

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

1. What are different fields of Human Geography?
2. What is the core concern of studying geography?
3. Who gives birth to possibilities?
4. Which sub field of Geography is called demography?
5. Explain the concept of 'Neo Determinism' with suitable examples.
6. "The nature and human beings are so intricately intertwined that they cannot be separated." Justify the statement.
7. Explain the concept of 'possibilism' with three suitable examples.
8. Define 'Human Geography' in your own words. Mention any four fields of Human Geography,
9. Write about Neo Determinism.
10. What do you mean by Human Geography? Give some important definitions of Human Geography.

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Answer

1. The different fields of human geography are-
 - i. Social geography-It is most closely related to social theory in general and sociology in particular, dealing with the relation of social phenomena and its spatial components.
 - ii. Urban geography-The study of cities, towns, and other areas of relatively dense settlement. Two main interests are site(how a settlement is positioned relative to the physical environment) and situation(how a settlement is positioned relative to other settlements)
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. Settlement geography- It is the study of urban and rural areas with specific regards to spatial, relational and theoretical aspects of settlement.
 - vi. Economic geography-It is the study of the location, distribution and spatial organization of economic activities across the world.
2. The core concern of geography as a discipline is to understand the earth as home of human beings and to study all those elements which have sustained them. It emphasizes study of nature and human beings. The concern of geography is to understand basic physical systems that affect everyday life. It helps us to learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of those places in order to function more effectively in our increasingly interdependent world.
3. Possibilism in geography developed as a reaction to extreme generalizations of environmental determinists that led to a counter thesis, of Possibilism, which presented the man as an active rather than a passive agent. This philosophy attempts to explain man and environment relationship in a different way, taking man as an

active agent in environment. This is a belief which asserts that natural environment provides options, the number which increases as the knowledge and technology of a cultural group develop.

4. Population geography.
5. The concept of Neo Determinism or stop and go determinism was introduced by Griffith Taylor, who emphasised on the middle path or Madhyam Marg between two ends of environmental determinism and possibilism. It can be understood as follow-Neo determination i.e. middle path can be understood with the help of traffic signals, where red light means 'stop' while green light means 'go' and amber light provides a gap between red and green lights 'to get set'. Amber light is middle path just as neo determinism is in between the two ends of environmental determinism and possibilism. The neo-determinism conceptually attempts to bring a balance nullifying the 'either' 'or' dichotomy.
 - i. The concept shows that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity (i.e. environmental determinism) and nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (i.e. possibilism).
 - ii. Human beings can inhibit nature by obeying it, as possibilities can be created within limits which do not damage the environment.
 - iii. Over-exploitation of natural resources for the development of the economy causes environmental problems like the greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion, global warming, receding glaciers and degrading lands.
6. Nature and human beings cannot be separated as they are intertwined and they should be seen holistically. Man has broadened his nature by creating his own environment through his design and skill to have provision for better food, shelter, access and comfort.

Both nature and human phenomena are described in metaphors using symbols from the human anatomy. We often talk of the 'face' of the earth, 'eye' of storm, 'mouth' of the river, 'snout' (nose) of the glacier, 'neck' of the isthmus and 'profile' of the soil. All the above nicknames are given by humans to nature. By doing so, humans have made it easy to understand the various natural phenomenon. German scholars describe the 'state' as a living organism. Very often, networks of road, railways and waterways are referred to as 'arteries of circulation' to give nature a human twist.

7. The concept of possibilism was propounded by Lucien Febure, who described that

there are no necessities but possibilities everywhere and man is referred to as a master of these possibilities who judged their use. According to possibilism, man can adapt, adjust and modify the forces of his physical environment with his strength. For instance, a health resort on highlands, huge urban sprawls (spread) fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the oceanic surface and satellites in the space. However, if a man will keep on exploiting nature for its selfish needs, a time will come when a man has to pay for his deeds.

8. Human geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other. It attempts to explain the relationship between all elements of human life and space they occur over.

The different fields of human geography are as follows:

Social Geography: It is a field of human geography which is connected with social sciences and sociology. Its sub-fields are behavioural geography, the geography of social well being, historical, medical geography etc.

Urban Geography: It is a field of human geography connected with urban studies and planning.

Cartography: cartography is the art and science of making maps and the oldest of the Geographic techniques.

Population Geography: It is a field of human geography connected with the demography. It is the study of the ways in which special variations in the distribution, composition, migration and growth of population are related to the nature of places.

9. 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. We might have seen in the city 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.

10. Human Geography studies the distribution of the human race on the earth and activities of mankind. It is a very important branch of Geography.

Some Important Definitions are:

- i. **According to Ratzel:** Human geography is the systematic study of the relationship between human societies and the earth's surface.
- ii. **By Ellen C. Semple:** Dynamism in the relationship is the keyword in Semple's definition. According to her "Human Geography is a study of changing the relationship between unresting man and unstable earth." Her definition is much wider than other scholars of determinism because she tried to elaborate on the changing relationship between unresting men and on the other hand unstable earth.
- iii. **According to Vidal de la Blache:** Human geography is the study of the inter-relationship of earth and man.
- iv. **According to Ellsworth Huntington:** Human geography may be defined as the study of the natural distribution of relationships between geographical environment and human activities.
- v. **According to D.H. Davis:** Human geography is a study of the relationship between the natural environment and human activities.
- vi. **According to White and Renner:** Human geography is primarily human ecology and the study of human society in relation to the earth's background.