



**Rajasthan Public Service Commission**

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER EXAMINATION**

# **Geography & Natural Resources**

**Comprehensive Theory with Practice questions  
and Previous year solved questions**





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## Geography & Natural Resources

### RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination

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# Preface

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The compilation of this book **Geography & Natural Resources** was motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) Assistant Engineer Examination.

It would be worth mentioning that the entire syllabus of General Studies for RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination consists of five subjects namely Current Affairs, History & Culture, General Science, G.K. & Economic Developments with special reference to Rajasthan, and Geography & Natural Resources. The textbook of all five subjects will have special focus to Rajasthan which will help the aspirants immensely.

This particular textbook provides all the requirements of the students, i.e. comprehensive coverage of theory, fundamental concepts and objective type questions articulated in a lucid language. The concise presentation will help the readers grasp the theory of this subject with clarity and apply them with ease to solve objective questions quickly. This book not only covers the syllabus of RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination in a holistic manner but is also useful for other examinations conducted by RPSC. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book clarifies all the concepts. We have put in our sincere efforts to present detailed theory and MCQs without compromising the accuracy of answers.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.



**B. Singh (Ex. IES)**

With Best Wishes

**B. Singh (Ex. IES)**

CMD, MADE EASY Group

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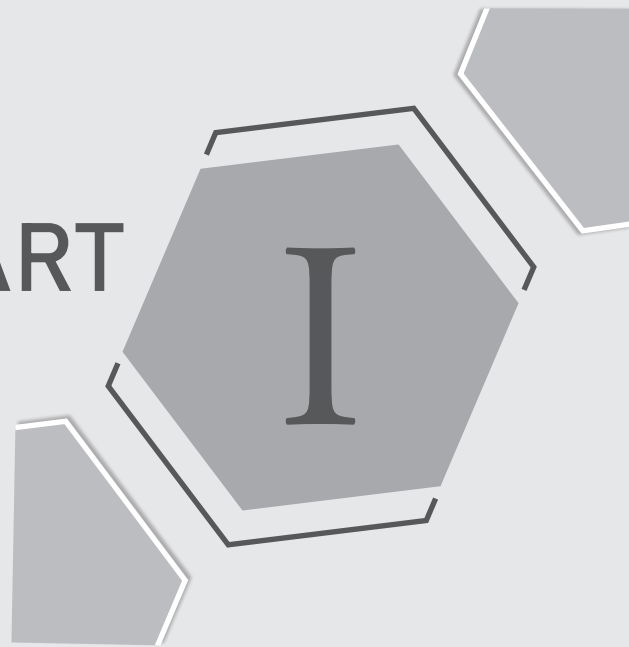
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PART



# Indian Geography



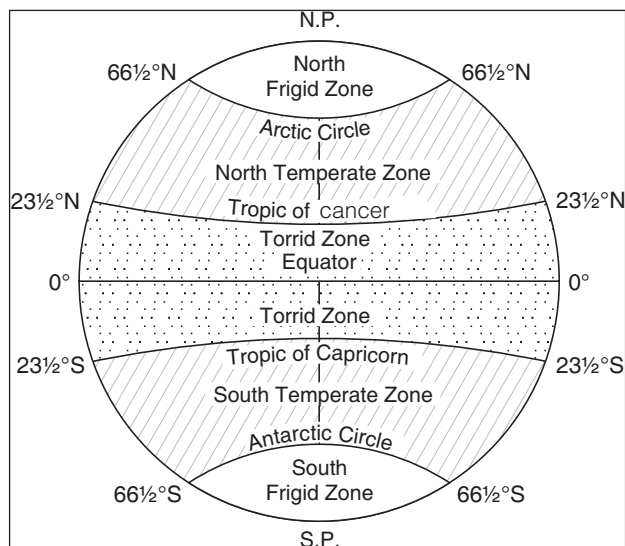
# General Aspects of Geography

# I

## CHAPTER

### Latitude

- It is the angular distance of a point on the earth's surface, measured in degrees from the centre of the earth. It varies from 0 to 90° North and 0 to 90° South.
- Latitudes are circular lines which are parallel to the equator, which lies midway between the poles. Hence, these lines are called **parallels of latitude**. The latitudes are also called as temperature coordinates because with the increase in latitudinal distance towards the poles, the temperature reduces.
- The midday sun is exactly overhead at least once a year on all latitudes in between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This area, therefore receives the maximum heat and is called the **Torrid Zone** (or Tropical Zone).
- The areas bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle in the northern hemisphere, and the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic Circle in the southern hemisphere, have moderate temperature, hence called **Temperate Zones** (or Mild Zone).

