technologies that improve efficiency without requiring large-scale capital investment.	1
6	B. Revisit the functional characteristics of marketing centres together: population served, range of services, periodicity, and use to refine the classification	1
7	C. Integrate AI-driven dynamic traffic management systems with strategically located multimodal transfer hubs, enabling seamless shifts between road, rail, and inland waterways.	1
8	B. Scale up production through organised artisan cooperatives and introduce	1
9	Marking Breakdown: ● ¼ mark each ● Full (1): Any four correct crops with correctly marked major regions. ● Partial (0.5): Four correct crops but only 2–3 regions correctly marked, or map marking correct but crops incomplete. ● Zero (0): Incorrect crops or regions; map not attempted. Acceptable Answer (any four): ● Rice – Indo-Gangetic Plains / Eastern India ● Wheat – Punjab, Haryana, Western UP ● Cotton – Maharashtra / Gujarat ● Tea – Assam / Nilgiris	1

	● Coffee – Karnataka (Western Ghats)	
10	Marking Breakdown: ● Any four correctly marked regions ● $\frac{1}{4}$ mark each Acceptable Regions: ● Mumbai–Pune ● Ahmedabad–Vadodara ● Hooghly ● Chota Nagpur ● Bengaluru–Tamil Nadu	1
11	B. Maharashtra integrates irrigation with a longer growing period	1
12	C. Gram Panchayats	1
13	C. It is the core area of India’s Gondwana bituminous coal deposits.	1
14	C. The Population Bomb → Limits to Growth → Rising Environmental Concerns → WCED Formation	1
SECTION B - Very Short Answer Type Question (Q15-Q28) General Instructions (Section B) ● Answer in two or three sentences ● Any two valid points = full mark ● Diagrams/maps: credit for concept, even if the sketch is simple		
15	The Asian monsoon region includes: India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, southern China, and parts of Japan. Seasonal process: ● Summer (SW Monsoon): Differential heating creates low pressure over the Indian subcontinent; moist winds from the Indian Ocean bring rainfall. ● Winter (NE Monsoon): High pressure over land pushes dry winds to the ocean; limited rainfall except in Tamil Nadu.	1
16	Rail connectivity links ports to inland production and consumption centres, enabling: ● Faster movement of bulk cargo ● Reduced transport cost ● Wider geographical reach of services (larger hinterland)	1

17	Distance Reduction: The project reduces the effective distance by building bypasses around congested cities and straightening the highway alignment to minimise detours. Time Reduction: Time is saved by widening the road to four/six lanes and constructing grade separators/flyovers at intersections, ensuring the continuous, high-speed flow of traffic. Cost Reduction: Cost is lowered due to reduced fuel consumption and lower vehicle wear and tear resulting from the smoother, faster, and more continuous movement along the network.	1
18	Examples: Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia (any three).	1
19	Cultural traditions, sacred texts, ritual significance, and historical associations attract pilgrims, which leads to settlement growth, temple-based economies, and the development of religious centres.	1
20	Industries cluster due to agglomeration economies—shared infrastructure, labour pools, markets, economies of scale, and technological spillovers.	1
21	Regions where conflicts occur: 1. Western Ghats – conservation vs development 2. Northeast India – shifting cultivation vs forest protection 3. Mining belts of Jharkhand – tribal displacement vs industrial extraction	1
22	High Employment Generation: Small-scale industries (SSIs) are typically labour-intensive, requiring less capital per worker. They are crucial for absorbing the large, rapidly growing workforce, thereby reducing unemployment and poverty. Decentralisation and Regional Equity: They promote industrial growth outside major metropolitan centres, leading to the economic development of backward or rural areas. This helps reduce regional disparities. Capital Efficiency: SSIs require relatively low capital investment per unit of output. This makes them suitable for developing countries that often face capital scarcity. Meeting Local Demand: They quickly cater to the varied and specialised demand of local markets, often producing consumer goods and essential supplies that might not be economically viable for large-scale, mass-production units.	1
23	Process includes: Observing landforms, climate, and soils Studying livelihood patterns and subsistence Analysing rituals, habits, settlements shaped by the environment Interpreting cause-and-effect relationships between environment and culture	1
24	Peers may highlight issues such as regional inequality, environmental impacts, or varying productivity levels, prompting reevaluation of initial beliefs.	1
25	Air transport is fastest but not always sustainable; it may be suited for emergencies, high-value goods, or long-distance travel, but not environmentally optimal for mass transport.	1

