

CUET 2026 Geography May 14 Shift 1

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 Town Type with its Example

Type	Example
A. Garrison Town	1. Varanasi
B. Administrative Town	2. Mhow/Ambala
C. Religious Town	3. Chandigarh
D. Mining Town	4. Jharia

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

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

Solution:

Concept: Towns are often classified based on their dominant functions or the primary activities that led to their development. In the context of the Indian urban landscape, these classifications help in understanding the socio-economic and historical background of a city.

Step 1: Analyze the types and match them with examples.

- **A. Garrison (Cantonment) Towns:** These are towns established primarily for military purposes or as army bases. **Mhow** and **Ambala** are classic examples of such towns in India.
- **B. Administrative Towns:** These towns function as headquarters for government administration, such as state capitals. **Chandigarh** was specifically planned and developed as an administrative town.
- **C. Religious/Cultural Towns:** These are ancient or medieval towns that grew around significant religious sites or cultural centers. **Varanasi** is one of the most prominent religious cities in the world.
- **D. Mining Towns:** These towns develop in mineral-rich areas where the primary activity is extraction. **Jharia** (famous for coal) is a prime example.

Step 2: Verify the correct combination.

Matching the pairs based on the analysis:

$$A \rightarrow 2, B \rightarrow 3, C \rightarrow 1, D \rightarrow 4$$

This corresponds to Option A.

Quick Tip: To solve matching questions quickly, find the pair you are most certain about first. For instance, knowing Varanasi is a Religious Town (C-1) often allows you to eliminate several incorrect options immediately.

2. Which of the following factors affects the rural settlement patterns?

1. Water Supply
2. Upland (dry points)
3. Defense
4. Planned Settlements

(A) 1 and 2

- (B) 1, 2, and 3
(C) All of the above
(D) 1, 2, and 4

Correct Answer: (C) All of the above

Solution:

Concept: Rural settlements are influenced by various geographical, social, and economic factors. The pattern and location of these settlements are rarely accidental; they are chosen based on survival needs and strategic advantages.

Step 1: Evaluate each factor.

- **1. Water Supply:** Most rural settlements are located near water bodies like rivers, lakes, or springs (wet point settlements) because water is essential for drinking, cooking, and agriculture.
- **2. Upland (dry points):** In low-lying or flood-prone areas, people choose to settle on higher ground (dry points) to protect their homes and livestock from flooding.
- **3. Defense:** Historically, during times of political instability or tribal warfare, settlements were built on defensible sites like hills or islands to provide protection against invaders.
- **4. Planned Settlements:** These are settlements established by the government where housing and infrastructure are provided on acquired land, such as the canal colonies in India.

Step 2: Conclusion.

All four listed points are significant factors that determine where and how rural communities are established. Therefore, "All of the above" is the correct choice.

Quick Tip: Remember the terms "Wet Point" and "Dry Point." Wet point settlements are attracted to water, while dry point settlements are built to avoid water (flooding). Both are fundamental concepts in human geography.

3. Statement I: Megalopolis is a Greek word meaning 'Great City'.

Statement II: The term was popularized by Jean Gottman in 1957.

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

Correct Answer: (A) Both are correct.

Solution:

Concept: The concept of a Megalopolis refers to a chain of roughly adjacent metropolitan areas, which may be somewhat separated or may blend into a continuous urban region. This term is used in urban geography to describe massive urban agglomerations.

Step 1: Evaluate Statement I.

The word "Megalopolis" is indeed derived from Greek.

- *Megalo* means great or large.
- *Polis* means city.

Therefore, the literal translation is "Great City". Statement I is correct.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement II.

While the word has ancient roots, its modern application in geography was popularized by the French geographer Jean Gottmann. In 1957, he used it to describe the extensive urban region of the northeastern United States (the BosWash corridor). Statement II is correct.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Are factually accurate, the correct option is A.

Quick Tip: To remember this, associate "Jean Gottmann" with the "Boston to Washington" urban sprawl. He viewed a Megalopolis not just as a large city, but as a complex "super-metropolitan" region where multiple cities grow into each other.

4. Match the Census definition of Urban Areas in India (2011):

1. Minimum Population: 5,000
2. Non-Agri workers: 75%

3. Density: 400 persons/sq km

Which are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (D) 1, 2, and 3

Solution:

Concept: The Census of India 2011 identifies urban areas using two classifications: Statutory Towns and Census Towns. While Statutory Towns are defined by administrative status, Census Towns must satisfy three specific demographic and economic criteria simultaneously to be recognized as urban.

