

GEOGRAPHY (029)
Sample Question Paper — Set 2
Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

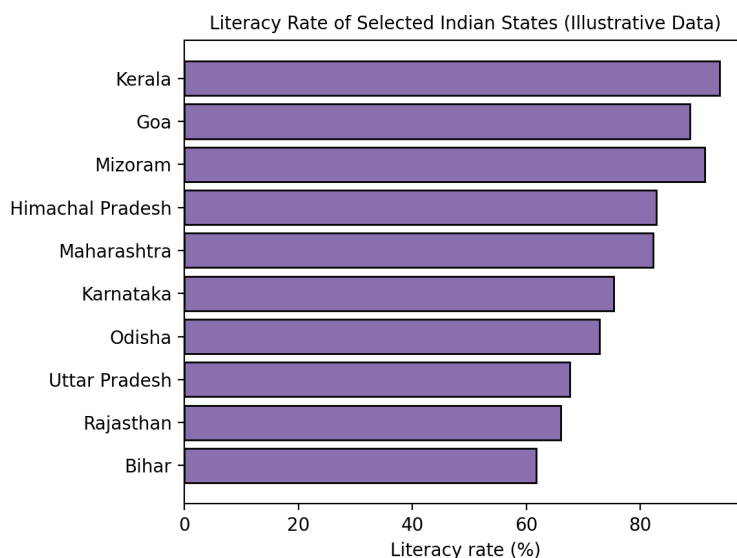
Maximum Marks: 70

General Instructions:

1. This question paper contains 30 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
3. Section A – Question numbers 1 to 17 are multiple choice questions carrying 1 mark each.
4. Section B – Question numbers 18 and 19 are source-based questions carrying 3 marks each.
5. Section C – Question numbers 20 to 23 are short answer type questions carrying 3 marks each. Answers should be written in 80–100 words.
6. Section D – Question numbers 24 to 28 are long answer type questions carrying 5 marks each. Answers should be written in 120–150 words.
7. Section E – Question numbers 29 and 30 are map-based questions carrying 5 marks each.
8. A separate question has been provided for Visually Impaired candidates in lieu of questions with visual inputs such as graphs and maps. Such questions are to be attempted only by Visually Impaired candidates.
9. There is no overall choice, but an internal choice has been provided in a few questions in Sections C, D and E.

SECTION – A (17 × 1 = 17 Marks)

Q.1 Study the bar graph below showing the literacy rate (%) of selected Indian states, and answer the question that follows. [1]



Which of the following states shown has the highest literacy rate?

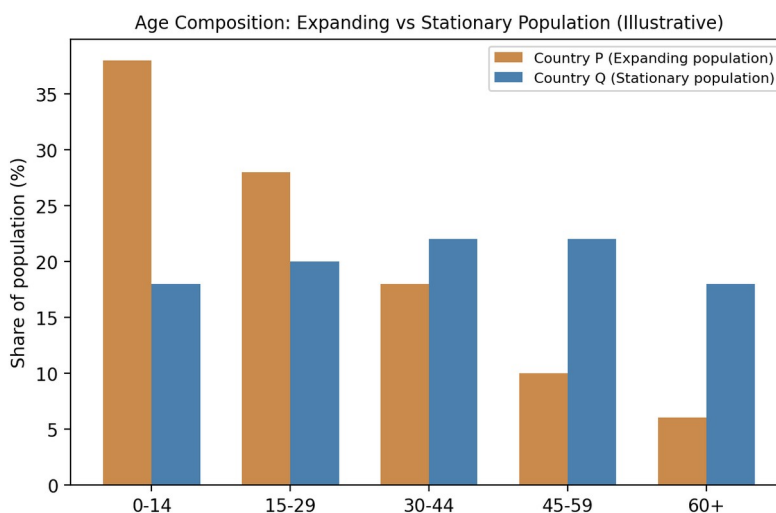
- (A) Bihar
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Maharashtra

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Which of the following states of India is generally recognised for having the highest literacy rate in the country?