26	Example: "How have current global shipping routes, vessel sizes, and trade volumes changed the strategic importance of the Panama Canal?"	1
27	Fishing grounds: North Sea, Grand Banks, Sea of Japan, Peru Coast Influencing factors: ● Cold + warm currents stimulate plankton growth ● Continental shelves provide shallow, nutrient-rich waters ● Climate patterns influence breeding cycles	1
28	Local communities use traditional knowledge of plant species, seasons, locations, and sustainability practices to determine when, where, and how to gather forest products.	1
SECTION C - Short Answer Type Question (Q28-Q39) Answer in 7–8 sentences 2 valid points = 2 marks 1 point = 1 mark Credit examples/diagrams		
29	A sustainable income-enhancement strategy is to establish community-based value-addition cooperatives that process non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as medicinal plants, fruits, resins, and fibres into higher-value items (herbal oils, natural dyes, handicrafts). This should be combined with scientific harvesting schedules, rotational gathering zones and monitoring systems to ensure ecological regeneration. This approach increases market value while maintaining ecological integrity.	2
30	The global rise of service and quaternary sectors reflects a transition toward knowledge-intensive, technology-driven work. As economies mature, demand grows for skills in research, data analytics, information processing, design, finance, biotechnology and advanced consulting. This shift indicates a movement away from manual or routine tasks toward high-skill intellectual labour, signalling the increasing importance of education, digital literacy, and innovation capability.	2
31	A country typically evaluates the following sequence of considerations: 1. Economic Complementarity: Whether trade composition aligns favourably with member nations. 2. Tariff and Non-Tariff Harmonisation: Assessing the feasibility of reducing trade barriers. 3. Market Access Benefits: Expected gains in exports, investment flows, and competitiveness. 4. Political and Strategic Alignment: Stability, integration goals and shared developmental priorities. 5. Institutional Capacity: Ability to comply with regulations, dispute mechanisms and standards.	2

32	Petroleum reserves formed from organic-rich marine sediments deposited millions of years ago in shallow seas. These sediments were buried under layers of rock, subjected to heat and pressure, converting organic matter into hydrocarbons. Tectonic forces later created structural traps, anticlines, fault traps, and salt domes where oil accumulated. Thus, geological time, sedimentation patterns and tectonic structures together determine the major global oil belts.	2
33	Overseas trade expanded due to rising industrial output, diversification of exports, liberalisation policies, improved transportation (containerisation, ports), and deeper participation in global value chains. Technological advances enhanced productivity and competitiveness, while integration into the world economy increased both exports and imports significantly.	2
34	Two highly suitable regions are: 1. Rajasthan (Thar Desert): Highest solar insolation, vast open terrain, minimal cloud cover. 2. Gujarat or Ladakh: High sunshine duration and large stretches of flat land allow efficient installation of solar infrastructure. 3. These regions provide ideal climatic conditions for large-scale solar transportation corridors.	2
35	Hamlet settlements are physically segregated clusters of dwellings within a larger administrative village area. These settlements often reflect social and ethnic segmentation, where different caste groups or communities live in distinct, separate clusters. Here is how these terms are used across India: ● Panna/Pali/Palli: These names are commonly used in the Middle and Lower Ganga Plains, particularly in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. ● Para: This term is frequently used in the eastern states, notably in West Bengal. ● Nagla: This name is often found in the Gangetic Plain and neighbouring regions. ● Dhani: This term is typically used in the arid and semi-arid regions of Rajasthan	2
36	Joint discussion enables students to compare interpretations, share regional examples, and challenge misconceptions. Through collective reasoning, learners identify how improvements in healthcare, education, and income reduce mortality first and fertility later. Such collaborative dialogue deepens understanding of how demographic shifts reflect broader socio-economic development.	2
37	A multimodal strategy could integrate narrow-gauge or short rail links in feasible corridors, complemented by all-weather road networks for hilly terrain and inland water transport along the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. This approach leverages the	2

