

# **Fundamentals of Human Geography**

1. Human Geography: Nature and Scope
2. The World Population: Distribution, Density and Growth
3. Population Composition
4. Human Development
5. Primary Activities
6. Secondary Activities
7. Tertiary and Quaternary Activities
8. Transport and Communication
9. International Trade
10. Human Settlements

# HUMAN GEOGRAPHY :

## NATURE AND SCOPE

### STUDY NOTES

- **Geography** as a field of study is integrative, empirical, and practical. Thus, the reach of geography is extensive.
- **Physical geography** studies physical environment and human geography studies “the relationship between the physical/natural and the human worlds, the spatial distributions of human phenomena and how they come about, the social and economic differences between different parts of the world”.
- Networks of road, railways and waterways have often been described as “arteries of circulation”.
- **Human geography** is the study of “the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth. Ellen C. Semple
- “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”. **Paul Vidal de la Blache**
- **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.
  - ❖ Fundamental elements of physical geography comprises of landforms, soils, climate, water, natural vegetation and diverse flora and fauna.
- **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, understanding of the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases.
- Interaction between primitive human society and strong forces of nature was termed as **environmental determinism**.
- There is direct dependence of human beings on nature for resources which sustain them. The physical environment for such societies becomes the “**Mother Nature**”.
- **Possibilism** refers to the human activities which create cultural landscapes. The imprints of human activities are created everywhere; health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the oceanic surface and satellites in the space.
- Winters in the town of **Trondheim** mean fierce winds and heavy snow. It is technology that has allowed the people of Trondheim and others to overcome the constraints imposed by nature.
- **Neodeterminism or stop and go determinism:** A geographer, Griffith Taylor introduced another concept which reflects a middle path (*Madhyam Marg*) between the two ideas of environmental determinism and possibilism.
- Possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment and there is no free run without accidents.
- The free run which the developed economies attempted to take has already resulted in the green house effect, ozone layer depletion, global warming, receding glaciers and degrading lands. The neo-determinism conceptually attempts to bring a balance nullifying the ‘either’ ‘or’ dichotomy.
- Earlier travellers and explorers used to disseminate information about the areas of their visits. Navigational skills were not developed and voyages were fraught with dangers.



- The late fifteenth century witnessed attempts of explorations in Europe and slowly the myths and mysteries about countries and people started to open up. The colonial period provided impetus to further explorations in order to access the resources of the regions and to obtain inventorised information.
- **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.
- Major ages and thrusts of human geography includes:
  - ❖ **Early Colonial Period (Exploration and description):** Imperial and trade interests prompted the discovery and exploration of new areas.
  - ❖ **Later Colonial Period (Regional analysis):** Elaborate description of all aspects of a region were undertaken.
  - ❖ **1930s through the Inter-War Period (Areal differentiation):** The focus was on identifying the uniqueness of any region.
  - ❖ **Late 1950s to the late 1960s (Spatial organisation):** This phase was called the quantitative revolution. The main objective was to identify mappable patterns for different human activities.
  - ❖ **1970s (Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioural schools):** Discontentment with the quantitative revolution and its dehumanised manner of doing geography led to the emergence of three new schools of thought of human geography in the 1970s.
  - ❖ **1990s (Post-modernism in geography):** The grand generalisations and the applicability of universal theories to explain the human conditions were questioned.
- **Major Fields of Human Geography includes:** Social, Urban, Political, Economic and Urban Geography with their further sub-branches.

## QUESTION BANK

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and socio-cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other.
 

(a) Human Geography      (b) Physical Geography      (c) Urban Geography      (d) Economic Geography
- Networks of road, railways and waterways have often been described as \_\_\_\_\_.
 

(a) Veins of circulation      (b) arteries of circulation  
(c) Means of communication      (d) Routes of communication
- Which of the stated elements is not fundamental element of physical geography?
 

(a) Landforms      (b) Soils      (c) Urbanisation      (d) Natural vegetation
- Environmental determinism can be best explained as interaction between:
 

(i) Primitive human society      (ii) Strong forces of nature  
(iii) Technical advancements      (iv) Communication developments  
(a) (i) and (iii)      (b) (ii) and (iv)      (c) (i) and (ii)      (d) (i) and (iv)
- \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the human activities which create cultural landscapes.
 

