Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Classify the states into five groups each having common frontiers with Pakistan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Ans. (i) Pakistan: Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(ii) China: Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

(iii) Myanmar: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram.

(iv) Bangladesh: Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

(v) Nepal: Uttarakhand, U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

Q.2. How has India developed relationships with the world through the land route?

Ans. The passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers. These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times. The ideas of Upanishads, Ramayana, the stories of Panchtantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system could thus, reach many parts of the world. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, influence of Greek sculpture, their architectural styles of domes and minarets can be seen in India.

Q.3. Throw more light on India occupying an important and strategic position in South Asia.

Ans. (i) India has 29 States and 7 Union Territories.

(ii) India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the north-west, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east.

(iii) Our southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, namely Sri Lanka and Maldives.

(iv) Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar while Maldives Islands are situated to the South of the Lakshadweep Islands.

India has had strong geographical and historical links with her neighbours.

Q.4. Why 82°30′ E has been as the standard meridian of India?

Ans. 82°30′ E meridian has been selected as the standard meridian of India for the following reasons:

(i) This is a general understanding among the countries of the world to select a Standard Meridian in multiples of 7°30′ east and west of Prime Meridian. It is equal to half an hour.

(ii) A country's standard time is derived from such a central meridian. The minimum difference of time between two consecutive standard meridians should be half an hour.

(iii) From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, there is a time lag of two hours. Hence, time along the standard meridian of India (82°30′E) passing through Mirzapur (U.P.) is taken as the standard time for the whole country.