

Human Geography

Fastrack Revision

► Nature of Human Geography

- Human Geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and socio-cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other.
- The elements like villages, cities, road-rail networks, etc., and all other elements of material culture have been created by human beings using the resources provided by the physical environment.
- "Human Geography is the study of changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth."
--Ellen C. Semple

Knowledge BOOSTER

Human Geography is the study of the inter-relationships between people, place and environment.

► Naturalisation of Humans and Humanisation of Nature

- Humans interact with their physical environment with the help of technology. This indicates the level of cultural development.
- The interaction of primitive societies with the physical environment is termed as environmental determinism which is naturalisation of humans.
- With the development of technology, humans began to modify nature and created cultural landscape. This is called possibilism or humanisation of nature.
- A middle path of neo-determinism was introduced by **Griffith Taylor** which means that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (possibilism).

► Difference between Environmental Determinism and Possibilism

Environmental Determinism	Possibilism
(i) When nature dominates man, it is called determinism.	When man dominates nature, it is called possibilism.
(ii) Determinism asserts that development of human history, culture, society, lifestyle, etc., are shaped by their physical environment.	Due to intelligence, man makes changes in the natural environment
(iii) There are no limitations on impact of physical environment on human activities.	There are limitations to changes made by man in nature.

► Field and Sub-fields of Human Geography

- Human geography is inter-disciplinary in nature and develops vast linkages with other sister disciplines in social sciences.
- The fields and sub-fields of human geography explains every aspect of all elements of human life on the surface of the Earth.

► Human Geography and Sister Disciplines of Social Science

Fields of Human Geography	Sub Fields	Interface with sister disciplines of Social Sciences
Social Geography	—	Social Sciences-Sociology
	Behavioural Geography	Psychology
	Geography of Social Well-being	Welfare Economics
	Geography of Leisure	Sociology
	Cultural Geography	Anthropology
	Gender Geography	Sociology, Anthropology, Women Studies
	Historical Geography	History
Urban Geography	—	Urban studies and planning
	—	Political Science
Political Geography	Electoral Geography	Psephology
	Military Geography	Military Science
Population Geography	—	Demography
Settlement Geography	—	Urban Rural Planning
Economic Geography	—	Economics
	Geography of Resources	Resource Economics
	Geography of Agriculture	Agricultural Sciences
	Geography of Industries	Industrial Economic
	Geography of Marketing	Business Studies, Economics, Commerce
	Geography of Tourism	Tourism and Travel Management
	Geography of International Trade	International Trade



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Geography as a field of study is:**
a. Integrative b. empirical
c. practical d. All of these
- Q 2. Human geography studies the relationship between:**
a. Physical/Natural and the human world
b. The spatial distribution of human phenomenon and how they come about
c. The social and economic differences
d. All of the above
- Q 3. The two main branches of geography are:**
a. Physical and Human
b. Economic and Social
c. Political and Historical
d. Physical and Urban
- Q 4. 'Nomothetic' refers to:**
a. law making b. theorising
c. Both a. and b. d. None of these
- Q 5. What does 'Idiographic' denotes?**
a. Law making b. Theorising
c. Description d. All of these
- Q 6. Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed the understanding of:**
a. natural Laws b. human laws
c. space Laws d. All of these
- Q 7. This type of interaction between primitive human society and strong forces of nature was termed as:**
a. environmental Determinism
b. neo-determinism
c. possibilism
d. None of the above
- Q 8. Naturalisation of human means:**
a. low level of technology development
b. high level of technology development
c. moderate level of technology development
d. None of the above
- Q 9. Which of the following metaphors are used to describe geographical phenomena?**
a. Face of the Earth b. 'Eye' of the storm
c. 'Mouth of the river' d. All of these
- Q 10. Which geographer out of the following belongs to France?**
a. Huntington b. Vidal de la Blache
c. Semple d. Trewartha
- Q 11. The most important factor in the interaction of people and environment is:**
a. human intelligence b. technology
c. nature d. humans
- Q 12. Who introduced the concept which reflects the middle path (Madhyam Marg) between two ideas of environmental determinism and possibilism?**
a. Griffith Taylor b. Ratzel
c. Blache d. Al Idrisi
- Q 13. Which approach of human geography was followed in colonial period?**
a. Areal differentiation b. Spatial organisation
c. Behavioural d. Regional
- Q 14. Which school of thought is mostly concerned with the well being of people?**
a. Radical b. Behavioural
c. Welfare d. Possibilism
- Q 15. Which one of the following is not a source of geographical information?**
a. Traveller's accounts
b. Old maps
c. Samples of rock materials from the moon
d. Romantic Tales
- Q 16. Who first used the term Geography?**
a. Hipparchus b. Hecataeus
c. Herodotus d. Eratosthenes
- Q 17. Which concept helped to discover fire?**
a. Gravity b. Friction
c. DNA d. Dynamics
- Q 18. Which of the following is not a subfield of Social Geography?**
a. Medical Geography b. Historical Geography
c. Military Geography d. Cultural Geography
- Q 19. Which element is not a part of the cultural environment?**
a. Villages b. Towns
c. Ports d. Climate
- Q 20. Who among the following has introduced the concept of neo-determinism? (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)**
a. Ratzel b. Griffith Taylor
c. Ellen d. Paul Vidal de la Blache
- Q 21. Which one of the following concepts is related to Naturalisation of Humans? (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)**
a. Environmental determinism
b. Possibilism
c. Humanism
d. Neo-determinism
- Q 22. Who among the following defined Human Geography as, 'conception resulting from a more synthetic knowledge of the physical laws governing our earth and of the relations between the living beings which inhabit it?' (CBSE 2021 Term-1)**
a. Ratzel b. Ellen C. Semple
c. Paul Vidal de la Blache d. Griffith Taylor