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Kerala
- (C) Uttar Pradesh
- (D) Rajasthan

Q.2 Study the graph below comparing the age composition of two hypothetical countries, P and Q, and answer the question that follows. [1]



Based on the graph, Country P, with a much larger share of population in the 0-14 age group, is most likely to be:

- (A) A country with a stationary or ageing population, similar to Japan
- (B) A country with an expanding, youthful population, similar to Niger
- (C) A country experiencing net population decline
- (D) A country with a negative dependency ratio

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Which of the following is most characteristic of an expanding population, as opposed to a stationary population?

- (A) A large share of elderly people and a small share of children
- (B) A large share of children and a relatively small share of elderly people
- (C) An equal share of population across all age groups

(D) A declining total population size

Q.3 Country W has consistently invested in universal primary education and basic healthcare over three decades, resulting in steady improvement of its Human Development Index. Which of the following best reflects the underlying philosophy of the human development approach illustrated here? [1]

- (A) Development should focus purely on maximising GNI per capita, regardless of other factors
- (B) Development should enlarge people's choices by expanding their capabilities, such as health and education, not just income
- (C) Development is only meaningful when measured through industrial output
- (D) Human development has no relationship with education or health outcomes

Q.4 Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and choose the correct option: Assertion (A): Migration is considered one of the three components of population change, along with births and deaths. Reason (R): Migration always increases the total population of the world by adding new people to it. [1]

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

Q.5 Which of the following is an example of a tertiary activity? [1]

- (A) A miner extracting coal from an underground mine
- (B) A retailer selling groceries in a local market
- (C) A factory worker assembling automobile parts
- (D) A farmer cultivating wheat in a field

Q.6 Match the following types of farming with their description and select the correct code: [1]

Column A (Type of Farming)	Column B (Description)
1. Plantation agriculture	a. Single commercial crop grown on a large estate, often for export
2. Mixed farming	b. Growing crops and rearing livestock together on the same farm
3. Market gardening	c. Intensive cultivation of vegetables, fruits and flowers for urban markets
4. Extensive commercial grain farming	d. Large-scale, highly mechanised cultivation of a single grain crop over vast areas

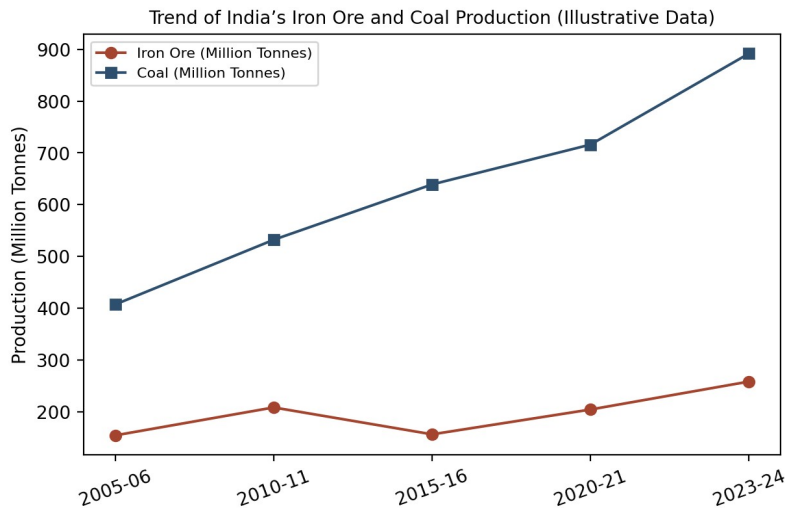
Codes:

- (A) 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d
- (B) 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-b
- (C) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c
- (D) 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a

Q.7 What is the primary purpose of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)? [1]

- (A) To eliminate all forms of international trade between nations
- (B) To establish and enforce rules that facilitate smoother and more predictable international trade
- (C) To function solely as a lending institution for developing countries
- (D) To regulate only agricultural trade between member nations

Q.8 Study the graph below showing the trend of India's iron ore and coal production (in Million Tonnes) over selected years, and answer the question that follows. [1]



Based on the graph, which of the following statements is correct?

- (A) Coal production declined consistently over the period shown.
- (B) Iron ore production has grown at a faster rate than coal production throughout the period.
- (C) Both iron ore and coal production show an overall increasing trend, with coal production consistently higher.
- (D) Iron ore production remained constant throughout the period.