(a) Morphism      (b) Possibilism      (c) Interaction      (d) Urbanism
- Griffith Taylor introduced another concept which reflects a middle path (*Madhyam Marg*) between the two ideas of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
 

(i) Monopolism      (ii) Strong forces of nature  
(iii) Environmental determinism      (iv) Possibilism  
(a) (i) and (iii)      (b) (ii) and (iv)      (c) (i) and (ii)      (d) (iii) and (iv)

7. A synonym name to Neo-determinism is  
 (a) Stop and go determinism (b) Wait and go determinism  
 (c) Possibilism (d) Environmental determinism
8. Which among the following is not an outcome of free run which the developed economies attempted?  
 (a) Ozone layer depletion (b) Global warming (c) Greenhouse effect (d) Afforestation
9. Later Colonial period laid major emphasis on:  
 (a) Imperial and trade interests prompted the discovery and exploration of new areas  
 (b) Mappable patterns for different human activities  
 (c) Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioural schools  
 (d) Elaborate description of all aspects of a region were undertaken
10. Which among the following are the issues faced by earlier travellers during their voyages?  
 (i) Navigational skills were not developed (ii) Voyages were fraught with dangers.  
 (iii) Technological advancements (iv) Government subsidies  
 (a) (i) and (iii) (b) (ii) and (iv) (c) (i) and (ii) (d) (iii) and (iv)
11. The late \_\_\_\_\_ century witnessed attempts of explorations in Europe.  
 (a) 18th (b) 17th (c) 15th (d) 20th
12. Radical School of Thought employed Marxian theory to explain the basic cause of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Poverty (ii) Deprivation (iii) Social inequality (iv) Justice  
 (a) (i), (ii) and (iv) (b) (ii) and (iv) (c) (i), (ii), (iv) (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)
13. 1990's period laid major emphasis on:  
 (a) Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioural schools  
 (b) Mappable patterns for different human activities  
 (c) The grand generalisations and the applicability of universal theories to explain the human conditions were questioned  
 (d) Identifying the uniqueness of any region
14. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.  
 (a) Radical (b) Behavioural (c) Philosophical (d) Possibilism
15. Early Colonial period laid major emphasis on:  
 (a) Imperial and trade interests prompted the discovery and exploration of new areas  
 (b) Mappable patterns for different human activities  
 (c) Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioural schools  
 (d) Identifying the uniqueness of any region
16. Which among the following is not a major field of human geography?  
 (a) Social Geography (b) Urban Geography (c) Political Geography (d) Physical Geography
17. 1970s period laid major emphasis on:  
 (a) Imperial and trade interests prompted the discovery and exploration of new areas.  
 (b) Human geography was made more relevant to the socio-political reality by the emergence of these schools of thought.  
 (c) Mappable patterns for different human activities.  
 (d) Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioral schools.
18. "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". The definition is given by:  
 (a) Ratze (b) Ellen C. Semple (c) Paul Vidal de la Blache (d) Griffith Taylor



19. Which one of the following statements does not describe geography?  
 (a) An integrative discipline  
 (b) Study of the inter-relationship between humans and environment  
 (c) Subjected to dualism  
 (d) Not relevant in the present time due to the development of technology
20. Spatial organisation approach deals with:  
 (a) identifying the uniqueness of any region and understanding how and why it was different from others.  
 (b) identify mappable patterns for different human activities.  
 (c) understanding each local context in its own right was emphasised.  
 (d) identify mappable patterns for different human activities.
21. 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) ancient epics
22. Which one of the following is the most important factor in the interaction between people and environment?  
 (a) human intelligence (b) technology (c) people's perception (d) human brotherhood
23. Which one of the following is not an approach in human geography?  
 (a) Areal differentiation (b) Quantitative revolution  
 (c) Spatial organisation (d) Exploration and description
24. Discontentment with the quantitative revolution and its dehumanised manner of doing geography led to the emergence of \_\_\_\_\_ new schools of thought of human geography in the 1970s.  
 (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 5 (d) 7
25. Areal differentiation deals with:  
 (a) identifying the uniqueness of any region and understanding how and why it was different from others.  
 (b) identify mappable patterns for different human activities.  
 (c) understanding each local context in its own right was emphasised.  
 (d) identify mappable patterns for different human activities.
26. Travellers and explorers used to disseminate information about the areas of their visits. \_\_\_\_\_ were not developed and voyages were fraught with dangers.  
 (a) Navigational skills (b) Oreintation skills (c) Locational skills (d) Map skills
27. Welfare or \_\_\_\_\_ of thought in human geography was mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people.  
 (a) naturalistic school (b) mutualistic school (c) humanistic school (d) minimalism school
28. Radical school of thought employed \_\_\_\_\_ theory to explain the basic cause of poverty, deprivation and social inequality.  
 (a) Marxian (b) Pearson (c) Meghavian (d) Developmental
29. Contemporary social problems were related to the development of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Capitalism (b) Socialism (c) Redicalism (d) Sophitication
30. Behavioural school of thought laid great emphasis on lived experience and also on the perception of space by social categories based on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) ethnicity (b) race (c) religion (d) all of these
31. The free run which the developed economies attempted to take has already resulted in the:  
 (i) green house effect (ii) ozone layer depletion (iii) global warming (iv) receding glaciers  
 (a) (ii), (iii) (b) (ii), (iii), (iv) (c) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) (d) (ii)
32. The \_\_\_\_\_ conceptually attempts to bring a balance nullifying the 'either' 'or' dichotomy.  
 (a) post-determinism (b) neo-determinism (c) pre-determinism (d) all-determinism

