

# GEOGRAPHY CORE VOLUME II

50 Brand-New Solved High-Yield MCQs for PPSC, FPSC, CSS, and PMS Exams

Series: Unique Set B

Items: 50 MCQs

Level: Advanced Competitive

**Q1. Which of the following lines represents the shortest distance between any two points on the Earth's surface?**

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| A. Rhumb Line | ✓ B. Great Circle Route |
| C. Loxodrome  | D. Tropic of Capricorn  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

A Great Circle is any circle that circumnavigates the Earth and passes through the center of the planet. The arc of a great circle represents the shortest true distance between two points on a sphere.

**Q2. Which cold ocean current flows along the western coast of South America?**

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Benguela Current   | ✓ B. Humboldt (Peru) Current |
| C. Kururoshio Current | D. Gulf Stream               |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Humboldt Current, also called the Peru Current, is a highly productive, cold, low-salinity eastern boundary current that flows north along the west coast of South America.

**Q3. What is the narrow body of water that separates the island of Great Britain from mainland Europe?**

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ A. The English Channel | B. North Sea       |
| C. Irish Sea             | D. Strait of Dover |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The English Channel is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates southern England from northern France, with its narrowest point located at the Strait of Dover.

**Q4. The 'Great Dividing Range' is a dominant mountain system situated in which country?**

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A. New Zealand | B. South Africa |
| ✓ C. Australia | D. Argentina    |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Great Dividing Range, or the Eastern Highlands, is Australia's most substantial mountain range, stretching over 3,500 kilometers across Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria.

**Q5. Which country is structurally known as the 'Land of a Thousand Lakes'?**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| A. Norway | ✓ B. Finland   |
| C. Canada | D. Switzerland |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Finland contains roughly 188,000 lakes within its territory, giving it the well-earned historical and cultural moniker 'Land of a Thousand Lakes'.

**Q6. What type of delta is formed by the Mississippi River, characterized by long finger-like distributaries?**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| A. Arcuate Delta | ✓ B. Bird's Foot Delta |
| C. Cuspate Delta | D. Estuarine Delta     |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Mississippi River Delta is the classic textbook example of a bird's-foot delta because its narrow, sediment-heavy distributaries project outward into the Gulf of Mexico like claws.

**Q7. Which active volcano, located in Italy, is famously dubbed the 'Lighthouse of the Mediterranean'?**

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| A. Mount Etna  | B. Mount Vesuvius |
| ✓ C. Stromboli | D. Mount Pinatubo |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Stromboli has been in near-continuous, regular eruptive activity for thousands of years, producing bright nightly glow flashes visible from great marine distances.

**Q8. The 'Kattegat' strait separates which two Scandinavian land masses?**

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Norway and Sweden   | ✓ B. Denmark and Sweden |
| C. Finland and Estonia | D. Denmark and Norway   |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Kattegat is a 30,000-square-kilometer sea area bounded by the Jutland peninsula (Denmark) to the west and the southwestern coast of Sweden to the east.

**Q9. Which African lake is shared by three countries: Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania?**

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| A. Lake Tanganyika | B. Lake Malawi |
| ✓ C. Lake Victoria | D. Lake Chad   |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake by surface area and is shared among Tanzania (49%), Uganda (45%), and Kenya (6%).

**Q10. The 'Kyzylkum Desert' is primarily spread across which two Central Asian nations?**

|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ <b>A. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan</b> | B. Turkmenistan and Iran |
| C. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan          | D. Kyrgyzstan and China  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Kyzylkum Desert is the 16th largest desert in the world, divided between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and a tiny segment of Turkmenistan.

**Q11. Which pass connects the city of Quetta in Balochistan with Afghanistan?**

|                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| A. Gomal Pass  | B. Bolan Pass          |
| C. Khyber Pass | ✓ <b>D. Kojak Pass</b> |

**CORRECT ANSWER: D — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Kojak Pass links Quetta to Chaman and runs across the Toba Kakar range directly toward the southern borders of Afghanistan.

**Q12. The 'Meseta Central' is a massive interior high plateau found in which European country?**

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| A. France | ✓ <b>B. Spain</b> |
| C. Italy  | D. Germany        |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Meseta Central is the elevated plateau area occupying the heart of mainland Spain, surrounded by various mountain cordilleras.

**Q13. What line marks the boundary separating the geographic regions of Europe and Asia along the Turkish territory?**

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ <b>A. The Bosphorus Strait</b> | B. The Ural River |
| C. The Caucasus Crest            | D. The Suez Canal |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Bosphorus Strait divides the city of Istanbul, creating a natural continental boundary separating European Turkey (Thrace) from Asian Turkey (Anatolia).

**Q14. Which layer of the Earth's interior is composed mostly of liquid iron and nickel?**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| A. Crust               | B. Mantle     |
| ✓ <b>C. Outer Core</b> | D. Inner Core |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

While the inner core is solid due to extreme pressure, the outer core is a fluid, low-viscosity layer composed of iron and nickel that generates Earth's magnetic field.

**Q15. The 'Grand Canyon' in the United States was carved primarily by the erosive action of which river?**

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| A. Mississippi River       | B. Missouri River |
| ✓ <b>C. Colorado River</b> | D. Columbia River |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Colorado River spent roughly 5 to 6 million years cutting deep channels through the Colorado Plateau, creating the iconic Grand Canyon.