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Which of the following statements about India's mineral resources is generally true?

- (A) India has no significant coal reserves.
- (B) India is among the world's leading producers of coal and iron ore.
- (C) India imports all of its iron ore requirements.
- (D) India's mineral belts are located only in the Himalayan region.

Q.9 A region shows a consistently high sex ratio favouring females along with high literacy rates for both sexes. Which of the following is the most likely explanation for this pattern? [1]

- (A) High levels of gender-based discrimination
- (B) Relatively better social indicators and gender equity in the region
- (C) Absence of any education facilities in the region
- (D) A very young population structure alone

Q.10 If a country has a very high proportion of its working-age population employed in agriculture but a relatively small contribution of agriculture to its GDP, this indicates: [1]

- (A) High productivity in the agricultural sector
- (B) Disguised unemployment or low productivity in the agricultural sector
- (C) A fully industrialised economy
- (D) An absence of any rural population

Q.11 Which of the following is NOT typically associated with the Green Revolution in India? [1]

- (A) Introduction of high-yielding variety seeds
- (B) Increased use of chemical fertilisers and irrigation
- (C) Significant increase in wheat and rice production in select regions
- (D) Complete elimination of regional disparities in agricultural development

Q.12 Study the table given below showing India's foodgrain production (in Million Tonnes) for selected years, and answer the question that follows. [1]

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total Foodgrains
1990-91	74.3	55.1	176.4
2010-11	95.9	86.9	244.5
2022-23	135.8	110.6	329.7

Which of the following statements is correct based on the table?

- (A) Wheat production has declined between 1990-91 and 2022-23.
- (B) Total foodgrain production has nearly doubled between 1990-91 and 2022-23.
- (C) Rice production remained unchanged over the period.
- (D) Total foodgrain production declined between 2010-11 and 2022-23.

Q.13 Which of the following statements correctly describe the objectives of a crop insurance scheme for Indian farmers?

1. To provide financial support to farmers only in years of bumper harvest. 2. To provide insurance coverage and financial

support in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities. 3. To stabilise farmers' income and encourage them to adopt innovative practices. 4. To ensure the flow of credit to the agriculture sector. [1]

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.14 As a policymaker aiming to reduce dependence on groundwater for irrigation in a water-stressed agricultural region, which of the following measures would you prioritise? [1]

- (A) Encouraging deeper and more numerous tube wells
- (B) Promoting micro-irrigation techniques and watershed development
- (C) Removing all restrictions on groundwater extraction
- (D) Discouraging crop diversification

Q.15 Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and choose the correct option: Assertion (A): Petroleum remains one of the most important sources of commercial energy in India. Reason (R): Petroleum is used mainly as fuel for transportation and as a raw material for the petrochemical industry. [1]

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

Q.16 Match the mineral in Column A with the state it is prominently mined in, in Column B, and select the correct code: [1]

Column A	Column B
a. Iron ore	1. Madhya Pradesh
b. Manganese	2. Odisha
c. Bauxite	3. Karnataka
d. Copper	4. Jharkhand

Codes:

- (A) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- (C) a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3
- (D) a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1

Q.17 The Bharatmala Pariyojana, launched by the Government of India, is primarily aimed at: [1]

- (A) Developing a network of highways to improve efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country
- (B) Expanding India's international shipping routes exclusively
- (C) Regulating airfares for domestic airlines
- (D) Restricting the growth of the railway network

SECTION – B (2 × 3 = 6 Marks)

Q.18 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [3]

The concept of possibilism, developed in response to environmental determinism, argues that while the physical environment offers a set of possibilities, it is human beings, through their culture, technology and skills, who decide how to use these possibilities. Unlike determinism, which sees nature as the controlling factor over human activity, possibilism emphasises human agency and adaptability, suggesting that the same environment can support very different ways of life depending on the technological and cultural capacities of the people living there.

- i. What does possibilism argue about the relationship between environment and human activity?
- ii. How does possibilism differ from environmental determinism, according to the passage?
- iii. Why can the same physical environment support very different ways of life, according to possibilism?