Q 23. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Social Geography	1. Urban studies and planning
B. Urban Geography	2. Geography of leisure
C. Settlement Geography	3. Demography
D. Population Geography	4. Urban/Rural planning

Codes:

A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D		
a.	1	2	3	4	b.	4	3	2	1
c.	2	1	4	3	d.	3	4	1	2

Q 24. Consider the following statements and choose the correct answer with the help of given options:

Statement I: Nature of human geography is dynamic.
Statement II: Branches of human geography are co-related to each other.

- Both the statements are true.
- Only statement I is true.
- Only statement II is true.
- Both the statements are wrong.

Q 25. Consider the following statements and choose the correct answer with the help of given options:

Statement I: The availability of resources is not the only necessary condition for the development of any region.

Statement II: Not only availability of resources but also corresponding change in technology is necessary for development of any region.

- Only statement I is correct.
- Only statement II is correct.
- Both the statements are correct and statement II correctly explains statement I.
- Both the statements are true, but not related with each other.



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 26-27): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Q 26. Assertion (A): Understanding the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases.
 Reason (R): Technology enables the humans to overcome the limitation imposed by nature.

Q 27. Assertion (A): Nature of human geography is dynamic.

Reason (R): Branches of human geography are co-related to each other.

Answers

1. (d) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (c)
 6. (a) 7. (a) 8. (a) 9. (d) 10. (b)
 11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (c) 15. (d)
 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (d) 20. (b)
 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (c) 24. (a) 25. (c)
 26. (a) 27. (b)



Passage Based Questions

Passage 1

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Welfare or humanistic school of thought in human geography was mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people. These included aspects such as housing, health and education. Geographers have already introduced a paper as 'Geography of Social well-being in the Post Graduate curriculum'.

Radical school of thought employed Marxian theory to explain the basic cause of poverty, deprivation and social inequality. Contemporary social problems were related to the development of capitalism. Behavioural school of thought laid great emphasis on lived experience and also on the perception of space by social categories based on ethnicity, race and religion, etc.

Q 1. Which among the following is correct about radical school of thought?

- They focus on explaining basic cause of poverty, deprivation and social inequality
- They employed Marxian theory
- Both a. and b.
- Neither a. nor b.

Q 2. Which school of thought is concerned about the well-being of people?

- Radical school
- Welfare school
- Behavioural school
- None of these

Q 3. Which statement is not correct about the behavioural school of thought?

- It did not lay emphasis on lived experience of people
- It lays emphasis on the perception of space by social categories
- Both a. and b.
- Neither a. nor b.

Answers

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (a)

Passage 2

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society. Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws. For example, the understanding of concepts of friction and heat helped us discover fire. Similarly, understanding of the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases. We use the laws of aerodynamics to develop faster planes. You can see that knowledge about Nature is extremely important to develop technology and technology loosens the shackles of environment on human beings.

In the early stages of their interaction with their natural environment humans were greatly influenced by it. They adapted to the dictates of Nature. This is so because the level of technology was very low and the stage of human social development was also primitive. This type of interaction between primitive human society and strong forces of nature was termed as environmental determinism. At that stage of very low technological development we can imagine the presence of a naturalised human, who listened to Nature, was afraid of its fury and worshipped it.