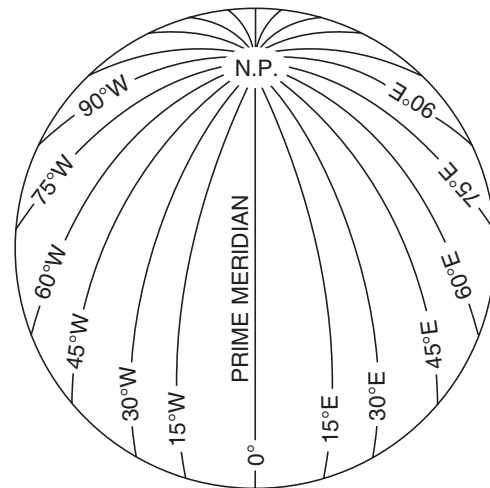


- Areas bounded by the Arctic Circle and North Pole, and the Antarctic Circle and South pole are

called **Frigid Zones**. These zones are very cold as the sun does not rise above the horizon.

### Longitude

- It is an angular distance measured in degrees along the equator east or west of the Prime Meridian (0°). It varies from 0 to 180° E and 0 to 180° W. It is also called as time coordinates.
- Meridians are a series of semicircles that run from pole to pole passing through the equator.
- Longitudes are imaginary lines joining north pole with south pole.



- The Prime Meridian is at 0° and is known as the **Greenwich line** as it passes through Greenwich near London, where the British Royal Observatory is located.
- Longitudes have one very important function i.e. they determine Local Time in relation to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- Maximum distance between two longitude lies over equator and minimum distance over poles, where they converge.
- In India, the longitude of 82½° E is treated as the Standard Meridian. The Local Time at meridian is taken as the Standard Time for the whole country. It is known as the **Indian Standard Time** (IST).

### International Date Line

- It is an imaginary line drawn at 180° longitude, avoiding the continuous land parts.
- International Date Line passes through Arctic Ocean, Bering Strait, Pacific Ocean, Antarctica, Fiji, Tonga and other islands.
- It is also the longitude where the date changes by exactly one day when it is crossed. If a traveller crossing the date line from east to west, he loses a day and while crossing the date line from west to east, he gains a day.

#### Do You Know?

- The midday sun never shines overhead on any latitude beyond the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- 180° East and 180° West meridians are the same line which is called the **International Date Line**.
- Russia has 11 and China has 5 time zones, whereas USA and Canada both have six time zones (the Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain, Newfoundland and Pacific time zones).

### Motions of Earth

- The earth is a planet of the solar system. It is not static but has two types of motions:
  - (a) Rotational Motion
  - (b) Revolutinal (or Orbital) Motion

#### (a) Rotation of Earth

- Rotation is a spinning of earth continuously on its own axis from west to east once in every 24 hours, causing day and night.
- Rotation is also responsible for generation of centrifugal force which is maximum over equator. This force is responsible for equatorial bulding and polar flattening.

#### (b) Revolution of Earth

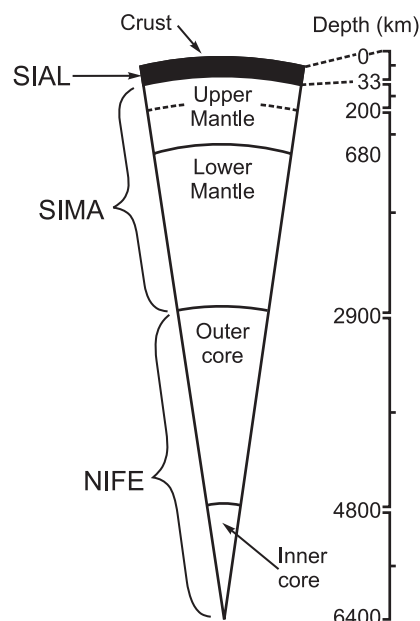
- The earth also revolves around the sun in an orbit once in about 365 days and 6 hours, causing formation of seasons and the year. This motion is called Revolution of earth (also called annual movement).