Q.19 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [3]

India's Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, aims to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart' solutions. Selected cities receive central assistance to develop area-based projects, such as redevelopment of existing areas and development of new extension areas, alongside pan-city initiatives that apply smart solutions to existing city infrastructure. The mission reflects a shift in urban planning towards using technology and data to improve service delivery, though implementation has varied significantly in pace and scale across different cities.

- i. What is the primary aim of the Smart Cities Mission, according to the passage?

- ii. What two types of projects are mentioned as being supported under the mission?
 iii. What broader shift in urban planning does the mission reflect, as described in the passage?

SECTION – C (4 × 3 = 12 Marks)

Q.20 Explain how the growth of international trade has affected the economic development of both exporting and importing countries. [3]

Q.21 How can urban local bodies promote sustainable waste management in rapidly growing cities? [3]

Q.22 Identify and explain three measures that can help conserve India’s mineral resources for future use. [3]

Q.23 A Discuss the key features of India’s population growth during the period 2001–2011, including the main factors responsible for the observed trends. [3]

OR

Q.23 B Who are considered the elderly population? Why is the study of the elderly population becoming increasingly important in population studies? [3]

SECTION – D (5 × 5 = 25 Marks)

Q.24 A Explain how nomadic herding is an adaptation to specific geographical conditions. Illustrate your answer with examples from different regions of the world. [5]

OR

Q.24 B “The information technology industry has transformed the economic landscape of several developing countries.” In view of this statement, discuss the factors that have supported the growth of the IT industry, and explain the economic and social impacts of this growth. [5]

Q.25 A How have countries like India and China benefitted from the growth of manufacturing industries oriented towards exports? What is meant by ‘footloose industry’? Give two examples. [5]

OR

Q.25 B Discuss, with examples, any five factors that influence the growth and distribution of the tertiary sector in an economy. [5]

Q.26 A Explain the problems associated with rapid and unplanned urbanisation in Indian cities. How do these problems affect residents’ quality of life? [5]

OR

Q.26 B “Water pollution has emerged as a serious problem in many Indian cities despite being closely tied to specific sources.” Analyse this statement with suitable examples. [5]

Q.27 Study the table below showing the sectoral composition of India’s Gross Domestic Product (percentage share) for selected years, and answer the question that follows. [5]

Sector	1990-91 (%)	2010-11 (%)	2022-23 (%)
Primary Sector (Agriculture)	29.6	18.2	16.1
Secondary Sector (Industry)	26.9	27.8	26.3
Tertiary Sector (Services)	43.5	54.0	57.6

How has the sectoral composition of India’s GDP evolved since 1990-91? Highlight five key changes based on the table.

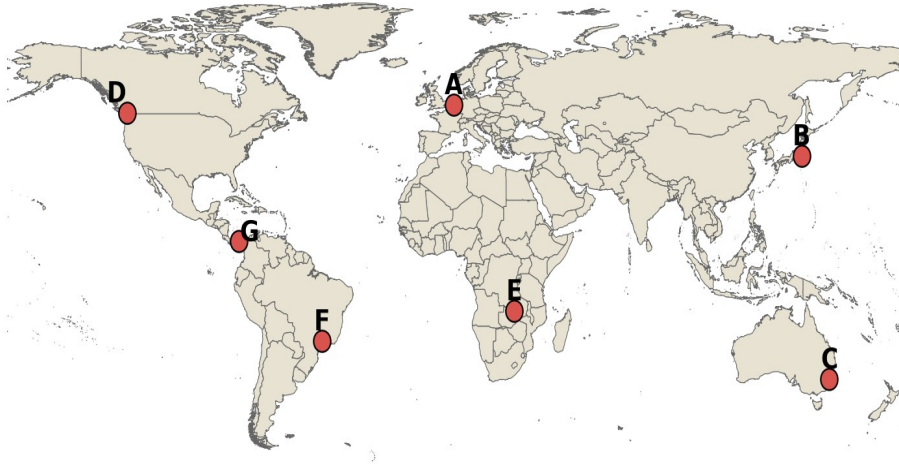
Q.28 A Formulate a development plan for a drought-prone region under a Drought Prone Area Programme, focusing on water conservation, agriculture and livelihood diversification, keeping in mind the region’s climate and socio-economic challenges. [5]