Q 1. Why did people worship nature when technological development was low?

Ans. When the technological development was low, people were unable to explain the causes of natural phenomena. Neither were they able to overcome nature. Thus, they were adapted to dictates of nature. Therefore, they feared nature and worshipped it.

Q 2. Why is knowledge about nature important to develop technology?

Ans. Knowledge of nature is important because technology has to work inside the realm of nature itself. For example, to develop aeroplanes, we need to have knowledge about the aerodynamics. Similarly, secrets of DNA and genetics helped us to conquer many diseases.

Q 3. What is the inference of the passage?

Ans. Passage infers about the relationship between nature and technology. It talks about the interaction between humans and nature in different stages of technological advancement.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Which are the three core points of the definition of the human geography given by Ellen C. Semple?

Ans. The core concerns of geography as a discipline are as follows:

- (i) Changing the relationship between the unresting man and unstable Earth.
- (ii) Man is active and unresting.
- (ii) Emphasised on determinism.

Q 2. Who propounded the concept of possibilism?

Ans. The concept of possibilism is propounded by Lucien Febvre.

Q 3. What is the dualism to which geography got subjected to?

Ans. The dualism was that whether geography as a discipline should be a law making/theorising (nomothetic) or descriptive (Idiographic). In simple words, debate was that whether geographical phenomena be interpreted theoretically or through historic institutional approach.

Q 4. How geographical phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from human anatomy?

Ans. They are describes in metaphors in following ways:

- (i) 'face' of the earth
- (ii) 'eye' of the storm
- (iii) 'mouth' of the river
- (iv) 'snout' (nose) of the glacier
- (v) 'neck' of the isthmus and 'profile' of the soil.

Q 5. Who gave the term Neo-determinism?

Ans. A geographer, Griffith Taylor introduced the concept of Neo-determinism.

Q 6. What was the concern of welfare or humanistic school of thought in human geography?

Ans. Welfare or humanistic school of thought in human geography was mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people. These included aspects such as housing, health and education.

Q 7. What approach was used in human geography in early colonial period?

Ans. The approach use in early colonial period was of Exploration and Description.

Q 8. State the definition of human geography given by Ellen C. Semple.

Ans. According to Ellen C. Semple, "human geography is the study of changing relationship between the unresting man and unstable Earth."

Q 9. In sub-fields of human geography what do we study in gender geography?

Ans. Sociology, Anthropology and women's study is there in gender geography.



TIP

The student should clear the both concepts relationship and technology of human nature.

Q 10. Urban/Rural planning is learnt in which of the fields of human geography?

Ans. Urban planning is learnt in Settlement Geography.

Q 11. Make a list of elements that human beings have created through their activities on the stage provided by physical environment.

Ans. Man creates many elements through his activities on the stage provided by physical environment with the help of technology. Houses, villages, cities, farms, ports, items of our daily use and all others, so elements of material culture have been created by man using the resources provided by physical environment.

Q 12. What are different fields of human geography?

Ans. Fields under human geography include: Social Geography, Urban Geography, Political Geography, Population Geography, Settlement Geography and Economic Geography.



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. A. "The physical and human phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from human anatomy." Support the statement with examples. (CBSE-2023)

OR

B. "Nature and humans are inseparable elements." Justify the statement with suitable examples.

Ans. The following points explain the above statement:

(i) Nature and human beings cannot be separated as they are inseparable because man became socially, economically and technologically advanced.

(ii) He broadened his nature by creating his own environment through his design and skill to have provision for better food, shelter, access and comfort.

(iii) Both nature and humans are described as metaphors using symbols from the human anatomy like we often talk of the face of the Earth, an eye of a storm, mouth of the river, snout (nose) of the glacier, neck of the isthmus and profile of the soil. All the above nicknames are given by humans to the natural phenomena. By doing so, a human can interact easily with nature. All these physical features are described as an organism and man-made structure like road, railways and waterways have been described as arteries of circulation.

COMMON ERROR

The students tend to confuse the concept of nature's relation with human beings and that with the technology.

Q 2. How is the knowledge of nature important to develop technology? Explain with suitable examples.

Ans. Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology. It is not so important to know what human beings produce and create, but it is extremely important to know with the help of what tools and techniques do they produce and create.

(i) Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society.

(ii) Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed a better understanding of natural laws.

(iii) For example, the understanding of concepts of friction and heat helped us to discover fire.

