

SOCIAL STUDIES (GEOGRAPHY)

CHAPTER 01: INDIA – SIZE AND LOCATION

(Extra Q&A)

1. Why is the difference between the duration of day and night hardly felt at Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?

The day and night are nearly of the same duration at the equator. As Kanyakumari is quite near the equator at 8°4'N the day-night difference is hardly one hour there, and therefore, the variation between day and night is hardly felt at Kanyakumari or we can say that day and night at Kanyakumari are almost of equal hours. On the other hand, as we move away from the equator to the poles the variations in duration of day and night increases. Kashmir is over 30° away from the equator and so the difference in duration of day and night is relatively more.

2. “India has a long coastline which is advantageous.” Explain.

- (i) India has the longest coastline of 7516 km with the Indian Ocean which strengthens India's maritime trade. Almost 90% of India's international trade is carried through sea routes;
- (ii) The sea routes passing through the ocean provide easy connectivity of India with the Western and the Eastern countries;
- (iii) India has developed many major ports on its western and the eastern coasts. Some of them, such as Mumbai, Kochi, Vishakhapatnam etc., have become centres of India's flourishing shipping industry;
- (iv) The long coastline on the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal has helped India to establish close maritime contacts in the following ways:
 - With West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast.
 - With East Asia and the South-east Asia from the eastern coast.

3. What is meant by the Indian Standard Time? Where is it located and what is its importance?

IST is the median reference time for India with respect to the Greenwich meridian. It is at a distance of 82.5° from the Greenwich towards the EAST and passes through Mirzapur (U.P.) which is the approximate centre of India.

It is important because it maintains a uniform time across the country irrespective of the position of sun otherwise there would be an ambiguity due to 30° longitudinal extent of India which is responsible for the time lag of 2 hours from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.

4. How has India developed relationships with the world through the route?

The passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages ancient travellers. These routes have contributed in the exchange of and commodities since ancient times. The ideas of Upanishads, Ramayaa stories of Panchtantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system could reach many parts of the world. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, in of Greek sculpture, their architectural styles of domes and minarets seen in India.

5. Explain the significance of India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean.

The central location of India at the head of the Indian Ocean is considered of great significance because:

- (i) The central location of India is considered of great significance as it helps India to keep a close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from western coast, and Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast;
- (ii) Transatlantic sea routes connects the countries of Europe with countries of East Asia;

- (iii) The strategic location of India has contributed to the exchange of ideas (Ramayana, Upanishads etc.) and commodities (spices, Muslins) through land and sea, since ancient times;
- (iv) India has an important position with regard to international sea routes making it potentially advantageous for trade perspectives as the country has the longest coastline on the Indian ocean.

6. Why is 82°30'E selected as the Standard Meridian of India?

82°30'E is selected as standard meridian because it lies almost in center of the India. It prevents any confusion in time variance when anyone moves from place to another within the country and has brought harmony in time throughout the country.

7. Explain the significance of latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India.

Longitudinal Extent of 30° is significant because of time difference it creates between the western and the eastern states. From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, there is a time lag of 2 hours in the India's position relative to sun. Longitudinal extent helps in keeping a uniformity in local time zone to avoid any confusion between the day and night.

Latitudinal Extent i.e. Tropic of Cancer is significant because it divides India into almost two equal halves and helps understanding the variation in seasons and duration of days and nights taking equator as reference. It is because the northern part of India lies in the temperate zone, the southern part is closer to the Equator and lies in the tropical zone.

8. The sunrises two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh as compare to Gujarat in the west but the watches show the same time. How does this happen?

It happens because of the time lag of 2 hours in earths' position (at Gujarat and at Arunachal Pradesh) relative to sun. It is due to the 30° longitudinal extent of earth, which cause the sun to rise early in Arunachal Pradesh (east) as compared to Gujarat however the clock indicates the same time at both of these places.