OR

Q.28 B A hill area development programme has led to concerns about deforestation and soil erosion in a fragile mountain region. Suggest five measures to promote ecologically sustainable development in such a hill area. [5]

SECTION – E (2 × 5 = 10 Marks)

Q.29 On the given world political map, seven geographical features have been marked as A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Identify any five of them using the information given below, and write their correct names. [5]



World Political Map (for representation only, not to scale)

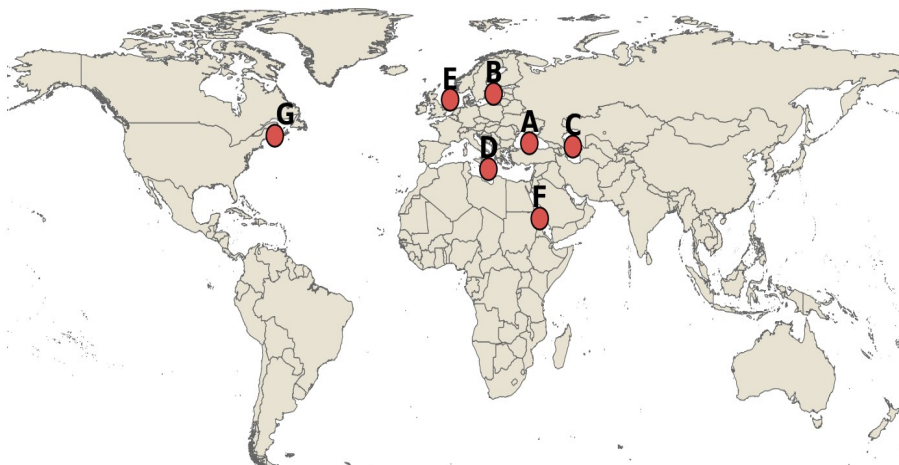
- A. Name a major seaport of Europe.
- B. Name a major airport of Asia.
- C. Name a major city of Australia.
- D. Name the western terminal station of a major transcontinental railway of North America.
- E. Name an important mineral belt of Africa.
- F. Name a major plantation crop growing area of South America.
- G. Name the canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in Central America.

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Answer any five of the following questions:

- A. Name a major seaport of Europe.
- B. Name a major airport of Asia.
- C. Name a major city of Australia.
- D. Name a terminal station of a transcontinental railway in North America.
- E. Name an important mineral belt of Africa.
- F. Name a plantation crop growing region of South America.
- G. Name an important waterway connecting two oceans in Central America.

Q.30 On the given world political map, seven major seas of the world have been marked as A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Identify any five of them using the information given below, and write their correct names. [5]



World Political Map (for representation only, not to scale)

- A. Name this sea located between Europe and Asia, north of Turkey.
- B. Name this sea located in Northern Europe.
- C. Name this large inland sea/lake located between Europe and Asia.
- D. Name this sea located between Southern Europe and North Africa.

- E. Name this sea located off the coast of north-western Europe.
- F. Name this sea located between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.
- G. Name this bay in Canada, famous for having the highest tides in the world.

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Answer any five of the following:

- A. Name the sea located between Europe and Asia, north of Turkey.
- B. Name the sea located in Northern Europe.
- C. Name the large inland sea/lake located between Europe and Asia.
- D. Name the sea located between Southern Europe and North Africa.
- E. Name the sea located off the coast of north-western Europe.
- F. Name the sea located between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.
- G. Name the bay in Canada famous for having the highest tides in the world.

GEOGRAPHY (029)

Marking Scheme — Set 2

Class XII

Maximum Marks: 70

SECTION – A

Ans.1 Main: (C) Kerala. Visually Impaired alternative: (B) Kerala. [1]

Ans.2 Main: (B) A country with an expanding, youthful population, similar to Niger. Visually Impaired alternative: (B) A large share of children and a relatively small share of elderly people. [1]

Ans.3 (B) Development should enlarge people's choices by expanding their capabilities, such as health and education, not just income [1]

Ans.4 (C) A is true, but R is false. [1]

Ans.5 (B) A retailer selling groceries in a local market [1]