Similarly, understanding the secrets of DNA and genetics helped us to conquer many diseases. We use the laws of aerodynamics to develop faster planes. Thus, knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop a technology.

Q 3. What is the subject matter of the study of human geography? Explain any three facts.

Ans. The subject matter of the study of human geography are as follows:

(i) **To Understand the Inter-relationship:** There is a close relationship between the physical/natural environment and the human world, so human geography studies and establishes that relation.

(ii) **Study the Spatial Distribution:** Human geography also studies the spatial distribution of human phenomena.

(iii) **Social and Economic Variations:** The subject matter is also concerned about studying the social and economic differences between different parts of the world.

Q 4. Explain the concept of 'possibilism', with three suitable examples.

Ans. The concept of possibilism was propounded by Lucien Febvre who described that there are no necessities, but possibilities everywhere and man is referred to as a master of these possibilities who judge their use.

Man can adapt, adjust and modify the forces of his physical environment with his strength. His Imprints could be seen everywhere.

For instance, a health resort on highlands, huge urban sprawls (spread) fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the oceanic surface and satellites in the space.

Q 5. "There is mutual interaction between the elements of physical geography and human geography." Support the statement with suitable examples.

Ans. Physical geography includes natural environment like landforms, climate, flora and fauna. Human geography includes the inter-relationship between

human beings and the physical environment. Humans through the use of technology create the socio-cultural environment of the cultural landscape. These creations are the action of mutual interaction between physical and human geography. For instance, on highlands, health resorts are created, oceanic routes are discovered on the surface of the oceans, houses in villages and cities are made to use the physical environment in a better way. These examples show that there is mutual interaction between the two.

Q 6. Define 'Human Geography' in your own words. Mention any four fields of human geography.

Ans. Human geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other. It attempts to explain the relationship between all elements of human life and space they occur over. The different fields of human geography are as follows:

- (i) **Social Geography:** It is a field of human geography which is connected with social sciences and sociology. Its sub-fields are behavioural geography, a geography of social well-being, historical, medical geography, etc.
- (ii) **Urban Geography:** It is a field of human geography connected with urban studies and planning.
- (iii) **Political Geography:** It is a field of human geography connected with science. Its sub-fields are electoral geography, military geography, etc.
- (iv) **Population Geography:** It is a field of human geography connected with the demography.

Q 7. What is the meaning of environmental determinism? How did the naturalisation of humans lead to the development of this concept?
(CBSE 2023)

Ans. The concept of environmental determinism explains that human is a passive agent, influenced by the environmental factors that are physical factors like climate, flora, fauna, etc., which determine the attitude of decision making and lifestyle of human beings. For instance, the Eskimos of Tundra adapted to the extremely cold climate. Their main food is whale, seals and walrus. They use animal oil for cooking, heating and lighting. They live in igloos. Whereas Semang and Sakai of Malaysia and Pygmies of Congo basin live in hot and humid condition. They live on vegetable, hunting and fishing. Naturalisation of human means when nature is stronger than humans and therefore, humans are controlled by nature. This type of interaction was between primitive human society and nature. At the time, forces of nature were stronger and humans struggled to survive in that environment. Humans were passive agents. This gave rise to the term environmental determinism.

Q 8. "Human Geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and unstable earth." Support the statement.

Ans: The statement 'Human Geography is the study of the changing relationship between the restless man

and unstable earth' highlights the dynamic and ever-changing relationship between human beings and their environment.

The relationship between human and environment are explained below:

- (i) Human geography is concerned with the study of various aspects of human activities, including settlement patterns, cultural, social, economic and political aspects, and their impact on the environment.
- (ii) The study of human geography emphasises the interdependence between humans and the environment, and how this relationship changes over time due to various factors like population growth, technological advancements, resource depletion, environmental degradation, and so on.
- (iii) Human geography helps us to understand how humans adapt and modify their environment to meet their needs, and how these modifications, in turn, affect the environment. Therefore, the statement is justified as it emphasises the significance of the relationship between humans and their environment in human geography.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe the fields and sub-fields of geography and its inter-relationship with other fields.

Ans. Nature of human geography is inter-disciplinary. In order to understand and describe the human elements found on the Earth, human geography has established strong bond with other social sciences and their helping subjects. With the expansion of knowledge, new subjects keep on developing. These are studied with humanistic approach, but because they are not free from geographical and environmental effects, they become subject matter of human geography. Fields under human geography include: Social Geography, Urban Geography, Political Geography, Population Geography, Settlement Geography and Economic Geography.

- (i) Sub-fields of Social Geography are Behavioural Geography, Geography of Social Well-being, Geography of Leisure, Cultural Geography, Gender Geography, Historical Geography and Medical Geography.
- (ii) Sub-fields of Political Geography are Electoral Geography and Military Geography.
- (iii) Sub-fields of Economic Geography are Geography of Resources, Geography of Agriculture, Geography of Tourism, Geography of Industries, Geography of Marketing and Geography of International Trade. Other than this, Sociology, Psychology, Welfare Economics, Demographic Studies, History, Epidemiology, Anthropology, Urban Studies and Planning, Political Science, Psephology, Military Science, Demography, Urban or Rural Planning, Agricultural Sciences, Industrial Economics,

Business Studies, Commerce, Tourism , Travel Management and International Trade are such disciplines which study human activities and behaviour. As the scope of these disciplines is expanding, It is also leading to increase in the scope of Human Geography.

Q 2. How is "Naturalisation of Humans" different from "Humanisation of Nature"? (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. 'Naturalisation of Humans'

- (i) It refers to the point of view supporting environmental control on human action.
- (ii) Human listened to Nature, was afraid of its fury and worshipped the natural forces.
- (iii) Many of primitive societies live in complete harmony with their natural environment.
- (iv) The physical environment for such societies becomes the –Mother Nature.

'Humanisation of Nature'

- (i) With social and cultural Development, humans develop better and more efficient technology.
- (ii) They move from a state of Necessity to a state of freedom.
- (iii) They create Possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment.
- (iv) Human has modified their surroundings according to their needs.
- (v) Imprints of human may be seen everywhere on the earth.

Q 3. "Geography got subjected to dualism and the wide-ranging debates started with regard to the subject matter of geography as a discipline." Mention any three dualism that exist in Geography.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. The three dualism in geography which started wide-ranging debates in the discipline of geography are:

- (i) Whether geography as a discipline should be a law making/ theorising (nomothetic) or descriptive (Idiographic).
- (ii) Whether the approach of the study should be regional or systematic?
- (iii) Whether geographical phenomena can be interpreted theoretically or through a historic-institutional approach.

Q 4. How did man develop and expand proper technology?

Ans. Human beings were able to develop proper technology using his knowledge and intelligence. It has taken man a long time to reach at the present level of technology.

- (i) In primitive age when the level of technology was very low man was bound to follow the dictates of nature.
- (ii) In those times man was a slave of nature, scared of its powerful force and used to worship nature to make it happy.
- (iii) In these conditions the state of cultural development was also primitive.
- (iv) However, the process was gradual, but man developed technology and It is also to be noted that man has been able to utilise this technology

only after understanding the various laws of nature.

- (v) For example: understanding of laws of friction gave birth to many inventions. Similarly, after understanding secrets of DNA and laws of genetics, man has overcome many diseases and aeroplanes can be invented only after understanding the laws of aerodynamics.
- (vi) Today the level of technology is touching the heights of sky through which man seems to get free from the natural forces. However, Earthquake, cyclones, landslides, volcanoes and other natural disasters keep reminding man that he is still a slave to nature. It implies that man can't be completely free from natural forces, but with the development of technology man has become free from nature and this freedom can be expanded further. Man needs to follow Stop and Go approach. It means possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment and there is no free run without accidents.

Q 5. Differentiate between welfare school of thought and behavioural school of thought.

Ans. Difference between welfare school of thought and behavioural school of thought are as follows:

S.No.	Welfare School of Thought	Behavioural School of Thought
(i)	Welfare school of thought was mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people.	In 1950-60, on the basis of psychological researches and other methods this school of thought came into limelight.
(ii)	These included aspects such as housing, health and education.	These includes human race, caste and religion.
(iii)	Geographers have developed welfare as a base to study geography.	Behavioural School of thought laid great emphasis on lived experience.
(iv)	This thought was the result of rapid changes that happened after Second World War.	The perception of space by social categories based on ethnicity, race and religion, etc.

Q 6. "The primitive communities lived in complete harmony with their natural environment and as such the humans were naturalised." Support the statement.

Ans. The primitive society live in complete harmony with their natural environment. It is realised that in all such cases nature is a powerful force, worshiped, revered and conserved. There is direct dependence of human beings on nature for resources which sustain them. The people begin to understand their environment and the forces of nature with the passage of time.

