

UNIQUE STUDY POINT

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Class: VI	Subject: Social Science	Session: 2025-26
Chapter: 05 - India, That Is Bharat	Time: 1½ Hours	Max. Marks: 40

General Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains 20 questions divided into five sections A, B, C, D and E.
3. Section A contains 10 MCQs of 1 mark each.
4. Section B contains 4 questions of 2 marks each.
5. Section C contains 3 questions of 3 marks each.
6. Section D contains 1 question of 5 marks.
7. Section E contains 2 Case Study Based questions of 4 marks each.

SECTION A - Multiple Choice Questions (1 mark each)

- Q1.** Which of the following is NOT a natural boundary of the Indian Subcontinent?
- (a) Himalayas
 - (b) Arabian Sea
 - (c) Gobi Desert
 - (d) Bay of Bengal
- Q2.** The Mahābhārata mentions Vanga, which corresponds to parts of modern:
- (a) Punjab
 - (b) Bengal
 - (c) Gujarat
 - (d) Tamil Nadu
- Q3.** The quotation at the start of Chapter 5 is by:
- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (c) Sri Aurobindo
 - (d) Rabindranath Tagore
- Q4.** What is the other name for the jamun tree mentioned in the text?
- (a) Neem tree
 - (b) Malabar plum tree
 - (c) Tulsi tree
 - (d) Ashoka tree
- Q5.** Kurukshetra, mentioned in the Mahābhārata, is located in modern:
- (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Rajasthan

- (c) Haryana
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Q6. The Indian Constitution came into force in:

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1949
- (d) 1950

Q7. Which emperor left inscriptions using the term 'Jambudvīpa'?

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Aśhoka
- (c) Harsha
- (d) Akbar

Q8. The term 'inhabitants' means:

- (a) Visitors from outside
- (b) People who live in a particular place
- (c) Rulers of a region
- (d) Travelers and pilgrims

Q9. How many rivers are mentioned in 'Sapta Sindhava'?

- (a) Five
- (b) Six
- (c) Seven
- (d) Eight

Q10. The region Kaccha mentioned in the Mahābhārata refers to modern:

- (a) Kashmir
- (b) Kutch
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Kerala

SECTION B - Short Answer Questions (2 marks each)

Q11. What does the quotation by Sri Aurobindo at the beginning of the chapter suggest about India's unity?

Q12. Why is it difficult to date ancient Indian texts like the Mahābhārata?

Q13. Name the 'two seas' mentioned in Sri Aurobindo's quotation.

Q14. What does the phrase 'shifting boundaries' tell us about India's past?

SECTION C - Short Answer Questions (3 marks each)

Q15. How did ancient Indians demonstrate their knowledge of geography? Support your answer with examples from the chapter.

Q16. Explain the significance of the Constitution using both 'India' and 'Bharat' as official names of the country.

Q17. Why did different parts of India (like Tamil Nadu and north India) have similar definitions of India's geographical extent?

SECTION D - Long Answer Question (5 marks)

Q18. Trace the evolution of India's name from ancient times to the present. Discuss how both indigenous and foreign influences have shaped what we call our country today.

SECTION E - Case Study Based Questions (4 marks each)

Q19. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

"Today, the India we know is a modern nation, with defined borders, defined states and a known population. However, it was very different 500 years ago, 2,000 years ago or even 5,000 years ago. This region of the world, which we often call the 'Indian Subcontinent', has had many different names and shifting boundaries."

- (a) What defines India as a modern nation today? (1 mark)
- (b) How was India different in the past? (1 mark)
- (c) What do we learn from the statement about 'shifting boundaries'? (2 marks)

Q20. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

"It is interesting to note that different parts of the country adopted a similar definition for India. For instance, a poem of ancient Tamil literature, from about 2,000 years ago, praises a king whose name is known 'from [Cape] Kumari in the south, from the great mountain in the north, from the oceans on the east and on the west...'"

- (a) Which geographical features are mentioned in this Tamil poem? (1 mark)
- (b) Why is it significant that Tamil literature used similar boundaries as northern texts? (2 marks)
- (c) What does this tell us about ancient Indian civilization? (1 mark)

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DETAILED ANSWER KEY - PAPER 03

SECTION A - Answers to MCQs

Ans 1. (c) Gobi Desert

The Gobi Desert is not a natural boundary of the Indian Subcontinent. The natural boundaries are the Himalayas in the north, the Arabian Sea in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east, and the Indian Ocean in the south.

Ans 2. (b) Bengal

The Mahābhārata mentions Vanga, which corresponds to parts of modern Bengal.

Ans 3. (c) Sri Aurobindo

The quotation at the start of the chapter about India's spiritual and cultural unity is by Sri Aurobindo.

Ans 4. (b) Malabar plum tree

The jamun tree is also called 'jambul tree' or 'Malabar plum tree', and is common in India.