### Varying lengths of Day and Night

- The axis of the earth is inclined to the plane of earth's orbit at an angle of 66½° giving rise to different seasons and varying lengths of day & night.

- The sun is vertically overhead at the equator on 21 March and 21 September and these two days are termed as **Equinoxes** (equal length of day & night in both the hemisphere).
- On 21 June, the sun is vertically overhead at the Tropic of Cancer (23½° N). This is known as **summer solstice**, when the northern hemisphere will have its longest day and shortest night.
- On 22 December, the sun is vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn (23½° S). This is known as **winter solstice**, when the southern hemisphere will have its longest day and shortest night.
- Beyond the Arctic Circle (66½° N) and Antarctic Circle (66½° S) darkness lasts for 6 months and daylight is continuous for the remaining 6 months.

### Structure of Earth



- The earth as a whole has been divided into three broad zones:
  - 1. Crust (SIAL) :** The outermost layer of earth is called as crust. It is free to drift over a layer called Asthenosphere.
    - Crust comprises two distinct parts, the upper crust or continents made up of granitic rocks (silica and aluminium). The lower crust also called ocean floor made up of basaltic rocks (silica, iron and magnesium).
    - Granitic rocks are lighter than the basaltic rocks, therefore it can be said that continents floating on the denser oceans.
  - 2. Mantle (SIMA) :** The immediate beneath layer of crust or lithosphere is called as mantle. It is about

2400 km thick and contains most of the mass of earth. It is composed of very dense rocks rich in ferro-magnesium silicates. It is divided into two parts:

**(a) Upper Mantle :** It is about 650 km thick solid layer floats over asthenosphere. Crust and upper mantle together forms lithosphere, which makes up the earth's plate. Asthenosphere is a layer of semi molten rocks moves. It divides upper mantle to lower mantle.

**(b) Lower Mantle :** The lower mantle is solid and is about 2700 km thick. Though temperatures are higher here but the tremendous pressures keep the rock material from melting.

**3. Core (NIFE) :** It is the innermost part of the earth and it comprises of outer core and inner core.

**(a) Outer Core :** The outer core is in liquid state having thickness of 1900 km. It comprises of **molten iron** and **nickel**, formed as a result of the extremely high temperature. This liquid outer core controls the earth's magnetic field.

**(b) Inner Core:** The earth's innermost core is about 1600 km thick and is made up of **solid iron** and **nickel**. The inner core is incredibly hot, with temperature reaching about 5,500°C and is subjected to a pressure of about 4 million atmospheres. It is this extreme pressure that keeps the inner core in a solid state.

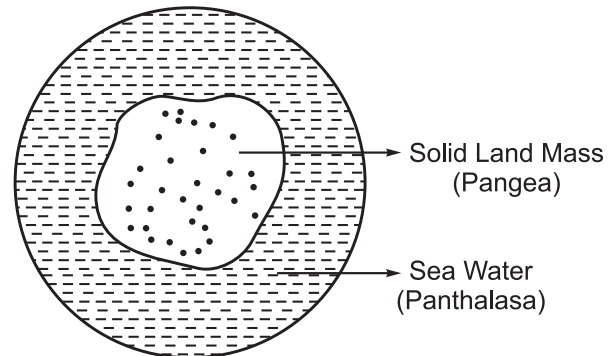
### Formation of Continents

- The earth is formed around 4.5 billion (4500 million) years ago. Broadly earth is composed to oceans and continents. Around 70% part of earth surface is composed of oceans (Hydrosphere) whereas remaining 29.2% is represented by the continents (Lithosphere).
- More than 75% of the total land area of the globe is situated to the north of the equator, therefore the northern hemisphere is also known as the '**Land Hemisphere**' and the Southern hemisphere as the '**Water Hemisphere**'. It is believed that the continents are moving away from each other, Several theories have been propounded to explain this phenomenon:

