

✓ Q.2. the following questions briefly:

(i) What are tectonic plates?

(ii) Which continents of today were parts of the Gondwana land?

(iii) What is bhabar?

(iv) Name the three major divisions of the Himalayas from north to south.

(v) Which plateau lies between the Aravali and the Vindhyan ranges?

(vi) Name the island group of India having coral origin.

(i) Large fragments of the Earth's crust torn due to the rising currents are called tectonic plates.

(ii) South America, South Africa, part of Asia (India, Arabia, Malaya), Australia and Antarctica continents were parts of the Gondwana land.

(iii) The Bhabar is that narrow belt of the plain which is covered with pebbles and lies along the foothills of the Shiwaliks from the Indus to the Teesta.

(iv) The Great or the Inner Himalayas or the Himadri, the Middle Himalayas or the Himachal, and the Outer Himalayas or the Shivaliks.

(v) The Malwa plateau lies between the Aravali and the Vindhya Ranges.

(vi) Lakshadweep Islands is the island group of India having coral origin.

Question 3:

Distinguish between

- (i) Converging and diverging tectonic plates.
- (ii) Bhangar and Khadar
- (iii) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

Answer 3:

(i) The internal heat of the earth makes the molten rocks to rush towards the surface of the earth and drive the crust into large fragments known as “Tectonic Plates”. These plates are drifting over the mantle of the earth. As a result when the two or more plates are pushed towards each other they are called ‘Converging Plates’. On the other hand if they are moving away from each other, they are called ‘Diverging Plates’.



(ii) According to the age of the soils of the Northern Plain they have been differentiated by two names: (a) Bhangar and (b) Khadar. The difference between these two are mentioned below:

- a) *Bhangar* - These are the older alluvium or old soil and form the largest part of the Northern Plains. They lie above the flood plains of the rivers and present a terrace like structure. It often contains *Kankar nodules* made of calcareous deposits.
- b) *Khadar* - The newer and younger deposits of the flood plains are known as 'Khadar'. So, these are the new alluvium or new soil and are very fertile. Thus, Khadar is ideal for intensive agriculture.

(iii)

Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
<p>1. The Western Ghats are situated and mark the western edges of Deccan Plateau parallel to the western coasts of India along the Arabian Sea.</p> <p>2. Continuous, can be crossed through the passes only.</p> <p>3. The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats. Average elevation is 900 - 1600 meters.</p> <p>4. The height increases progressively from north to south. The highest peaks include the Anai Mudi, the Doda Belta.</p> <p>5. The Western Ghats enclose a narrow strip between its western slopes and the Arabian Sea which is known as Western Coastal Plain. Its maximum width is 64 km.</p> <p>6. It experiences orographic rain mostly in summer due to the summer monsoons. The climate is hot and moist.</p> <p>7. Here the soil is highly fertile. Rice, spices, rubber and fruits like coconuts, cashew nuts etc. are grown here.</p>	<p>1. The Eastern Ghats are situated and mark the eastern edges of Deccan Plateau parallel to the eastern coasts of India along the Bay of Bengal.</p> <p>2. Discontinuous, irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.</p> <p>3. Average elevation is 600 meters.</p> <p>4. The highest peaks include the Mahendragiri, the Javadi Hills.</p> <p>5. The Eastern Ghats also enclose a strip of land between its eastern slopes and the Bay of Bengal which is known as the Eastern Coastal Plain. It is wider than the Western Coastal strip with its maximum breadth 120 km.</p> <p>6. It receives rain both in summer and winter, especially in winter through winter monsoons. However, here the rain is lesser than the western strip.</p> <p>7. The soil is not as fertile as western strip. Rice, ground nuts, cotton, tobacco, coconuts etc. are grown here.</p>

Question 4:

Describe how the Himalayas were formed.

Answer 4:

The Indian Peninsula drifted towards the north and finally collided with the much larger Eurasian Plate. As a result of this collision, the sedimentary rocks which were accumulated in the geosynclines (known as Tethys) got folded and formed the mountain systems of the West Asia and Himalaya.

Question 5:

Which are the major physiographic divisions of India? Contrast the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau.

Answer 5:

The major physiographic divisions of India are the following:

- a) The Himalayan Mountain Wall of the north.
- b) The Northern Plains.
- c) The Peninsular Plateau.
- d) The Indian Dessert.
- e) The Coastal Plains.
- f) The Islands.

The following table compares and contrasts between the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau.

Himalayan Region	Peninsular Plateau
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Himalayas are young fold mountains of comparatively recent origin. 2. They are the highest mountains in the world. 3. Many great rivers like - the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra originate from the Himalayas. 4. The Himalayas are formed of the sedimentary rocks. 5. They are formed at the edge of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. 6. Important hill stations like - Shimla, Mussoorie, Darjeeling, Nainital are found on the Himalayas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They are a part of the oldest structures of the Indian subcontinent. 2. The Central Highlands are formed of low hills and there is no high peak of world-wide fame in these hills. 3. Very few rivers like - the Narmada and the Tapti originate from these hills. 4. The Central Highlands are formed of igneous and metamorphic rocks. 5. They are formed at the edge of the Deccan Plateau. 6. No well known hill station is found here.

Question 6:

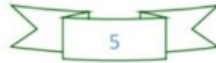
Give an account of the Northern Plains of India.

Answer 6:

The Great Northern Plain extends from the Punjab Plain in the west to the Brahmaputra valley in the east. The Northern Plain has been formed by the interplay of the three major river systems namely - the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra along with their tributaries. The deposition of alluvium in a vast basin lying at the foothills to the south of the Himalayas over millions of years formed this fertile plain. It spreads over an area of 7 lakh square km. The plain is about 2400 km long and 240 - 320 km broad. The rich soil cover combined with the abundant water supply and favourable climate made this agriculturally a very productive part of India. Because of this factor the density of population is also the highest in this region among all the physiographic divisions of India. The Northern Plain is broadly divided into three sections:

- a) The Punjab Plain - It is the western part of the Northern Plain formed by the Indus and its tributaries. This section is dominated by the Doabs.
- b) The Ganga Plain - It is the largest part of the Northern Plain and extends between Ghaggar and Teesta rivers.
- c) The Brahmaputra Plain - It forms the eastern part of the Northern Plain by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. It is narrower than the Ganga Plain and is a flood prone area.

In the south-east side of the Northern Plain lies the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta which is the largest delta of the world.

**Question 7:**

Write short notes on the following.

- (i) The Indian Desert
- (ii) The Central Highlands
- (iii) The Island groups of India

Answer:

(i) Lying towards the west of the Aravali Hills, the Indian Desert is an undulating sandy plain covered with crescent-shaped and longitudinal sand dunes. This region is characterised by very little rainfall, an arid climate and low vegetation cover. Streams appear only during the rainy season. Luni is the only large river in this region.

(ii) The part of the Peninsular Plateau lying to the north of the Narmada River, covering a major area of the Malwa Plateau, is known as the Central Highlands. They are bound by the Vindhya Range from the south and by the Aravali Hills from the northwest. The further westward extension merges with the Indian Desert while the eastward extension is marked by the Chotanagpur Plateau. The rivers draining this region flow from southwest to northeast. The Central Highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east.

(iii) India has two groups of islands. The Lakshadweep Islands lie in the Arabian Sea, to the southwest of the mainland. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in the Bay of Bengal, to the southeast of the mainland.

Lakshadweep is composed of small coral islands, covering a small area of 32 square kilometres. Kavaratti Island is its administrative headquarters. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are bigger in size and are more numerous and scattered. The entire group of islands is divided into Andaman (in the north) and Nicobar (in the south).

Both these island groups are rich in flora and fauna, and are of great strategic importance to the country.