Ans 5. (c) Haryana

Kurukṣhetra, mentioned in the Mahābhārata, is located in parts of modern Haryana.

Ans 6. (d) 1950

The Indian Constitution came into force in 1950.

Ans 7. (b) Aśhoka

Emperor Aśhoka (around 250 BCE) left inscriptions using the term 'Jambudvīpa' to describe the whole of India.

Ans 8. (b) People who live in a particular place

'Inhabitants' means people who live in a particular place, as opposed to visitors or travelers.

Ans 9. (c) Seven

'Sapta Sindhava' means 'land of the seven rivers'. 'Sapta' means seven in Sanskrit.

Ans 10. (b) Kutch

The region Kaccha mentioned in the Mahābhārata refers to today's Kutch (in Gujarat).

SECTION B - Answers to Short Answer Questions

Ans 11.

Sri Aurobindo's quotation suggests:

Spiritual and cultural unity: He states that "the spiritual and cultural unity was made complete" in India at a very early time.

Deep integration: This unity "became the very stuff of the life" of the people, meaning it was fundamental to their existence.

The quotation emphasizes that despite India's vast geography and diversity, it has had a fundamental spiritual and cultural unity throughout its history, binding the "great surge of humanity between the Himalayas and the two seas."

Ans 12.

It is difficult to date ancient Indian texts like the Mahābhārata because:

Oral tradition: Many texts were transmitted orally for generations before being written down, making exact dating challenging.

Multiple authors and periods: The Mahābhārata, like many ancient texts, was likely composed over a long period by different authors, making it hard to assign a single date.

Scholars generally agree that the Mahābhārata was written from a few centuries BCE onward, but the exact period of composition remains debated.

Ans 13.

The 'two seas' mentioned in Sri Aurobindo's quotation refer to:

(i) Arabian Sea: Located on the western side of India

(ii) Bay of Bengal: Located on the eastern side of India

These two bodies of water, along with the Himalayas in the north, define the geographical extent of the Indian Subcontinent.

Ans 14.

The phrase 'shifting boundaries' tells us:

Political changes: India's political boundaries have changed over time as different kingdoms and empires rose and fell.

Not a static entity: Unlike the modern nation with fixed borders, ancient India's territorial extent varied depending on the period and the power controlling different regions.

This reminds us that while the geographical and cultural identity of India has been continuous, the exact political boundaries have evolved throughout history.

SECTION C - Answers to Short Answer Questions

Ans 15.

Ancient Indians demonstrated sophisticated knowledge of geography in several ways:

(i) Clear boundary definitions:

- The Viṣṇu Purāṇa precisely defined Bhārata as lying "north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains"
- This shows clear understanding of major geographical features

(ii) Comprehensive regional knowledge:

- The Mahābhārata lists numerous regions covering the entire Subcontinent from Kashmir to Kerala
- This demonstrates detailed knowledge of different parts of India

(iii) Consistent descriptions across regions:

- Ancient Tamil literature (from south India) described India's extent as from Cape Kumari to the great

mountain (Himalayas) and between the eastern and western oceans

- This matches the northern texts' descriptions, showing shared geographical awareness

Conclusion: The text notes, "It looks like ancient Indians knew their geography well!" This knowledge helped create a unified sense of identity across the vast Subcontinent.

Ans 16.

The Constitution's use of both 'India' and 'Bharat' is significant for several reasons:

(i) Recognition of dual heritage:

- 'India' represents the name used internationally and derived from foreign interactions
- 'Bharat' represents the ancient indigenous name with thousands of years of history
- Using both acknowledges India's complex historical and cultural heritage

(ii) Linguistic inclusivity:

- The English version states "India, that is Bharat"
- The Hindi version states "Bhārat arthāth India"
- This shows respect for different linguistic traditions

(iii) Continuity with the past:

- By including 'Bharat', the Constitution connects modern India with its ancient roots
- It validates the name used in ancient texts like the Mahābhārata and Viṣṇu Purāṇa
- This creates a sense of continuity from ancient times to the present

The dual naming reflects India's ability to embrace both its ancient heritage and its modern identity.

Ans 17.

Different parts of India had similar definitions of the geographical extent because:

(i) Shared geographical awareness:

- Both north and south Indian sources recognized the same natural boundaries
- The Himalayas (great mountain) in the north
- Cape Kumari (Kanyakumari) in the south
- Oceans on the east and west

(ii) Cultural connections:

- Despite regional differences, there was cultural exchange and communication across India
- Scholars, traders, and pilgrims traveled between different regions
- This spread geographical knowledge throughout the Subcontinent

(iii) Common identity:

- The similar definitions suggest that people across India saw themselves as part of a larger whole
- They recognized a common geographical and cultural space called 'Bhārata'
- This shared understanding contributed to India's sense of unity despite its diversity

The chapter notes this as evidence that "ancient Indians knew their geography well" and had a unified conception of their land.