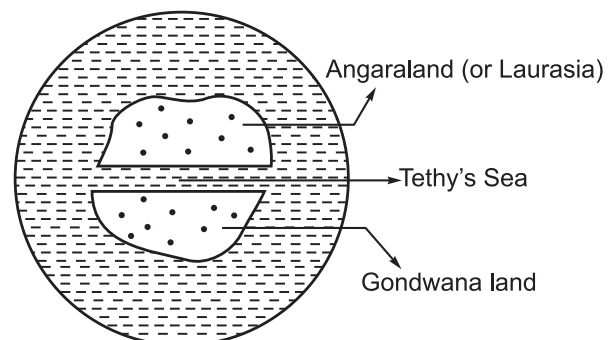
#### Continental Drift Theory (CDT):

- Initially F.B. Tayer gave theory of horizontal displacement of continent in 1908 to explain formation of fold mountain.
- CDT was proposed by famous German

Geographer, Prof. **Alfred Wagner** in 1924. According to this theory, before 200 million years ago, there was a single land mass surrounded by water (Panthalasa) which was named as **Pangea**.



- About 200 million years ago, pangea got cracked into two parts i.e. (a) **Angaraland** (or Laurasia) (b) **Gondwana land**, and ocean water filled in it. As a result, a narrow sea was created, known as **Tethy's Sea**.



- During further course of time, Angaraland was cracked into:
  - North American Plate
  - Eurasian Plate
 Whereas Gondwana land was cracked into 5 plates:
  - African Plate
  - South American Plate
  - Indian Plate
  - Australian Plate
  - Antarctic Plate

### Earthquake

- A sudden shaking or vibration in the earth's crust is called an earthquake. According to the theory of plate tectonics, the earth's crust is divided into sections called plate, which are in constant motion, travelling independently over the semi-molten mantle of the earth and releases energy in the form of seismic waves.

- Earthquake can also be triggered by molten rock moving up into the chamber of a volcano before eruption. Most earthquake are very slight that humans cannot detect them, but the vibrations of major earthquake are catastrophically destructive.
- The place of origin of an earthquake below the surface is called the seismic focus or **Hypocentre**, which can be a few kilometers or several 100 kilometers deep. The point on the earth surface directly above focus, is called the **Epicentre**.