	region's natural waterways and flexible road systems to compensate for the limited railway penetration.	
38	1. Market Orientation Plantation agriculture is almost entirely commercial and export-oriented. Plantation Agriculture: The primary goal is to maximise profit by cultivating a single crop for large-scale sale in the national and, crucially, the international market. It is closely linked to external demand and trade. <i>Example:</i> Tea, coffee, rubber, and cocoa are grown on large estates for export. Subsistence Farming: The primary goal is the survival and self-consumption of the farmer's family. Any surplus produced is minimal and may only be sold locally. 2. Capital and Scale The scale and resource commitment required by plantations create a sharp distinction from small-scale subsistence plots. Plantation Agriculture: It is a capital-intensive system, requiring large investments in machinery, infrastructure (transport, processing), scientific methods, and large landholdings (estates). This scale is necessary to achieve the economic goal of mass production. Subsistence Farming: It is largely labour-intensive, relying on family labour and utilising small land parcels, often with minimal capital investment or modern technology.	2
39	Developing Stage (1 Mark) In the developing stage, a country's comparative advantage is based on: Abundant Natural Resources: Emphasis on exporting raw materials, minerals, and basic agricultural products due to easily accessible resources. Low-Cost Unskilled Labour: Manufacturing focuses on labour-intensive, low-value goods that require minimal capital or technology. <i>Example:</i> A developing country might primarily export iron ore or basic textiles. Developed Stage (1 Mark) As a country develops, its focus shifts due to massive investments in technology and education: Technological Advancement: The country gains an advantage in complex,	2

	capital-intensive manufacturing that requires significant research and development (R&D). Skilled Human Capital: The economy generates a large pool of highly educated and skilled labour. This capital becomes the new source of comparative advantage. Example: A developed country will shift its exports from basic textiles to precision machinery, advanced software, or pharmaceuticals.	
SECTION D - Long Answer Type Question (Q40-Q43) Answer in well-structured paragraphs Diagrams/flowcharts encouraged		
40	A comprehensive human development programme is designed through the following step-by-step process: 1. Needs Assessment (Equity Focus) Identify vulnerable groups (women, rural poor, tribal communities) using indicators such as income distribution, health disparities, educational gaps, and regional imbalances. This ensures equitable access to basic opportunities. 2. Establishing Empowerment Mechanisms Develop institutional measures such as decentralised governance, community participation, SHGs, and legal safeguards. Empowerment is strengthened by expanding access to education, promoting digital literacy, and ensuring equal representation in decision-making processes. 3. Enhancing Productivity Introduce skill development, modernisation of livelihoods, technological training, and better infrastructure. Productivity gains arise when individuals are equipped to participate effectively in the economy. Sectoral improvements (health, education, transport) enhance human capital. 4. Designing Sustainability Measures Incorporate environmental safeguards—renewable energy adoption, water conservation, climate-resilient agriculture, and responsible industrialisation. Long-term development must avoid resource depletion and ensure inter-generational equity. 5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback Loops Use measurable indicators (HDI components, multidimensional poverty index, gender parity) to track outcomes. Adjust programme design based on data-driven evaluation. Sector where India's HDI ranking is relatively low: Health (Life Expectancy Component)—India's performance in nutrition, public health infrastructure, maternal and child health, and disease burden pulls down the HDI ranking compared to nations with similar income levels.	5
41	1. Conflicting Interests Industries ● Need water for production; seek flexible regulations and low compliance costs. ● Fear of closures or fines that affect profitability and employment. Urban Households	5