Step 1: Verify the criteria for a Census Town.

According to the official guidelines, a settlement is classified as a Census Town if it meets the following thresholds:

- **1. Minimum Population:** A population of at least **5,000** persons.
- **2. Occupational Structure:** At least **75%** of the male main working population must be engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.
- **3. Density of Population:** A density of at least **400 persons per square kilometer** (or roughly 1,000 per square mile).

Step 2: Evaluate the given statements.

Comparing the points with the census standards:

- Statement 1 matches the population requirement.
- Statement 2 matches the labor force requirement.
- Statement 3 matches the density requirement.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Since all three points are essential components of the 2011 Census definition for urban areas, the correct option is D.

Quick Tip: To remember the "75%" rule, note that it specifically applies to the male main working population in the census definition. Even if a town is large and dense, it remains "rural" in the eyes of the census if the majority of its workers are still engaged in farming.

5. Identify the odd one out based on the 'Golden Quadrilateral' cities:

- (A) Delhi
- (B) Mumbai
- (C) Bengaluru
- (D) Kolkata

Correct Answer: (C) Bengaluru

Solution:

Concept: The Golden Quadrilateral is a national highway network in India that connects the four major metropolitan cities, forming a quadrilateral. It is the largest highway project in India and the fifth-longest in the world.

Step 1: Identify the primary vertices of the Golden Quadrilateral.

The network connects the four "corners" of India:

- **North:** Delhi
- **West:** Mumbai
- **East:** Kolkata
- **South:** Chennai

Step 2: Analyze the options provided.

Comparing the list with the official vertices:

- Delhi (Option A) is a primary vertex.
- Mumbai (Option B) is a primary vertex.
- Kolkata (Option D) is a primary vertex.
- **Bengaluru** (Option C) is a major city that the highway passes through (on the Mumbai-Chennai leg), but it is not one of the four defining vertices of the quadrilateral.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Since Bengaluru is not one of the four main anchor cities (the fourth being Chennai), it is the odd one out.

Quick Tip: To remember the Golden Quadrilateral cities, think of the four largest metros located at the cardinal directions: Delhi (N), Mumbai (W), Chennai (S), and Kolkata (E).

6. Arrange the following states in descending order of their Literacy Rate (as per Census 2011):

1. Kerala
2. Mizoram
3. Goa
4. Tripura

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

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

Solution:

Concept: Literacy rate is a key demographic indicator used by the Census of India to measure the educational status of the population. It is defined as the percentage of the population aged seven years and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language.

Step 1: Identify the literacy rates for the listed states.

Based on the 2011 Census data, the literacy rates for the states are:

- **1. Kerala:** 94.00% (The highest in India)
- **2. Mizoram:** 91.33%
- **3. Goa:** 88.70%
- **4. Tripura:** 87.22%

Step 2: Arrange in descending order.

Descending order means moving from the highest value to the lowest:

$$94.00\% \text{ (Kerala)} > 91.33\% \text{ (Mizoram)} > 88.70\% \text{ (Goa)} > 87.22\% \text{ (Tripura)}$$

The numerical sequence is 1, 2, 3, 4.

Quick Tip: To quickly solve literacy rate ranking questions, remember that Kerala and Mizoram almost always occupy the top two spots among Indian states. This often helps eliminate half the options immediately.

7. Match the Migration Type with the Reason (Census 2011):

Migration Stream	Dominant Reason
A. Rural to Urban (Male)	1. Marriage
B. Rural to Rural (Female)	2. Work/Employment
C. Urban to Urban	3. Better opportunities/Business
D. Urban to Rural	4. Retirement/Health

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

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

Solution:

Concept: Migration in India is largely driven by socio-economic factors. According to the 2011 Census, the reasons for migration differ significantly between genders and between different spatial streams (rural-urban).

Step 1: Analyze the migration streams and dominant reasons.

- **A. Rural to Urban (Male):** This is primarily a "pull" factor migration where men move from villages to cities in search of **Work/Employment** (2).

- **B. Rural to Rural (Female):** This is the most common form of migration in India, almost entirely driven by **Marriage** (1) due to the social custom of patrilocality.
- **C. Urban to Urban:** People already living in urban areas often move to other urban areas seeking **Better opportunities/Business** (3) or professional growth.
- **D. Urban to Rural:** This "reverse migration" is often associated with people returning to their home villages post-career for **Retirement/Health** (4) or due to the high cost of living in cities.

