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**CBSE Test Paper 02**  
**Ch-1 Human Geography Nature and Scope**

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1. List the approaches of human Geography through the corridors of time.
2. Define Human Geography in the words of Fredrick Ratzel.
3. Name the French Geographer who wrote 'Principles of Geographic Humaine'.
4. "There is no free run without accidents." Explain.
5. Geography is a blend of social sciences and physical sciences. Do you agree? Justify.
6. Technology indicates cultural development of a society. Explain.
7. State Some examples of metaphors used to describe the physical and human phenomena.
8. What is the concept of Neodeterminism or Stop and Go Determinism given by the Geographer Griffith Taylor?
9. Differentiate between Determinism and Possibilism.
10. Differentiate between:
  - a. Physical environment and Cultural environment
  - b. Determinism and Possibilism

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**Answer**

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<b>Period</b>	<b>Approaches</b>
Early colonial period	Exploration and description
Later colonial period	Regional analysis
1930s through inter war periods	Area differentiation
Late 1950s to late 1960s	Spatial organisation
1970s	The emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioral school
The 1990s	Postmodernism in Geography

2. Ratzel produced the foundations of human geography in his two-volume Anthropogeographie in 1882 and 1891. According to Ratzel “Human geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth’s surface”. The analysis of the views of Ratzel on human geography seeks to emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of those views, with their connections to biology, sociology, ethnography, demography and statistics.
3. Paul Vidal de La Blache, the French Geographer wrote the book 'Principles of Geographic Humaine'.
4. According to this statement, 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. Neodeterminism has conceptually tried to bring a balance between supremacy of nature and Possibilism. It brings a balance between the Environmental Determinism and Possibilism nullifying either or dichotomy.

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5. Yes, I agree. Geography is the scientific study of the earth and is one of the original disciplines along with philosophy in trying to understand the world humans live in. The geographic discipline has two sub-categories, physical geography and cultural geography, which allows geographers the scientific credibility to look at cultural issues of economics, demographics, culture, language, religion, or urban planning. It also allows geographers to focus on climate, climate change, biogeography, geomorphology, or environmental issues of pollution, desertification, deforestation, or species extinction. This unique ability also allows geographic scientists to study how the cultural environment influences the physical environment and vice versa. So geography is a physical science and social science,

The basic aim of Science and Social Science is to understand the reality of the nature. History helps in knowing the man-made activities; Physics helps to calculate the effect of climate on man. Economics helps to understand the effect of human activities on the development of the country. The geographical factors modified the course of history. The change in the climate has influence on the occupation. All branches of Physical Geography have close relation with Natural Sciences.

6. 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-
- i. The understanding of concepts of friction and heat helped us discover fire.
  - ii. Understanding of the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases.
  - iii. We use the laws of aerodynamics to develop faster planes.
7. Some examples of metaphors used to describe the physical and human phenomena are as follows:
- i. 'Face' of the earth.
  - ii. 'Eyes' of the storm.
  - iii. Regions, villages, towns have etc. been described as 'organisms'.
  - iv. Networks of roads, railways and waterways are described as "arteries of

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circulation".

v. 'Mouth' of the river.

vi. 'Snout' (nose) of the glacier.

vii. 'Neck' of the isthmus.

viii. 'Profile' of the soil.

8. The concept of neo-determinism was put forward by Griffith Taylor in the 1920s. According to Taylor Man is able to accelerate, slow or stop the progress of a country's development. He is like the traffic controller in a large city, who alters the rate, not the direction of progress; and perhaps the phrase 'Stop-and-Go Determinism'. 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.

Man follows nature's programme only if he is wise, presuming he can act foolishly, which admits the possibilities contention that within broad limits set by environment man can choose, at the very least.

9. **Determinism:** It refers to the point of view supporting environment control on human action. It generally emphasizes on human as a passive agent influenced by the environmental factors determine their attitude, decision-making and lifestyle. The scholars who supported were Greek and Roman scholars. They included the physician Hippocrates, the philosopher Aristotle, and the historians Thucydides, Xenophon, and Herodotus. The essence of the deterministic school of thought is that the history, culture, living style and stage of development of a social group or nation are exclusively or largely governed by the physical factors of environment.

**Possibilism:** It refers to the physical environment for humans to exploit it for their benefits. The possibilists emphasize the point that it is impossible to explain the difference in human society and the history of that society with reference to the influence of environment; they hold that man himself brings his influence to bear on that environment and changes it. The essence of the deterministic school of thought is to recognise the limits to action which environment set, and avoid the great generalizations which characterised their antagonists. Lucien Febvre and Vidal de la Blache advocated and developed systematically the school of possibilism.

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10. a. **Physical Environment:** Physical environment includes all those elements that nature has made available as free gifts for human development. For example, landforms, soils, climate, water, natural flora and fauna, etc.

**Cultural Environment:** It includes all those physical-cultural elements which have been developed by man through his gained knowledge and technology. For example, houses, villages, towns, a network of roads and railways, modes of transportation, industrial units, fields, hospitals, sports complex, means of entertainment, markets, ports and goods of daily and special use.

- b. **Determinism:** According to this thought, man is a slave of nature. There is direct dependence of human beings on nature for resources and nature is taken as a powerful force, it is worshipped, revered and conserved. If a man does not follow the dictates of nature, he has to bear with the aftermaths. Kant, Humbolt, Ritter and German expert Ratzel and his student Ellen Churchill Semple advocated the philosophy of 'Determinism.'

**Possibilism:** French geographers denied to accept determinism and considered man as master of his destiny. They claimed that man has the ability to change nature completely with his will power. It means that everything is possible for a man and it is called Possibilism. French expert Lucien Febvre and Paul Vidal de la Blache are considered as the founder of Possibilism.