#### Types of Earthquake waves

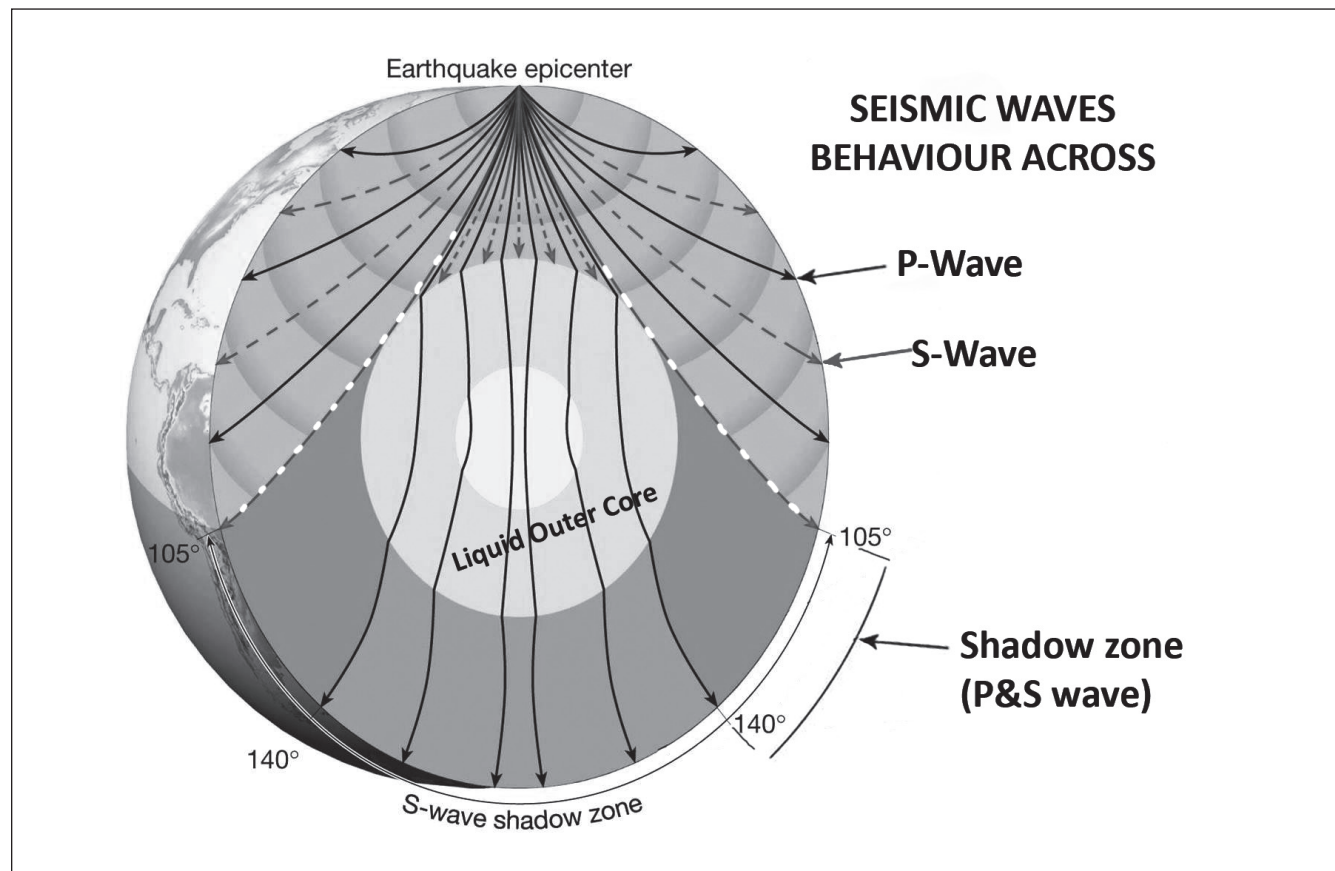
- **P-waves (Primary waves):** Particles affected by P-waves moves to and fro in the direction of propagation of waves. It is also called compressional waves. It moves fastest among all wave can travels in all solid, liquid and gaseous medium.
- **S-waves (Secondary Waves):** It is also called transverse or distortional waves. These waves are of very high frequency waves, can travel only through solid medium.
- **L-waves (Surface Waves) :** These waves have low frequency, long wavelength and transverse vibration.
- They are most destructive in nature and recorded last on the seismograph.

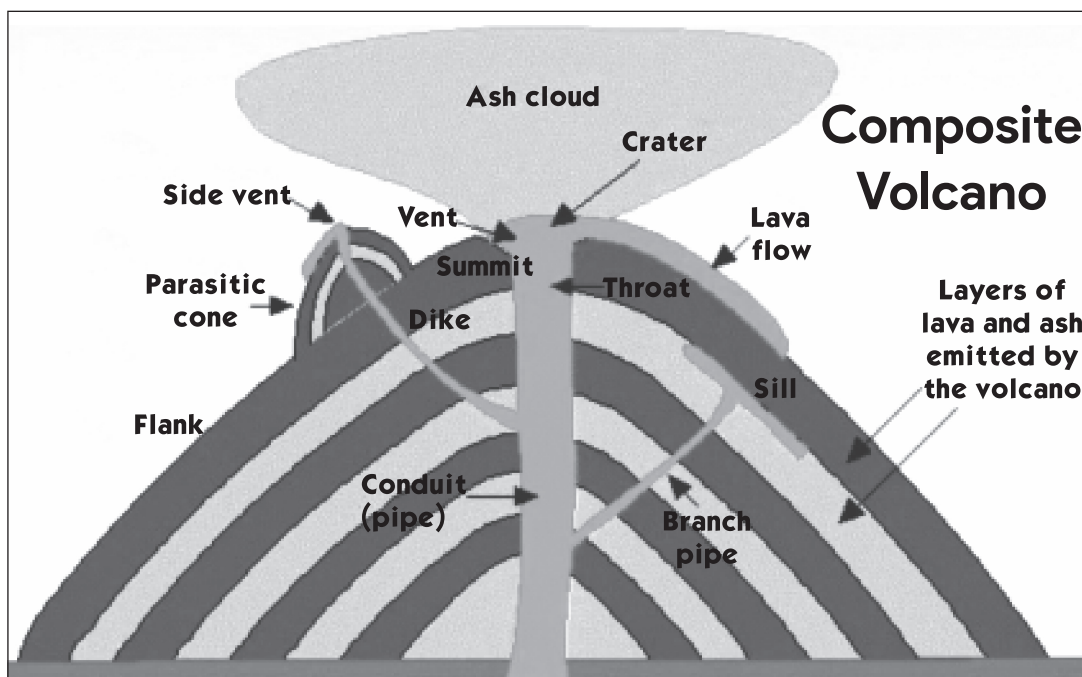
#### Note:

- **Isoseist line** joins places at which earthquake arrival time is same from **epicentre**, whereas isoseismal line joins places having some intensity of earthquake.
- **Mohorovics** was the first who gave information about interior structure of earth on the basis of seismological evidences.
- Magnitude of earthquake (energy released) measured by **Richter scale** whereas intensity is measured by **Mercalli scale**.

#### Volcanoes

- A volcano is a sudden opening in the crust of the earth, caused by the earth's interior movements. A volcanic mountain forms when molten rock material from earth's mantle forces its way through the crust and accumulates like a cone to form volcanic ridges and mountain.
- This hot molten rock material appearing at the surface of a volcano is called **lava** (under the earth surface it is known as magma). It contains hot gases, water vapour, ash and small stones. Volcanoes usually form near hot spots within the earth's crust or at the marginal area of tectonic plates.





There are several types of volcanoes like:

- (i) **Effusive volcanoes:** Volcanoes that erupt without any noise.
- (ii) **Explosive volcanoes:** Explode with a lot of noise.
- (iii) **Active volcanoes:** Volcanoes that continuously send out lava (like Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mt. Etna in Sicily).
- (iv) **Dormant volcanoes:** It has long periods of quiet between two successive eruptions and are potentially dangerous (for e.g. Narcondum in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mt. St. Helens in USA and Pinatubo in Philippines).
- (v) **Extinct volcanoes:** Volcanoes that have ceased all activities (like Mt. Kilimanjaro).

#### Note:

##### Composition of Atmosphere

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (i) Nitrogen — 78%    | (ii) Oxygen — 21%           |
| (iii) Argon — 0.93%   | (iv) Carbon dioxide - 0.03% |
| (v) Neon — 0.0018%    | (vi) Helium — 0.0005%       |
| (vii) Ozone — 0.0006% | (viii) Hydrogen — 0.00005%  |

- **Tsunami:** 'Tsu-na-mi' is a Japanese word which means **oncoming oceanic waves**. These waves are very long and with less oscillation which originate in the oceans due to earthquake that occur on the ocean-bed. From the Tsunami point of view, **Pacific ocean** is in the most dangerous position.
- In October 2007, India installed the most advanced **Tsunami Warning System** at **Hyderabad**.
- Volcanic island in ocean are known as 'Nuclei of Future continents'.





