

CUET 2026 May 11 Shift 1 Geography

Question Paper (Memory-Based) with Solutions

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. Match the LIST-I with LIST-II

LIST-I	LIST-II
A. Alkaline Earth metals	I. s-block
B. Transition Elements	II. p-block
C. Transuranic Elements	III. d-block
D. Metalloid	IV. f-block

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV
- (B) A-I, B-III, C-IV, D-II
- (C) A-I, B-III, C-II, D-IV
- (D) A-II, B-III, C-I, D-IV

Correct Answer: (B) A-I, B-III, C-IV, D-II

Solution:**Concept:**

The modern periodic table is classified into four main blocks (*s*, *p*, *d*, and *f*) based on the subshell in which the differentiating (last) electron enters. Different element families and types are positioned in specific blocks based on their electronic configurations.

Step 1: Identify the block for Alkaline Earth metals (A).

Alkaline Earth metals constitute Group 2 of the periodic table (e.g., Beryllium, Magnesium, Calcium). Their valence shell configuration is ns^2 , meaning the last electron enters the *s*-orbital. Therefore, they belong to the ***s*-block**.

$$A \rightarrow I$$

Step 2: Identify the block for Transition Elements (B).

Transition elements are those that have incompletely filled *d*-orbitals in their ground state or in any of their common oxidation states. They occupy the middle section of the periodic table (Groups 3 to 12). Therefore, they belong to the ***d*-block**.

$$B \rightarrow III$$

Step 3: Identify the block for Transuranic Elements (C).

Transuranic elements are the chemical elements with atomic numbers greater than 92 (which is the atomic number of Uranium). All of these are artificially synthesized and fall under the actinide series, where the *5f*-orbitals are progressively filled. Therefore, they belong to the ***f*-block**.

$$C \rightarrow IV$$

Step 4: Identify the block for Metalloids (D).

Metalloids (such as Boron, Silicon, Germanium, Arsenic, Antimony) exhibit intermediate properties between metals and non-metals. They form a zig-zag line on the right side of the periodic table, where the valence electrons are entering the *p*-orbitals. Therefore, they belong to the ***p*-block**.

$$D \rightarrow II$$

Step 5: Conclusion.

Matching all the pairs correctly: $A \rightarrow I$, $B \rightarrow III$, $C \rightarrow IV$, $D \rightarrow II$.

Hence, the correct option is **(B)**.

Quick Tip: Remember the general layout of the periodic table to quickly solve matching questions:

s-block: Extreme left (Alkali and Alkaline Earth metals). **p-block:** Extreme right (Non-metals, Metalloids, Halogens, Noble gases). **d-block:** Middle (Transition metals). **f-block:** Bottom rows (Lanthanides and Actinides / Transuranic elements).

2. Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the 'Evolution of Geography'?

1. Spatial Organisation
2. Emergence of Humanistic, Radical and Behavioural schools
3. Regional Analysis
4. Post-modernism in Geography

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Correct Answer: (A) 3, 1, 2, 4

Solution:

Concept:

The evolution of geographical thought developed through different approaches and schools over time.

Step 1: Identify the earliest stage.

Regional Analysis developed first during the early twentieth century.

It focused on:

- Study of regions
- Areal differentiation
- Unique characteristics of places

Thus:

3 comes first

Step 2: Identify the next development.

After regional analysis, geographers emphasized:

Spatial Organisation

This became important during the quantitative revolution.

Thus:

1 comes next

Step 3: Identify later schools.

Humanistic, Radical and Behavioural schools emerged later as critiques of quantitative geography.

Thus:

2 follows

Step 4: Identify the latest stage.

Post-modernism developed much later in contemporary geography.

Thus:

4 comes last

Step 5: Write the final sequence.

$3 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$

Step 6: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

3, 1, 2, 4

Quick Tip: Regional Geography dominated early geographical thought, while Post-modernism is considered one of the most recent approaches.

3. Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Statement I and the other is labelled as Statement II.

Statement I: The Demographic Transition Theory helps us predict the future population of any area.

Statement II: In the first stage, fertility is high but mortality is low due to medical advancements.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) Both Statements are correct.
- (B) Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect.
- (C) Statement I is incorrect, Statement II is correct.
- (D) Both Statements are incorrect.

Correct Answer: (B) Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect.

Solution:

Concept:

Demographic Transition Theory explains the changes in birth rate, death rate, and population growth as a country develops economically and socially.

Step 1: Examine Statement I.

Demographic Transition Theory studies trends in:

- Birth rate
- Death rate
- Population growth

Using these trends, future population patterns of an area can be estimated.

Hence, Statement I is correct.

Step 2: Examine Statement II.

In the first stage of demographic transition:

- Birth rate is high
- Death rate is also high
- Population growth remains low

Medical advancements reducing mortality occur mainly in the second stage.

Therefore, Statement II is incorrect.

Step 3: Choose the correct option.

Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect.

Quick Tip: In the first stage of Demographic Transition Theory, both birth rate and death rate are high due to poor healthcare and limited technology.

4. Arrange the following continents in descending order of their population growth rate (2010–15):

1. Asia
2. Africa
3. Latin America
4. Europe

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) 2, 3, 1, 4

- (B) 2, 1, 3, 4
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

Correct Answer: (A) 2, 3, 1, 4

Solution:

Concept:

Population growth rate varies among continents depending on birth rate, death rate, healthcare, and economic development.

Step 1: Identify the continent with highest growth rate.

Africa had the highest population growth rate during 2010–15 because of:

- High birth rate
- Improving healthcare
- Declining mortality rate

Thus:

2 comes first

Step 2: Identify the next highest growth rate.

Latin America had moderate population growth, higher than Asia.

Thus:

3 comes second

Step 3: Place Asia in order.

Asia showed significant but comparatively lower growth than Africa and Latin America.

Thus:

1 comes third

Step 4: Identify the lowest growth rate.

Europe had the lowest population growth due to:

- Low fertility rate
- Aging population
- Slow natural increase

Thus:

4 comes last

Step 5: Write the final descending order.

$2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4$

Step 6: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

2, 3, 1, 4

Quick Tip: Africa has consistently shown the highest population growth rate among continents in recent decades.

5. Which pair is NOT correctly matched regarding the components of population change?

- (A) Crude Birth Rate (CBR): $\frac{Bi}{P} \times 1000$
- (B) Crude Death Rate (CDR): $\frac{D}{P} \times 1000$
- (C) Growth Rate: (Births – Deaths) + (In-migration – Out-migration)
- (D) Natural Growth: Births + Deaths

Correct Answer: (D) Natural Growth: Births + Deaths

Solution:

Concept:

Population change depends on births, deaths, and migration.

Step 1: Check Crude Birth Rate (CBR).

CBR is calculated as:

$$\text{CBR} = \frac{\text{Number of live births}}{\text{Total population}} \times 1000$$

where:

- B_i = number of live births
- P = total population

Thus, option (A) is correctly matched.

Step 2: Check Crude Death Rate (CDR).

CDR is calculated as:

$$\text{CDR} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths}}{\text{Total population}} \times 1000$$

where:

- D = number of deaths
- P = total population

Thus, option (B) is correctly matched.

Step 3: Check Growth Rate formula.

Population growth depends on:

$$\text{Population Growth} = (\text{Births} - \text{Deaths}) + (\text{In-migration} - \text{Out-migration})$$

Thus, option (C) is correctly matched.

Step 4: Check Natural Growth formula.

Natural growth is calculated as:

$$\text{Natural Growth} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths}$$

NOT:

$$\text{Natural Growth} = \text{Births} + \text{Deaths}$$

Hence, option (D) is incorrectly matched.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Therefore, the NOT correctly matched pair is:

Natural Growth: Births + Deaths

Quick Tip: Natural population growth always means:

Birth Rate – Death Rate

Migration is not included in natural growth.

6. Consider the following statements about the Human Development Index (HDI):

1. It was created by Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq and Prof. Amartya Sen.
2. The index ranges from 0 to 100.
3. Access to resources is measured by purchasing power in US dollars.

Which is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 1 and 3
- (C) 2 and 3
- (D) All of the above

Correct Answer: (B) 1 and 3

Solution:

Concept:

Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index used to measure overall human development of countries.

It considers:

- Health
- Education
- Standard of living

Step 1: Examine Statement 1.

HDI was developed by:

- Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq
- Prof. Amartya Sen

Thus, Statement 1 is correct.

Step 2: Examine Statement 2.

HDI values range between:

0 and 1

NOT between 0 and 100.

Therefore, Statement 2 is incorrect.

Step 3: Examine Statement 3.

Access to resources and standard of living are measured through:

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)

in US dollars.

Thus, Statement 3 is correct.

Step 4: Identify correct statements.

Correct statements are:

1 and 3

Step 5: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

1 and 3

Quick Tip: HDI values closer to 1 indicate higher human development.

7. Identify the type of farming based on these characteristics:

- Large estates owned by Europeans in colonies.
- Focus on a single crop (Monoculture).
- High capital investment and scientific methods.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) Intensive Subsistence
- (B) Mediterranean Agriculture
- (C) Plantation Agriculture
- (D) Extensive Commercial Grain Farming

Correct Answer: (C) Plantation Agriculture

Solution:

Concept:

Different farming systems are identified based on land ownership, crop pattern, labour, and investment.

Step 1: Analyze the ownership pattern.

The question mentions:

Large estates owned by Europeans in colonies

This is a major feature of plantation farming developed during the colonial period.

Step 2: Analyze crop pattern.

The farming system focuses on:

Single crop cultivation (Monoculture)

Plantation agriculture commonly grows:

- Tea
- Coffee
- Rubber
- Sugarcane
- Cocoa

on large estates.

Step 3: Analyze investment pattern.

Plantation agriculture requires:

- High capital investment
- Scientific management
- Processing units
- Skilled labour

Thus, all given characteristics match plantation agriculture.

Step 4: Eliminate other options.

- Intensive subsistence farming → small farms with high labour input
- Mediterranean agriculture → fruit and vine cultivation
- Extensive grain farming → mechanized wheat farming

These do not match the given features.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

Plantation Agriculture

Quick Tip: Plantation agriculture is usually export-oriented and practiced mainly in tropical regions.

8. Arrange the following primary activities from 'Most Ancient' to 'Modern':

1. Commercial Livestock Rearing
2. Nomadic Herding
3. Gathering
4. Market Gardening

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Correct Answer: (A) 3, 2, 1, 4

Solution:

Concept:

Primary activities evolved gradually with human civilization and technological development.

Step 1: Identify the most ancient activity.

The earliest human economic activity was:

Gathering

Primitive humans depended on:

- Fruits
- Roots
- Forest products
- Hunting

Thus:

3 comes first

Step 2: Identify the next stage.

After gathering, humans began:

Nomadic Herding

People moved from place to place with animals in search of pasture.

Thus:

2 comes second

Step 3: Identify commercial livestock rearing.

Commercial livestock rearing developed later with:

- Scientific breeding
- Ranching
- Commercial production

Thus:

1 comes third

Step 4: Identify the most modern activity.

Market gardening is a highly specialized and intensive modern agricultural activity.

It focuses on:

- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Urban market supply

Thus:

4 comes last

Step 5: Write the final order.

$$3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4$$

Step 6: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

3, 2, 1, 4

Quick Tip: Gathering and hunting are considered the oldest human economic activities in geography.

9. Match the following 'Shifting Cultivation' names with their regions:

Name	Region
A. Milpa	1. Northeast India
B. Jhumming	2. Central America/Mexico
C. Ladang	3. Vietnam
D. Ray	4. Indonesia/Malaysia

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Correct Answer: (A) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

Solution:**Concept:**

Shifting cultivation is known by different local names in different parts of the world.

Step 1: Identify Milpa region.

Milpa is the local name of shifting cultivation in:

Central America/Mexico

Thus:

$A \rightarrow 2$

Step 2: Identify Jhumming region.

Jhumming or Jhum cultivation is practiced mainly in:

Northeast India

Thus:

$B \rightarrow 1$

Step 3: Identify Ladang region.

Ladang is practiced in:

Indonesia/Malaysia

Thus:

$C \rightarrow 4$

Step 4: Identify Ray region.

Ray is the local name used in:

Vietnam

Thus:

$$D \rightarrow 3$$

Step 5: Write the final matching.

$$A - 2, B - 1, C - 4, D - 3$$

Step 6: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

$$A - 2, B - 1, C - 4, D - 3$$

Quick Tip: Shifting cultivation is known by many regional names such as Jhum, Milpa, Ladang and Ray.

10.

Statement I: Mediterranean agriculture is highly specialized commercial agriculture.

Statement II: Viticulture (grape cultivation) is a specialty of the Mediterranean region.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) Statement I is the cause of Statement II.
- (B) Both statements are correct and II explains I.
- (C) Both statements are correct but II does not explain I.
- (D) Statement II is incorrect.

Correct Answer: (B) Both statements are correct and II explains I.

Solution:

Concept:

Mediterranean agriculture is a commercial farming system characterized by specialized crop

cultivation.

Step 1: Examine Statement I.

Mediterranean agriculture is highly specialized because it focuses on:

- Citrus fruits
- Olives
- Grapes
- Vegetables

for commercial markets.

Hence, Statement I is correct.

Step 2: Examine Statement II.

Viticulture means:

Grape cultivation

Grape farming is one of the most important specialties of the Mediterranean region.

Thus, Statement II is also correct.

Step 3: Determine relationship between statements.

Viticulture is an example showing why Mediterranean agriculture is highly specialized.

Therefore, Statement II correctly explains Statement I.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

Both statements are correct and II explains I

Quick Tip: Mediterranean agriculture is famous worldwide for grapes, olives and citrus fruit cultivation.