33. The process of adaptation, adjustment with and modification of the environment started with the appearance of human beings over the surface of the earth in different \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) demographical niches (b) ecological niches  
(c) sociological niches (d) geological niches
34. The concerns of human geography have a \_\_\_\_\_ though the approaches to articulate them have changed over time.
- (a) short temporal continuum (b) new temporal continuum  
(c) long temperate continuum (d) long temporal continuum
35. "The idea was that all the regions were part of a whole, i.e. (the earth); so, understanding the parts in totality would lead to an understanding of the whole." Identify the stages and Thrust of Human Geography.
- (a) Early Colonial period (b) Later Colonial period  
(c) 1930s through the inter-War period (d) Late 1950s to the late 1960s
36. "The grand generalisations and the applicability of universal theories to explain the human conditions were questioned. The importance of understanding each local context in its own right was emphasised." Identify the stages and Thrust of Human Geography.
- (a) 1990s (b) Later Colonial period  
(c) 1930s through the inter-War period (d) Late 1950s to the late 1960s
37. Discontentment with the \_\_\_\_\_ and its dehumanised manner of doing geography led to the emergence of three new schools of thought of human geography in the 1970s.
- (a) Pro-quantitative revolution (b) Quantitative revolution  
(c) Non-quantitative revolution (d) Qualitative revolution
38. Human geography was made more relevant to the \_\_\_\_\_ reality by the emergence of these schools of thought.
- (a) agro-political (b) neo-political (c) socio-political (d) political
39. The reach of geography is extensive and each and every event or phenomenon which varies over space and time can be studied \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) politically (b) geographically (c) physically (d) dramatically
40. Which among the following statements is FALSE about geography?
- (a) Physical geography studies physical environment.  
(b) Human geography studies "the relationship between the physical/natural and the human worlds."  
(c) The spatial distributions of human phenomena and how they come about.  
(d) The social and economic differences in only one part of the world.
41. Geography got subjected to \_\_\_\_\_ and the wide-ranging debates started whether geography as a discipline should be a law making/theorizing.
- (a) Dualism (b) Purism (c) Singlestick (d) Multisite
42. Dynamism in the relationship is the keyword in \_\_\_\_\_ definition.
- (a) Semple's (b) Ratzel's (c) Paul Vidal's (d) Houston's
43. Human geography studies the \_\_\_\_\_ between the physical environment and socio-cultural environment created by human beings through \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.
- (a) intra-relationship, mutual interaction (b) inter-relationship, natural interaction  
(c) inter-relationship, mutual interaction (d) ultra-relationship, mutual interaction
44. The physical environment for primitive societies becomes the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) Trade (b) Mother Nature (c) Labours (d) Land
45. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that has allowed the people of Trondheim and others to overcome the constraints imposed by nature.
- (a) Technology (b) Labour (c) Land (d) Trade



46. Late 1950s to the late 1960s focuses on which type of approach?  
 (a) Areal differentiation (b) Spatial organisation  
 (c) Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioural schools  
 (d) Exploration and description
47. Early Colonial period focuses on which type of approach?  
 (a) Areal differentiation (b) Spatial organization  
 (c) Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioural schools  
 (d) Exploration and description

### INPUT TEXT BASED MCQs

Read the passage below and answer the following questions (48 to 50).

**The Naturalisation of Humans** Benda lives in the wilds of the Abujh Maad area of central India. His village consists of three huts deep in the wilds. Not even birds or stray dogs that usually crowd villages can be seen in these areas. Wearing a small loin cloth and armed with his axe he slowly surveys the penda (forest) where his tribe practices a primitive form of agriculture called shifting cultivation. Benda and his friends burn small patches of forest to clear them for cultivation. The ash is used for making the soil fertile. Benda is happy that the Mahua trees around him are in bloom. How lucky I am to be a part of this beautiful universe, he thinks as he looks up to see the Mahua, Palash and Sal trees that have sheltered him since childhood. Crossing the penda in a gliding motion, Benda makes his way to a stream. As he bends down to scoop up a palmful of water, he remembers to thank Loi-Lugi, the spirit of the forest for allowing him to quench his thirst. Moving on with his friends, Benda chews on succulent leaves and roots. The boys have been trying to collect Gajjhara and Kuchla, from the forest. These are special plants that Benda and his people use. He hopes the spirits of the forest will be kind and lead him to these herbs. These are needed to barter in the madhai or tribal fair coming up the next full moon. He closes his eyes and tries hard to recall what the elders had taught him about these herbs and the places they are found in. He wishes he had listened more carefully. Suddenly there is a rustling of leaves. Benda and his friends know it is the outsiders who have come searching for them in the wilds. In a single fluid motion Benda and his friends disappear behind the thick canopy of trees and become one with the spirit of the forest.