Ans.6 (A) 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d [1]

Ans.7 (B) To establish and enforce rules that facilitate smoother and more predictable international trade [1]

Ans.8 Main: (C) Both iron ore and coal production show an overall increasing trend, with coal production consistently higher. Visually Impaired alternative: (B) India is among the world's leading producers of coal and iron ore. [1]

Ans.9 (B) Relatively better social indicators and gender equity in the region [1]

Ans.10 (B) Disguised unemployment or low productivity in the agricultural sector [1]

Ans.11 (D) Complete elimination of regional disparities in agricultural development [1]

Ans.12 (B) Total foodgrain production has nearly doubled between 1990-91 and 2022-23. [1]

Ans.13 (B) 2, 3 and 4 only [1]

Ans.14 (B) Promoting micro-irrigation techniques and watershed development [1]

Ans.15 (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. [1]

Ans.16 (A) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4 [Iron ore–Odisha, Manganese–Karnataka, Bauxite–Madhya Pradesh, Copper–Jharkhand] [1]

Ans.17 (A) Developing a network of highways to improve efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country [1]

SECTION – B

Ans.18 i. Possibilism argues that the physical environment offers a set of possibilities, but it is human beings, through culture, technology and skill, who decide how to use them. ii. Unlike determinism, which sees nature as controlling human activity, possibilism emphasises human agency and adaptability in responding to the environment. iii. Because human societies differ in their technological and cultural capacities, they can use the possibilities offered by the same environment in very different ways, leading to different ways of life. [3]

Ans.19 i. The Smart Cities Mission aims to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life to citizens through smart solutions. ii. Area-based projects, such as redevelopment of existing areas and development of new extension areas, and pan-city initiatives applying smart solutions to existing infrastructure. iii. It reflects a shift in urban planning towards using technology and data to improve service delivery to citizens. [3]

SECTION – C

Ans.20 International trade allows exporting countries to earn foreign exchange and expand production for larger global markets, often boosting industries with a comparative advantage, while importing countries gain access to goods, technology and raw materials not available domestically, supporting industrial and consumer needs. However, heavy reliance on trade can also expose both types of economies to global price fluctuations and shifts in demand, making balanced trade policy important for sustained development. [3]

Ans.21 Urban local bodies can promote sustainable waste management by implementing source segregation of waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories, investing in recycling and composting facilities to reduce landfill dependence, and engaging residents through awareness campaigns and incentives for responsible waste disposal practices. [3]

Ans.22 Any three: (i) Promoting recycling of metals and other materials to reduce pressure on primary mineral extraction. (ii) Adopting more efficient mining and processing technologies to minimise wastage during extraction. (iii) Enforcing regulations that discourage over-extraction and encourage responsible, planned use of known mineral reserves for future generations. [3]

Ans.23 A Between 2001 and 2011, India's population growth rate declined for the first time in absolute terms, reflecting a decline in fertility rates due to improved access to family planning, rising female literacy and greater urbanisation. Regional variation persisted, with several southern and some northern states showing much slower growth than states with higher fertility rates, reflecting differences in socio-economic development across regions. [3]

Ans.23 B The elderly population generally refers to individuals above 60 years of age. Their study is increasingly important because rising life expectancy and declining fertility are leading to a growing share of elderly people in many populations, raising questions about healthcare provision, social security, and the changing dependency ratio that societies will need to address in the coming decades. [3]

SECTION – D

Ans.24 A Nomadic herding is closely adapted to regions with sparse vegetation and unreliable rainfall, where fixed agriculture is difficult to sustain. In regions such as the Sahara and parts of Central Asia, herders move with their livestock in search of seasonal pasture and water, following well-established migratory routes shaped by climatic and vegetation patterns. In colder regions such as parts of Scandinavia and Siberia, reindeer herding follows a similar logic, adapted instead to seasonal availability of lichen and other fodder, showing how the specific form of nomadic herding is closely tied to the particular climate and vegetation of each region. [5]

Ans.24 B The growth of the IT industry in developing countries has been supported by factors such as availability of skilled, English-speaking and relatively low-cost labour, government investment in telecommunications infrastructure, and supportive policies including tax incentives for technology parks and special economic zones. Economically, this growth has created significant employment and export earnings, and has helped diversify economies traditionally dependent on agriculture or low-value manufacturing. Socially, it has contributed to urbanisation around technology hubs and rising incomes for a new professional class, though the benefits have often been unevenly distributed, concentrated mainly in select urban centres. [5]

Ans.25 A India and China have benefitted from export-oriented manufacturing by generating large-scale employment, building foreign exchange reserves, and gradually moving up the value chain from low-cost assembly to more technologically sophisticated production. A 'footloose industry' refers to an industry that is not tied to any particular raw material source or market and can locate almost anywhere, since its inputs and outputs are easy to transport; examples include the electronics assembly industry and the garment manufacturing industry. [5]

Ans.25 B Any five: (i) Rising per capita income, which increases demand for services such as healthcare, education and entertainment. (ii) Urbanisation, which concentrates demand for retail, banking and other services. (iii) Growth of information technology, enabling new forms of service delivery such as IT-enabled services. (iv) Government policy supporting service-sector investment and infrastructure. (v) Availability of an educated workforce suited to knowledge-based and professional services. [5]

Ans.26 A Rapid and unplanned urbanisation in Indian cities has led to problems such as inadequate housing leading to the growth of slums, traffic congestion due to insufficient road infrastructure, and stress on civic amenities such as water supply, sewage and waste management systems. These problems affect residents' quality of life by increasing commuting time and pollution exposure, limiting access to affordable and safe housing, and placing pressure on healthcare and educational services that struggle to keep pace with rapid population growth. [5]

Ans.26 B Water pollution in Indian cities is closely tied to specific sources such as untreated industrial effluents, domestic sewage and agricultural runoff, making it appear location-specific to points of discharge. However, it has become a widespread urban problem because rivers and water bodies carry these pollutants across large distances, affecting downstream communities well beyond the immediate source, and the cumulative impact on drinking water quality and public health makes it a significant concern for entire urban regions rather than only areas immediately near the point of pollution. [5]

Ans.27 Any five changes: (i) The share of the primary sector in India's GDP nearly halved, from 29.6% in 1990-91 to 16.1% in 2022-23. (ii) The share of the secondary sector remained relatively stable across the period, fluctuating only slightly. (iii) The tertiary sector's share increased significantly, from 43.5% to 57.6%, becoming by far the largest contributor to GDP. (iv) The tertiary sector's share overtook that of the other two sectors combined by 2022-23. (v) The overall shift indicates a structural transformation of the Indian economy away from agriculture towards services. [5]

Ans.28 A A development plan for a drought-prone region should focus on water conservation measures such as check dams, farm ponds and watershed management to maximise use of scarce rainfall, alongside promotion of drought-resistant crop varieties and diversified cropping patterns to reduce dependence on water-intensive crops. Livelihood diversification through animal husbandry, non-farm rural employment and skill development can reduce vulnerability to crop failure, while community-based water-user associations can help ensure equitable and sustainable distribution of available water resources. [5]

Ans.28 B Any five measures: (i) Promoting afforestation and agroforestry to stabilise slopes and reduce soil erosion. (ii) Adopting terracing and contour farming methods suited to the hill terrain. (iii) Regulating construction and infrastructure development to minimise disturbance to fragile slopes. (iv) Encouraging sustainable, low-impact tourism rather than large-scale unplanned development. (v) Involving local communities in forest management and conservation through participatory programmes. [5]

SECTION – E

Ans.29 A. A major seaport of Europe, e.g. Rotterdam or Hamburg; B. A major airport of Asia, e.g. Tokyo or Beijing; C. Sydney or Melbourne (a major city of Australia); D. Vancouver (western terminal of the Trans-Canadian Railway); E. The Copperbelt (an important mineral belt of Africa); F. The Amazon or coastal Brazil (a plantation crop growing area of South America); G. The Panama Canal. Visually Impaired alternative answers correspond to the same features described in words. [5]

Ans.30 A. Black Sea; B. Baltic Sea; C. Caspian Sea; D. Mediterranean Sea; E. North Sea; F. Red Sea; G. Bay of Fundy. (Any five) [5]