	● Depend on rivers for drinking water, sanitation, and recreation. ● Contribute sewage but demand clean water and reliable municipal services. Farmers ● Rely on river water for irrigation and fisheries. ● Concerned about polluted water affecting crops, livestock, and soil health. Religious Communities ● Use rivers for rituals, festivals, and cremation practices. ● Expect access to clean, flowing rivers that hold cultural and spiritual value. Local Governments ● Must balance economic growth with environmental regulation. ● Face pressure to enforce pollution norms while supporting industrial and community needs. 2. Balanced Multi-Stakeholder Conflict-Resolution Framework A. Transparent Dialogue Platform Establish river basin committees with equal representation—industries, farmers, NGOs, municipal bodies, religious groups—to promote communication and shared problem-solving. B. Scientific Assessment as a Common Reference Conduct independent environmental flow assessments, pollution load studies, and socio-economic impact analyses. These generate shared evidence to reduce conflict and blame-shifting. C. Differentiated Responsibility Framework ● Industries adopt cleaner technologies, effluent treatment plants, and pay pollution charges. ● Municipalities upgrade sewage treatment infrastructure. ● Farmers transition to organic or low-chemical farming where feasible. D. Incentives and Support Mechanisms ● Tax rebates for industries adopting advanced treatment technologies. ● Subsidies for farmers for water-efficient irrigation (drip/sprinkler). ● Infrastructure support for religious groups (electric crematoriums, designated ghats). E. Joint Monitoring and Community Watchdog System Citizen groups + local government units jointly monitor water quality and compliance. This builds trust and accountability. F. Long-Term River Restoration Goals Rejuvenation through riparian zone protection, afforestation, wetland restoration, and sustainable fisheries.	
42	High Density: West Bengal or Bihar Medium Density: Gujarat or Maharashtra Low Density: Arunachal Pradesh or Mizoram) Part 2: Explanation of Contrasting Patterns The contrasting population densities are the result of a wide range of interacting factors (physical, demographic, and developmental) that make certain regions highly	5

	attractive and others sparsely inhabited. 1. Factors Creating High Density (e.g., Bihar, West Bengal) Physical Factors: Flat topography (Ganga Plain) and fertile alluvial soil support intensive agriculture, sustaining large populations. Developmental Factors: Long history of settlement and well-developed road and rail networks (especially in the Ganga-Brahmaputra Doab) facilitate a high concentration of economic activities and trade. Demographic Factors: Historically high birth rates and internal migration from surrounding regions due to limited industrialisation elsewhere lead to persistent high growth and accumulation. 2. Factors Creating Low Density (e.g., Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram) Physical Factors: Rugged, mountainous terrain (Himalayas) and dense forest cover restrict farming and construction, making accessibility difficult. Developmental Factors: Poor infrastructure (limited roads, railways) and lack of large-scale industrialisation limit employment opportunities, discouraging dense settlement. Demographic Factors: High elevation and cold climate in some areas, coupled with a generally tribal population structure in the Northeast, often result in low absolute population numbers spread over a large area. 3. Factors Creating Medium Density (e.g., Gujarat, Maharashtra) Interacting Balance: These states often represent a balance where some areas (like coastal plains, river valleys) are highly fertile and developed, leading to high density, while other areas (like the dry interior Deccan Plateau or Kutch region) are climatically challenging, leading to low density. Economic Pull: The presence of major industrial and commercial hubs (e.g., Mumbai, Ahmedabad) creates specific pockets of very high density, but the large overall geographical size and less favourable interior regions moderate the statewide average to a medium density level.	
43	1. Agro-Climatic Suitability ● Rice dominates in high-rainfall eastern and southern regions; wheat in northwestern plains with winter temperatures. ● Sugarcane thrives in tropical regions with long growing seasons (Maharashtra, UP). Changes in rainfall or temperature patterns alter crop feasibility over time. 2. Soil Characteristics ● Black soils support cotton; alluvial soils support wheat, rice and sugarcane. ● Soil degradation or salinisation pushes farmers to reconsider crops. 3. Market Demand and Price Fluctuations ● Farmers shift toward high-value commercial crops (vegetables, sugarcane, cotton, spices) when market prices are favourable. ● Price crashes or volatile markets may push them back toward subsistence crops.	5

	4. Input Availability and Technology ● Irrigation, HYV seeds, cold storage, and credit availability influence willingness to grow commercial crops. ● Technological stagnation or input scarcity can reverse preferences. 5. Government Policies and Risk Management ● MSP, procurement, crop insurance, and subsidies support certain crops more than others. ● Farmers shift depending on policy incentives and risk levels. 6. Long-Term Environmental and Economic Pressures ● Water scarcity is causing a decline in water-intensive crops like sugarcane in several regions. ● Climate change impacts may push farmers toward drought-resistant varieties.	
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