

- India is a Southward extension of the Asian continent.
  - The Trans-Indian Ocean routes connecting the countries of Europe in the West and the countries of East Asia provide a strategic central location to India.
  - The Deccan Peninsula protrudes into the Indian Ocean which helps it to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.
  - No other country has such a long coastline on the Indian Ocean as India has, and indeed, it is India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean which justifies the naming of an ocean after it.
- Distance between India and Europe has been reduced by 7,000 km after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869.
- India is connected with Europe, North America and South America with the Suez Canal and the Cape of Good Hope through the sea routes.

### India's neighbours

- India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories.
- India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the Northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the North along with Myanmar and Bangladesh in the East.
- Our southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries *i.e.*, Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
- India has had strong geographical and historical links with its neighbours.

## Know the Terms

- **Equator** : An imaginary line drawn around the middle of the earth that divides it into two equal halves.
- **Latitude** : The angular distance from the equator of a point (north or south) on the earth's surface, measured on the meridian of the point. It ranges from 0° at the Equator to 90° (North or South) at the Poles.
- **Longitude** : The angular distance on the earth's surface, measured East or West from the Prime Meridian at Greenwich, England, to the meridian passing through a position, expressed in degrees (or hours), minutes and seconds.
- **Indian Standard Time (IST)** : The time which is applicable all over India is called Indian Standard Time. The Standard Meridian of India is 82°30'E longitude, passing through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. It is five and half hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- **Tropic of Cancer** : It runs parallel of the latitude which is approximately 23°30'N of the Equator.
- **Peninsular Plateau** : It is a tableland composed of the old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks.
- **Provinces** : States ruled directly by British officials who were appointed by the Viceroy.
- **Princely States** : states ruled by local, hereditary rulers, who acknowledged sovereignty in return for local autonomy.

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## STAND ALONE MCQs

(1 Mark each)

- Q. 1. What is the western-most longitude of India?  
 (A) 68°7' E in Gujarat      (B) 68°7' N in Gujarat  
 (C) 68°7' S in Gujarat      (D) 68°7' E in Mumbai

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Western-most longitude of India is 68°7' E. It passes through Gujarat (Kutch area).

- Q. 2. How many States and Union Territories does India have? R  
 (A) 7 States and 29 Union Territories  
 (B) 28 States and 8 Union Territories  
 (C) 26 States and 7 Union Territories  
 (D) 27 States and 9 Union Territories

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

- Q. 3. What is the eastern-most longitude of India?  
 (A) 97°25'N      (B) 97°25'E  
 (C) 97°25'W      (D) 97°25'S

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** The eastern-most longitude of India is 97°25'E. It is based in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Q. 4. My friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India. Identify the country.  
 (A) Bhutan  
 (B) Tajikistan  
 (C) Bangladesh  
 (D) Nepal

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** India shares its land boundary with seven countries *i.e.*, China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Q. 5. In which year did Indira Point submerge under water due to Tsunami?

- (A) In 2014 (B) In 2004  
(C) In 1994 (D) In 1894

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** On 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004 Tsunami caused wide spread damage in coastal areas of India. The 'Indira Point' (Southern most point of India) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands got submerged in water due to Tsunami waves.

Q. 6. Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in which direction with respect to the mainland of India?

- (A) North-east direction to the mainland of India.  
(B) South direction to the mainland of India.  
(C) East direction to the mainland of India.  
(D) South-east direction to the mainland of India.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q. 7. Which latitude divides India into two equal halves?

- (A) The Tropic of Cancer 23½°  
(B) The Tropic of Capricorn 23½°  
(C) The Tropic of Cancer 25½°  
(D) Equator 23½°

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q. 8. If you want to visit Lakshadweep during your winter holidays, which water body would you have to cross?

- (A) Baltic Sea (B) Arabian Sea  
(C) Red Sea (D) Andaman Sea

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** Lakshadweep lies in Arabian Sea off the south western coast of India.

Q. 9. In the context to the area, what is the position of India in the world?

- (A) Fifth (B) Third  
(C) Second (D) Seventh

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q. 10. India's total area accounts for what percentage of the geographical area of the world?

- (A) 5.4% (B) 3.4%  
(C) 1.4% (D) 2.4%

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** The land mass of India has an area of 3.28 million sq. km. which comprises about 2.4% of the total geographical area of the world.

Q. 11. What is the length of Indian coastline?

- (A) 81,566 km (B) 98,161 km  
(C) 75,643 km (D) 7,516.6 km

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q. 12. Name the imaginary line in India along which time is taken as standard time.

- (A) Equator  
(B) Standard Meridian  
(C) Tropic of Cancer

(D) Tropic of Capricorn

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q. 13. What is the time difference between IST and GMT?

- (A) 7½ hours behind GMT  
(B) 5½ hours ahead of GMT  
(C) There is no difference  
(D) 5½ hours behind GMT

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** IST is 5½ hrs. ahead of GMT because the latitude at which India is present, sunlight reaches faster than GMT at London.

Q. 14. What commodity was taken from India to various parts of the world?

- (A) Spices (B) Pulses  
(C) Wheat (D) Maize

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q. 15. Who are India's neighbours in the north-west?

- (A) Pakistan and Afghanistan  
(B) Pakistan and China  
(C) Myanmar and Bangladesh  
(D) Afghanistan and Bhutan

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

**Explanation:** There are a neighbouring countries of India. Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north; Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east and Sri Lanka and Maldives in South.

Q. 16. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Sikkim share international boundary with which country?

- (A) Myanmar (B) Nepal  
(C) Bhutan (D) Pakistan

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** States mentioned in question are situated in northern parts of India and Nepal is also in North out of all the options.

Q. 17. Which two states of India share their land boundary with Bangladesh?

- (A) Rajasthan and Assam  
(B) West Bengal and Jharkhand  
(C) West Bengal and Assam  
(D) Assam and Uttar Pradesh

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

**Explanation:** Bangladesh is situated in the east. Hence, it shares its land boundary with West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

Q. 18. What separates Sri Lanka and India through a narrow channel of sea?

- (A) Arabian Sea  
(B) Persian Gulf  
(C) Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar  
(D) Palk Strait and Persian Gulf

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q. 19. Which country shares the longest boundary with India?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Bangladesh  
(C) China (D) Myanmar [U], [R]

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** India shares its land boundary with seven countries. Among all the above options, length of Bangladesh-India border is 4096.7 km.

Q. 20. Which country among India's neighbours is the smallest?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Myanmar  
(C) Nepal (D) Bhutan [R], [E]

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** Amongst all the above options, Bhutan is the smallest as area of Sri Lanka is 65,610 sq. km., Myanmar is 6,76,578 sq. km., Nepal is 1,47,181 sq. km. and Bhutan is 38,394 sq. km.



## ASSERTION AND REASON BASED MCQs

(1 Mark each)

Directions: In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Mark the correct choice as:

- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q. 1. Assertion (A) : The Indian Ocean is named after India.

Reason (R) : India has a strategic location along the trans-Indian Ocean routes.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q. 2. Assertion (A) : There would be least difference in the duration between day time and night time at Kanyakumari.

Reason (R) : It is located far down south of the country.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** 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 duration of day and night is hardly felt at Kanyakumari which is located down South of the country.

Q. 3. Assertion (A) : India is a Vast country.

Reason (R) : The Tropic of Cancer (23°30'N) divides the country into almost equal parts.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** India is a vast country geographically. It lies in the Northern hemisphere. The mainland extends between latitudes 8°4'N and 37°6'N and longitudes 68°7'E and 97°25'E. The Tropic of Cancer (23°30'N) divides the country into almost two equal parts.

Q. 4. Assertion (A) : From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, there is a time lag of two hours.

Reason (R) : Hence, time along the Standard Meridian of India (82°30'E) passing through Mirzapur (in Uttar Pradesh) is taken as the standard time for the whole country.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** There is a time lag of two hours between Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, due to the longitudinal extent of India. And time along the Standard Meridian of India passing through Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) is taken as standard time for the whole country. The latitudinal extent influences the duration of day and night, as one moves from south to north.

Q. 5. Assertion (A) : The Indian landmass has a Central location between the East and West Asia.

Reason (R) : India is a Northward extension of the Asian Continent.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

**Explanation:** India is a extension of the Asian continent not north ware extension.

Q. 6. Assertion (A) : The various Passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers.

Reason (R) : These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q. 7. Assertion (A) : Before 1947, there were three types of States in India.

Reason (R) : Province were ruled directly by the British officials and Princely States were ruled by local rulers.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** Before 1947, there were two types of States in India—(i) the Provinces which were ruled directly to British officials, (ii) Princely States which were ruled by local, hereditary rulers.

Q. 8. Assertion (A) : India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest.

Reason (R) : China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan is the South and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the west.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

**Explanation:** There are a neighbouring countries of India. Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north; Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east and Sri Lanka and Maldives in South.

Q. 9. Assertion (A) : Our southern neighbours across the sea consist of two island countries.

Reason (R) : Maldives Islands are situated to the south of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

**Explanation:** Maldives Islands are situated to the south of the Lakshadweep Islands. To the south of Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is nothing besides Bay of Bengal.



## CASE-BASED MCQs

(4 Marks each)

I. Read the source given below and answer the following questions:

### India's Neighbours

India occupies an important strategic position in South Asia. India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories. India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east. Our southern neighbours across the sea consist of the two island countries, namely Sri Lanka and Maldives. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar, while Maldives Islands are situated to the south of the Lakshadweep Islands. India has had strong geographical and historical links with her neighbours.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

Q. 1. Who are India's neighbours in the east

- (A) Pakistan and Afghanistan
- (B) Pakistan and China
- (C) Myanmar and Bangladesh
- (D) Afghanistan and Bhutan

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q. 2. Which two states of India share their land boundary with Bhutan?

- (A) Rajasthan and Assam
- (B) West Bengal and Jharkhand
- (C) West Bengal and Sikkim
- (D) Assam and Uttar Pradesh

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

**Explanation:** Bhutan shares its border with West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Q. 3. What do we call a narrow channel of sea which separates two land masses?

- (A) Strait
- (B) Gulf
- (C) Peninsula
- (D) Delta

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

**Explanation:** A narrow channel of sea which separates two land masses is called Strait. For e.g., Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Palk strait.

Q. 4. My friend hails from a country which does not share land boundary with India. Identify the country.

- (A) Bhutan
- (B) Tajikistan
- (C) Bangladesh
- (D) Nepal

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

II. Read the source given below and answer the following questions:

India's contact with the World have continued through ages but her relationships through the land routes are much older than her maritime contacts. The various passes across the mountains in the north have provided passages to the ancient travellers, while the oceans restricted such interaction for a long time.

These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times. The ideas of the Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of Panchatantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system thus could reach many parts of the world. The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture and the architectural styles of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of our country

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

Q. 1 India's relationship through the ..... routes are much older than her ..... contacts.

- (A) land, sea
- (B) land, air
- (C) land, maritime
- (D) air, maritime

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q. 2. Which geographical feature has provided passage to the ancient travellers in India?

- (A) Plateaus
- (B) Mountains Passes
- (C) Plains
- (D) Islands

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** The various passes across the mountains of Himalayas have provided passages (Passes) to the ancient travellers.

Q. 3. Ramayana is an ..... and Panchatantra are .....

- (A) upanishad, epic
- (B) epic, stories
- (C) upanishad, stories
- (D) epic, tale

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

- Q. 4. The architectural styles of dome were taken from .....
- (A) East Asia (B) Greece  
(C) Italy (D) West Asia

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** The influence of Greek sculpture and the architectural styles of dome and minarets from West Asia can be seen in different parts of India.

- III. Read the source given below and answer the following questions:

The land mass of India has an area of 3.28 million square km. India's total area accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the world. India is the seventh largest country of the world. India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coastline of the mainland, including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, is 7,516.6 km.

India is bounded by the young fold mountains in the northwest, north and northeast. South of about 22° north latitude, it begins to taper and extends towards the Indian Ocean, dividing it into two seas, the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on its east.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

- Q. 1. What is the land mass of India in million square kilometer?

- (A) 3.28 (B) 2.40  
(C) 2.28 (D) 3.48

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

- Q. 2. India's total area accounts to 2.4 percent of the total geographical area in the .....
- (A) Asia (B) Universe  
(C) World (D) Continent

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

**Explanation:** India's total area is 3.28 million sq. km. which accounts to 2.4 percent of the total geographical area in the world.

- Q. 3. Total length of India's coastline of the mainland includes .....
- (A) Andaman Islands (B) Nicobar Islands  
(C) Lakshadweep Island (D) All of these

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** The total length of coastline of the mainland including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep is 7516.6 km.

- Q. 4. Indian Ocean divides into ..... seas.
- (A) two (B) three  
(C) four (D) five

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

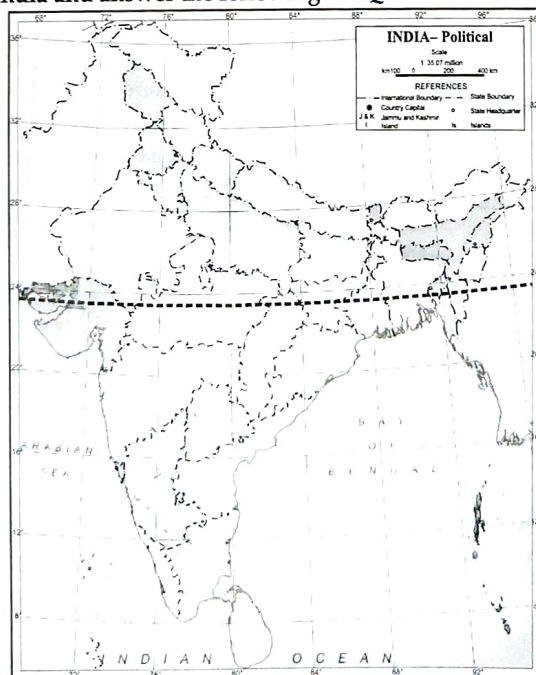
**Explanation:** Indian Ocean divides at 22° north in two seas, the Arabia an Sea on the west and Bay of Bengal on its east.



## MAP BASED MCQs

(1 Mark each)

- Q. 1. Study the given map of India and answer the following MCQ:



Name the marked line which cuts India into two equal halves longitudinally?

- (A) Equator (B) Tropic of Capricorn  
(C) Tropic of Cancer (D) Standard Meridian of India