48. Which among the following sentences is NOT a feature of shifting cultivation?  
 (a) A primitive form of agriculture  
 (b) Burn small patches of forest to clear them for cultivation  
 (c) Ash is used for making the soil fertile.  
 (d) Newest form of agriculture
49. Which forest is used for shifting cultivation by the tribes living in Abujh Maad area of central India?  
 (a) Benda (b) Penda (c) Vaal (d) Parathas
50. Which among the following is FALSE in context to barter system?  
 (a) Alternative name is commodity to commodity exchange system.  
 (b) A system of exchange in which participants in a transaction directly exchange goods or services for other goods or services without using a medium of exchange, such as money.  
 (c) It is the oldest form of exchange system.  
 (d) It requires the exchange of goods using money as the medium.

Read the passage below and answer the following questions (51 to 53).

**Humanisation of Nature:** Winters in the town of Trondheim mean fierce winds and heavy snow. The skies are dark for months. Kari drives to work in the dark at 8 am. She has special tyres for the winter and keeps the headlights of her powerful car switched on. Her office is artificially heated at a comfortable 23 degrees Celsius. The campus of the university she works in is built under a huge glass dome. This dome keeps the snow out in winter and lets in the sunshine in the summer. The temperature is controlled carefully and there is adequate lighting. Even though fresh vegetables and plants don't grow in such harsh weather, Kari keeps an orchid on her desk and enjoys eating tropical fruits like



banana and kiwi. These are flown in from warmer areas regularly. With a click of the mouse, Kari can network with colleagues in New Delhi. She frequently takes a morning flight to London and returns in the evening in time to watch her favourite television serial. Though Kari is fifty-eight years old, she is fitter and looks younger than many thirty year-olds in other parts of the world.

51. Winters in the town of Trondheim mean fierce \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) Winds and fragile snow (b) Good weather and heavy snow  
(c) Winds and rainfall (d) Winds and heavy snow
52. Which among the following are not the tropical fruits?
- (a) Banana (b) Kiwi (c) Papaya (d) Apples
53. What is the purpose of glass dome in Kari's office?
- (a) To keep birds out (b) This dome keeps the snow out in winter.  
(c) It lets in the sunshine in the summer. (d) Both (b) and (c)

**Read the passage below and answer the following questions (54 to 56).**

A geographer, Griffith Taylor introduced another concept which reflects a middle path (*Madhyam Marg*) between the two ideas of environmental determinism and possibilism. He termed it as Neodeterminism or stop and go determinism. Those of you who live in cities and those who have visited a city, might have seen that traffic is regulated by lights on the cross-roads. Red light means 'stop', amber light provides a gap between red and green lights 'to get set' and green light means 'go'. The concept shows that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (possibilism). It means that human beings can conquer nature by obeying it. They have to respond to the red signals and can proceed in their pursuits of development when nature permits the modifications. It means that possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment and there is no free run without accidents. The free run which the developed economies attempted to take has already resulted in the green house effect, ozone layer depletion, global warming, receding glaciers and degrading lands. The neo-determinism conceptually attempts to bring a balance nullifying the 'either' 'or' dichotomy.

54. Griffith Taylor introduced the concept which reflects a \_\_\_\_\_ (*Madhyam Marg*) between the two ideas of environmental determinism and possibilism.
- (a) middle path (b) early path (c) after path (d) none of these
55. He termed it as \_\_\_\_\_ or stop and go determinism.
- (a) Determinism (b) Pro-Determinism (c) Neodeterminism (d) Afterdeterminism
56. The neo-determinism conceptually attempts to bring a \_\_\_\_\_ the 'either' 'or' dichotomy.
- (a) balance increasing (b) balance nullifying (c) balance purifying (d) balance inquiry

### ANSWERS

#### Multiple Choice Questions

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a)  | 2. (b)  | 3. (c)  | 4. (c)  | 5. (b)  | 6. (d)  | 7. (a)  | 8. (d)  | 9. (d)  | 10. (c) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (d) | 13. (c) | 14. (b) | 15. (a) | 16. (d) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (d) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (b) | 23. (b) | 24. (b) | 25. (a) | 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (a) | 29. (a) | 30. (d) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (b) | 33. (b) | 34. (d) | 35. (b) | 36. (a) | 37. (b) | 38. (c) | 39. (b) | 40. (d) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (a) | 43. (c) | 44. (b) | 45. (a) | 46. (b) | 47. (d) |         |         |         |

#### Input Text Based MCQs

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 48. (d) | 49. (b) | 50. (d) | 51. (d) | 52. (d) | 53. (d) | 54. (a) | 55. (c) | 56. (b) |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|