**▶ GEOGRAPHY & NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Q.1** Which is the correct pair?
- | <u>Main River</u> |   | <u>Tributary</u> |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| (a) Colorado      | - | St. Maurice      |
| (b) Mackenzie     | - | Gila             |
| (c) Lawrence      | - | Peace            |
| (d) Nile          | - | Bahr-el-ghazal   |
- Q.2** Which of the following is not a marginal sea of Atlantic ocean?
- (a) Celtic Sea                      (b) Bothnian Sea  
(c) Laptev Sea                      (d) Celebes Sea
- Q.3** Match the following with the help of codes given below -
- |                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Karakum       | 1. Iran                    |
| B. Dasht-e-kavir | 2. Turkmenistan            |
| C. Kyzylkum      | 3. China                   |
| D. Ordos         | 4. Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan |
- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| (d) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
- Q.4** One horned Rhinoceros is mainly found in which state of India?
- (a) Assam                              - Bihar  
(b) Arunachal Pradesh              - Tripura  
(c) Assam                              - West Bengal  
(d) Arunachal Pradesh              - Mizoram
- Q.5** What was the old name of Jim Corbett National Park?
- (a) Hailey National Park  
(b) Victoria National Park  
(c) Lord Curzon National Park  
(d) Himalaya National Park
- Q.6** Which is the incorrect pair?
- | <u>Protected areas</u> |   | <u>Districts</u> |
|------------------------|---|------------------|
| (a) Ramgarh            | - | Bundi            |
| Vishdhari              |   |                  |
| (b) Kesarbagh          | - | Dhaulpur         |
| (c) Bassi              | - | Jaipur           |
| (d) Sawai              | - | Sawai            |
| Mansingh               | - | Madhopur         |
- Q.7** In 2014-15 the maximum and minimum area under forests in Rajasthan was reported in which of the following pair?
- (a) Udaipur                              - Churu  
(b) Banswara                              - Jaisalmer  
(c) Baran                                      - Barmer  
(d) Chittorgarh                              - Bikaner
- Q.8** Which physical division of Rajasthan is a part of Malwa Plateau?
- (a) Hadoti plateau                      (b) Chambal plain  
(c) Luni plain                              (d) Bhorat plateau
- Q.9** Which is the incorrect pair?
- | <u>Livestock</u> |   | <u>Breed</u> |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| (a) Sheep        | - | Magra        |
| (b) Buffalo      | - | Ongole       |
| (c) Goat         | - | Sirohi       |
| (d) Camel        | - | Marwari      |
- Q.10** Red-loamy soil is found in which districts of Rajasthan?
- (a) Kota                                      - Chittorgarh  
(b) Baran                                      - Jhalawar  
(c) Udaipur                                      - Dungarpur  
(d) Ajmer                                      - Pali
- Q.11** Arabala range of Vindhyan formation is found in which part of Rajasthan?
- (a) Kota                                      - Jhalawar  
(b) Bundi                                      - Sawai Madhopur  
(c) Banswara                                      - Dungarpur  
(d) Udaipur                                      - Chittorgarh

- Q.12** As per production in year 2016-17 which are the major metallic minerals in Rajasthan?  
 1. Lead and Zinc    2. Copper ore  
 3. Iron ore            4. Bauxite  
 (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4    (b) 1, 3 and 4  
 (c) 1, 2 and 4        (d) 1, 2 and 3
- Q.13** As per the Census 2011 which districts of Rajasthan are showing child (0-6 years) sex - ratio below 850 females per 1000 males?  
 (a) Karauli and Ganganagar  
 (b) Karauli and Sikar  
 (c) Jhunjhunu and Karauli  
 (d) Jhunjhunu and Sikar
- Q.14** In which year the Government of Rajasthan has framed Rajasthan Biological Diversity Rules?  
 (a) 1994                    (b) 2002  
 (c) 2010                    (d) 2015
- Q.15** Match the following and select the correct answer using the codes given below -
- | <u>Forest Produce</u> | <u>Trees</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| A. Timber             | 1. Khair     |
| B. Charcoal           | 2. Teak      |
| C. Katha (Catechin)   | 3. Tendu     |
| D. Country Cigarettes | 4. Dhokda    |
- Codes
- | A     | B | C | D |
|-------|---|---|---|
| (a) 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (c) 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| (d) 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
- Q.16** Which of the following sites of Rajasthan have been selected as 'SOLAR CITY' by the ministry of New and Renewable energy?  
 (a) Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer  
 (b) Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner  
 (c) Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur  
 (d) Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer
- Q.17** 'Resurgent Rajasthan Partnership Summit-2015' was held at -  
 (a) Sitapura Jaipur  
 (b) Kukas-Jaipur  
 (c) Bhiwadi - Alwar  
 (d) Boranada - Jodhpur
- Q.18** Sajjangerh Biological Park is located in which district of Rajasthan?  
 (a) Jaipur  
 (b) Udaipur  
 (c) Ajmer  
 (d) Jodhpur
- Q.19** The great boundary fault is situated in which part of Rajasthan?  
 (a) North-East  
 (b) South-East  
 (c) North-West  
 (d) South-West
- Q.20** Lalsot, 'Ravsola' and 'Bomani' place are related to which mineral?  
 (a) Manganese  
 (b) Tungsten  
 (c) Copper  
 (d) Iron-Ore

## ANSWER KEY

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d)  | 2. (*)  | 3. (a)  | 4. (c)  | 5. (a)  | 6. (c)  | 7. (a)  | 8. (a)  | 9. (b)  |
| 10. (c) | 11. (b) | 12. (d) | 13. (d) | 14. (c) | 15. (b) | 16. (d) | 17. (a) | 18. (b) |
| 19. (b) | 20. (d) |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |