

CBSE Test Paper 03
Ch-1 Human Geography Nature and Scope

1. Define the important concept of Neodeterminism according to Griffith Taylor.
2. Name two major components of Environment(Earth).
3. Define Neo-determinism.
4. Do you find any dichotomy in between physical and human?
5. How has development in technology helped the man?
6. Why Geography has an extensive reach of study? Give two aspects.
7. How does human interact with his physical environment?
8. What are the sub-field of Economic Geography?
9. Describe the fields and subfields of Human Geography.
10. Explain important definitions and concepts of Human Geography.

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Answer

1. A geographer, Griffith Taylor introduced another concept which reflects a middle path between the two ideas of environmental determinism and possibilism. He termed it as Neodeterminism or stop and go determinism. He admitted the impact of nature in human but also recognised the human skill, mental ability, scientific development and technical know-how through which man can use nature to a certain extent according to his needs. 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.
2. Major components of the environment include –
 - i. Natural Components like Land (Lithosphere), Water (Hydrosphere), Air (Atmosphere), Living things (Organism) and
 - ii. Human-made Components like, buildings, parks, bridge, road, industries etc. Humans like, individuals, family, community, religion, politics, education.
3. **Neo determinism** refers human race as a passive agent dictated by environmental, biosphere factors. These factors determine their attitude, decision-making capability, and lifestyle.
4. The dichotomy between physical and human is not a very valid one because nature and human are inseparable elements and should be seen holistically.
5. With the gradual development of technology, human beings were able to loosen the shackles of their physical environment. Technology helped in reducing the harshness of labour, increased labour efficiency and provided leisure to human beings to attend to the higher needs of life. It also increased the scale of production and the mobility of labour.
6. Geography has an extensive reach of the study as:

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- i. Geography is global in nature. It studies the earth.
 - ii. It studies both the physical environment and cultural activities. So every event which varies over space and time is studied geography.
 7. Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology. It is not important what human beings produce and create but it is extremely important 'with the help of what tools and techniques do they produce and create'.
 8. The sub-fields of economic geography are-
 - i. Geography of Resource- It study the location of the nation's agricultural, forest, mineral, water and other resources.
 - ii. Geography of Agriculture-It is a subdiscipline of human geography concerned with the spatial relationships found between agriculture and humans.
 - iii. Geography of Industry-It is a branch of geography that deals with the location of industries, the geographic factors that influence their location and development, the raw materials used in them and the distribution of their finished products.
 - iv. Geography of Marketing-It is a discipline within marketing analysis which uses geolocation(geographic information)in the process of planning and implementation of marketing activities.
 - v. Geography of International trade- It focuses on the exchange of goods among nations and other territorial division for which international trade statistics are reported.
 - vi. Geography of Tourism-It is the study of travel and tourism, as an industry and as an asocial and cultural activity.
 9. The study of human geography has been divided into various fields and sub-fields.
The fields of human geography are-
 - a) Social geography-It is most closely related to social theory in general and sociology in particular, dealing with the elation of social phenomena and its spatial components.

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- b) Urban geography-The study of cities, towns, and other areas of relatively dense settlement. Two main interest are site(how a settlement is positioned relative to the physical environment) and situation(how a settlement is positioned relative to other settlements)
 - c) Political geography- It is concerned with the study of both the spatially uneven outcomes of political processes and the ways in which political processes are themselves affected by spatial structures.
 - d) Population geography-It is the study of ways in which spatial variations in the distribution, composition, migration, and growth of populations are related to their environment or location.
 - e) Settlement geography- It is the study of urban and rural areas with specific regards to spatial, relational and theoretical aspects of settlement.
 - f) Economic geography-It is the study of the location, distribution and spatial organization of economic activities across the world.

The sub-fields of human geography are

- a) Behavioural geography- It is an approach to human geography that examines human behaviour using a disaggregate approach. Behavioural geographers focus on the cognitive processes underlying spatial reasoning, decision making and behaviour.
- b) Geography of Social well being-It aimed at addressing those human problems which were afflicting society at large. Geography began to address the welfare issues which provided a new framework for micro-level enquiries.
- c) Geography of Leisure-It study the relationship between leisure and other social practices and behaviour related to human movement; the spaces produced by leisure activities(gardens, heritage sites, theme parks, and so on)and the meanings given to these spaces, together with the spatial patterns of people's behaviour in their free time.
- d) Cultural Geography –It is the study of cultural products and norms and their variations across and relations to space and places.

e) Gender Geography – It seeks to analyze how gendered social processes are linked to space, place and scale

f) Historical Geography –It studies the ways in which geographic phenomena have changed over time.

g) Medical Geography-It studies the effects of locale and climate upon health. It aims to improve the understanding of the various factors which affect the health of populations and hence individuals.

h) Electoral geography-Electoral geography is the analysis of the methods, the behaviour, and the results of elections in the context of geographic space and using geographical techniques.

i) Military geography-It is a sub-field of geography that is used by the military, as well as academics and politicians, to understand the geopolitical sphere through the military lens.

j) Geography of Resource- It study the location of the nation's agricultural, forest, mineral, water and other resources.

k) Geography of Agriculture-It is a subdiscipline of human geography concerned with the spatial relationships found between agriculture and humans.

l) Geography of Industry-It is a branch of geography that deals with the location of industries, the geographic factors that influence their location and development, the raw materials used in them and the distribution of their finished products.

10. Human Geography has been defined differently by different geographers.

According to Ratzel, "Human Geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface". He stressed on synthesis.

In the words of Ellen C. Semple, "Human Geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth". In this definition, emphasis is on dynamism.

According to Paul Vidal de la Blache, "Conception resulting from more synthetic

knowledge of the physical laws governing our earth and of the relations between the Living beings which inhabit it”.

There are three concepts in Human Geography—

- i. Environmental Determinism-It is the concept of how the physical environment predisposes societies and states towards particular development trajectories. Environmental determinism is the doctrine that human growth, development and activities are controlled by the physical environment. Hence, factors of culture, race and intelligence are supposed to derive from the benign and malign influence of climate, and other aspects of human habitat. In the late 1800's and early 1900's the concept briefly enjoyed the status of a dominant paradigm in western geographical thought, especially as it provided some ideological motives for colonialism.
- ii. Possibilism-According to this theory the environment sets certain constraints or limitation, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions. It is developed as a reaction to extreme generalization of environmental determinists that led to a counter-thesis, of possibilism, which presented the man as an active rather than a passive agent. Possibility approach states that humans were free to choose/decide. Nature did not control him. The nature provided/offered opportunities/possibilities for humans to exploit it for their benefits.
- iii. Neo determinism-Griffith Taylor introduced the concept of Neodeterminism or Stop and Go Determinism. It states that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity (Environmental Determinism) nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (Possibilism). It states that nature has provided possibilities and scope for development but also put limits on it. It means that human beings can conquer nature by obeying it. They can continue in their pursuit of development when nature permits. The Neodeterminism conceptually attempts to bring a balance nullifying the 'either' 'or' dichotomy. ture.