Ans 18.

The evolution of India's name is a fascinating journey through history:

ANCIENT PERIOD - Indigenous Names:

(i) Sapta Sindhava (Earliest Period):

- Found in the Ṛig Veda, India's most ancient text
- Meaning: "Land of the seven rivers"
- Referred primarily to the northwest region
- Based on 'Sindhu' (Indus River)

(ii) Jambudvīpa (From a few centuries BCE):

- Used in the Mahābhārata and other texts
- Meaning: "Island of the fruit of the jamun tree"
- Emperor Aśhoka used this term around 250 BCE
- Referred to the entire Subcontinent

(iii) Bhāratavarṣha/Bhārata (From a few centuries BCE onward):

- Meaning: "Country of the Bharatas"
- 'Bharata' first appears in Ṛig Veda
- Became the most widespread indigenous name
- Defined as land between the ocean and snowy mountains
- Continues in use today as 'Bharat' in north India and 'Bharatam' in south India

FOREIGN INFLUENCES:

(i) Persian Contribution (6th century BCE):

- Persians conquered the Indus region
- Adapted 'Sindhu' to 'Hindu', 'Hind', or 'Hidu'
- Later developed 'Hindustān' (about 1,800 years ago)
- These were purely geographical terms

(ii) Greek Contribution (Based on Persian sources):

- Named India 'Indoi' or 'Indike'
- Dropped 'h' from Persian 'Hindu' (letter didn't exist in Greek)
- This became the basis for European names

(iii) Latin and European Development:

- Latin 'India' developed from Greek 'Indoi'
- English 'India' came from Latin
- French 'Inde' and other European names followed

(iv) Chinese Contribution:

- Called India 'Yindu' or 'Yintu'
- Also 'Tianzhu' (meaning "heavenly master")
- Showed respect for India as land of Buddha

MODERN SYNTHESIS:

Constitutional Recognition (1950):

- The Constitution uses both names equally
- English version: "India, that is Bharat"
- Hindi version: "Bhārat arthāth India"
- This recognizes both indigenous and international heritage

CONCLUSION:

Today's India embodies both indigenous and foreign influences in its very name:

- 'Bharat' connects us to our ancient roots in the R̥ig Veda and represents continuity of civilization
- 'India' reflects our historical interactions with the world and our international identity
- Both names trace back to Indian geographical features (Sindhu River and Bharata people)
- The dual naming shows India's ability to preserve its heritage while engaging with the world
- It demonstrates how a single civilization can maintain its identity while being known by different names to different peoples

This evolution teaches us that names carry history, and India's multiple names reflect its rich, diverse, and connected past.

SECTION E - Answers to Case Study Based Questions**Ans 19.****(a) What defines modern India (1 mark):**

Modern India is defined by three characteristics: defined borders, defined states, and a known population.

(b) How India was different in the past (1 mark):

In the past (500, 2,000, or 5,000 years ago), India had many different names and shifting boundaries, unlike the fixed borders and administrative divisions of today.

(c) What we learn from 'shifting boundaries' (2 marks):

The statement about shifting boundaries teaches us several things:

- Historical evolution: India's political boundaries have changed throughout history as different kingdoms and empires rose and fell
- Difference from modern states: Ancient India was not a single unified political entity with fixed borders like modern nations
- Cultural vs. political identity: While political boundaries shifted, the cultural and geographical concept of India (as Bhārata or Jambudvīpa) remained relatively constant
- Dynamic history: India's past was dynamic and varied, not static

This helps us understand that while India has an ancient continuous civilization, its political organization has evolved over time.

Ans 20.**(a) Geographical features mentioned (1 mark):**

The Tamil poem mentions four geographical features:

- (i) Cape Kumari in the south
- (ii) The great mountain (Himalayas) in the north
- (iii) The ocean on the east
- (iv) The ocean on the west

(b) Significance of similar boundaries in Tamil literature (2 marks):

It is significant that Tamil literature used similar boundaries as northern texts because:

- Shared geographical understanding: It shows that people across India, from north to south, had the same understanding of India's geographical extent
- Evidence of unity: Despite being in different regions and speaking different languages, both Tamil and Sanskrit sources recognized the same natural boundaries
- Cultural connections: This similarity suggests there was communication and cultural exchange between different parts of India
- Common identity: It indicates that people from different regions saw themselves as part of the same larger geographical and cultural entity

(c) What this tells us about ancient Indian civilization (1 mark):

This tells us that ancient Indian civilization had:

- A sophisticated understanding of geography
- A sense of unity across diverse regions
- Effective communication networks that spread geographical knowledge throughout the Subcontinent
- A shared cultural identity that transcended regional differences

As the text concludes: "It looks like ancient Indians knew their geography well!"

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