Step 2: Conclusion.

By matching the pairs:

$$A \rightarrow 2, B \rightarrow 1, C \rightarrow 3, D \rightarrow 4$$

This aligns perfectly with Option A.

Quick Tip: In the Indian context, if you see "Female" and "Migration" together, the reason is almost always "Marriage" (over 65% of cases). Conversely, "Male" migration is overwhelmingly linked to "Employment." This distinction helps solve most migration questions quickly.

8. Statement I: The density of population in India is 382 persons per sq km.

Statement II: Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest density of 17 persons per sq km.

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

Correct Answer: (A) Both are correct.

Solution:

Concept: Population density is defined as the number of persons per unit area (usually per square kilometer). It is a crucial measure for understanding the concentration of population and the pressure on land resources. In India, this data is primarily derived from the decennial Census.

Step 1: Evaluate Statement I.

According to the Census of India 2011, the average population density of the country was recorded as 382 persons per square kilometer. This marked an increase from 325 persons per sq km in the 2001 Census. Therefore, Statement I is correct.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement II.

The distribution of population density across Indian states is highly uneven due to varied topography and climatic conditions.

- Bihar has the highest density (1,106 persons per sq km).
- Arunachal Pradesh, characterized by mountainous terrain and dense forests, has the lowest density in the country, with only 17 persons per square kilometer.

Therefore, Statement II is also correct.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Since both statements are factually accurate according to the 2011 Census data, the correct option is A.

Quick Tip: To remember these figures, associate "382" with the national average and "17" with the remote, mountainous frontier of Arunachal Pradesh. Knowing the extremes (Bihar at the high end and Arunachal at the low end) is a common requirement in geography exams.

9. Which of the following is NOT a 'Main Worker' as per Indian Census?

- (A) Works for at least 183 days a year.
- (B) Works for at least 6 months a year.
- (C) Works for less than 183 days a year.
- (D) Both A and B.

Correct Answer: (C) Works for less than 183 days a year.

Solution:

Concept: The Census of India classifies the population into three categories based on their economic activity: workers (main and marginal) and non-workers. This classification is determined by the duration of work during the reference year.

Step 1: Understand the definition of a 'Main Worker'.

A Main Worker is a person who has worked for the major part of the reference period. Specifically, according to the Indian Census:

- A person must work for at least 183 days in a year.
- This is equivalent to at least 6 months in a year.

Therefore, options A and B correctly describe a Main Worker.

Step 2: Identify the 'Marginal Worker' category.

A person who works for less than 183 days (or less than 6 months) in a year is classified as a Marginal Worker.

Step 3: Conclusion.

As the question asks which of the options is **NOT** a Main Worker, Option C is the correct choice because it describes a marginal worker.

Quick Tip: To remember the threshold, just think of "half a year." Since a year has 365 days, half is approximately 183 days. If you are on the "better" side of that half, you are a Main Worker; if you are on the "lesser" side, you are a Marginal Worker.

10. Match the Crop with its leading producer state:

Crop	State
A. Rice	1. Uttar Pradesh
B. Wheat	2. West Bengal
C. Coffee	3. Maharashtra
D. Jowar	4. Karnataka

- (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: Agricultural production in India varies significantly by state due to differences in soil types, climate, and irrigation facilities. Leading producer states for major crops are identified through annual agricultural statistics.

Step 1: Match each crop with its leading producer.

Based on standard geographical data :

- **A. Rice:** Historically, **West Bengal** (2) is the largest producer of rice in India, particularly due to the fertile deltaic regions and high rainfall.
- **B. Wheat:** **Uttar Pradesh** (1) is the leading producer of wheat, benefiting from the extensive canal systems and fertile alluvial soil of the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- **C. Coffee:** Over 70% of India's coffee is produced in **Karnataka** (4), especially in the districts of Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan.
- **D. Jowar:** **Maharashtra** (3) is the primary producer of this coarse cereal, as it is well-suited to the semi-arid conditions of the Deccan Plateau.

Step 2: Verify the combination.

The matched sequence is:

$$A \rightarrow 2, B \rightarrow 1, C \rightarrow 4, D \rightarrow 3$$

This corresponds exactly to Option A.

Quick Tip: To remember leading producers, associate the crop with its ideal climate: Rice needs high water (West Bengal), Wheat needs moderate cool temperatures (Uttar Pradesh), Coffee needs hilly tropical terrain (Karnataka), and Jowar needs dry regions (Maharashtra).