**Q16. Which city is situated at the lowest elevation point below sea level on land?**

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| A. Amsterdam | B. Baku              |
| ✓ C. Jericho | D. Death Valley City |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Jericho, located near the Jordan Rift Valley close to the Dead Sea coast, is recognized as the lowest permanently inhabited city on Earth (~258 meters below sea level).

**Q17. What type of rainfall occurs when moisture-laden wind is forced to rise up over a mountain range?**

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Convectional Rainfall | B. Cyclonic Rainfall |
| ✓ C. Orographic Rainfall | D. Frontal Rainfall  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Orographic precipitation occurs when air masses encounter topography. The windward side receives heavy rain, while the leeward side experiences a dry 'rain shadow'.

**Q18. The 'Palk Strait' forms a narrow marine channel separating which two countries?**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ A. India and Sri Lanka | B. Malaysia and Sumatra |
| C. Saudi Arabia and Iran | D. Oman and Iran        |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Palk Strait connects the Bay of Bengal with the Gulf of Mannar, sitting directly between Tamil Nadu (India) and the Jaffna district (Sri Lanka).

**Q19. Which geographic phenomenon creates the unique deep U-shaped valleys found in mountainous regions?**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| A. River Erosion | ✓ B. Glacial Erosion |
| C. Wind Ablation | D. Tectonic Faulting |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Unlike rivers that carve sharp 'V-shaped' valleys, massive slow-moving glaciers scoop and pluck out entire valley floors, widening them into smooth 'U-shaped' troughs.

**Q20. Which country boasts the highest density of active volcanoes globally?**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. Japan       | B. Iceland     |
| ✓ C. Indonesia | D. Philippines |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Indonesia sits directly atop the intersection of multiple tectonic plates along the Pacific Ring of Fire, giving it more active volcanoes than any other nation.

**Q21. The 'Taklamakan Desert' is situated within the sovereign borders of which nation?**

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| A. Mongolia   | ✓ B. China    |
| C. Kazakhstan | D. Uzbekistan |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Taklamakan Desert is a vast, shifting sand desert located entirely within the Tarim Basin in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of northwest China.

**Q22. What name is given to the seasonal reversing winds that bring heavy rains to South Asia?**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| A. Trade Winds | ✓ B. Monsoons |
| C. Chinook     | D. Harmattan  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Monsoons are large-scale seasonal wind pattern shifts driven by asymmetric temperature changes between continents and adjacent oceans.

**Q23. The 'Lake Baikal', already known as the deepest lake, is located in which administrative federal region of Russia?**

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| ✓ A. Siberia     | B. Kamchatka |
| C. Ural District | D. Caucasus  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Lake Baikal lies in the mountainous southern region of Siberia, north of the Mongolian border.

**Q24. Which instrument is used to accurately measure atmospheric relative humidity?**

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| A. Barometer  | ✓ B. Hygrometer |
| C. Anemometer | D. Thermometer  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

A hygrometer tracks humidity metrics by assessing ambient moisture presence using electronic capacitance or mechanical hair adjustments.



**Q25. The historical city of Timbuktu, famous for ancient trade routes, is located in which modern country?**

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| A. Egypt   | ✓ B. Mali |
| C. Morocco | D. Sudan  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Timbuktu is an ancient Malian city located just north of the Niger River on the southern fringe of the Sahara Desert.

**Q26. What is the primary commercial crop grown in the famous 'Gezira Scheme' of Sudan?**

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. Wheat    | B. Sugarcane |
| ✓ C. Cotton | D. Rice      |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Gezira Scheme is one of the world's largest irrigation projects, developed by British administration to cultivate high-quality long-staple cotton.

**Q27. The 'Victoria Falls' is formed along the path of which major African river?**

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| A. Nile River      | B. Congo River |
| ✓ C. Zambezi River | D. Niger River |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya) forms a massive sheet of falling water along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe on the Zambezi River.

**Q28. Which country is the smallest independent republic by land area in mainland South America?**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| ✓ <b>A. Suriname</b> | B. Uruguay |
| C. Guyana            | D. Ecuador |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Suriname, covering approximately 163,820 square kilometers, is the smallest fully sovereign independent country in South America.

**Q29. The 'Appalachian Mountains' are an ancient mountain system located along the eastern coast of which continent?**

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| A. Europe | ✓ <b>B. North America</b> |
| C. Asia   | D. South America          |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Appalachians run predominantly through the eastern United States, extending up into southeastern Canada.

**Q30. Which line connects places on a map that share identical atmospheric pressure at a given time?**

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| A. Isotherm | ✓ <b>B. Isobar</b> |
| C. Isohyet  | D. Isobath         |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

An isobar is a cartographic isoline that connects localized regions showing equal barometric pressures normalized to sea level.

**Q31. The 'Thal Desert' is situated within which specific district/interfluvium of Punjab, Pakistan?**

|                                             |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ <b>A. Between Indus and Jhelum Rivers</b> | B. Between Ravi and Chenab Rivers |
| C. South of Sutlej River                    | D. West of Indus                  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Thal Desert is located in the Sindh Sagar Doab, which is the land area bounded between the Indus River and the Jhelum/Chenab rivers.

**Q32. Which strait connects the Persian Gulf directly to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea?**

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Strait of Malacca | ✓ <b>B. Strait of Hormuz</b> |
| C. Bab-el-Mandeb     | D. Strait of Gibraltar       |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical strategic oil chokepoints, separating Iran from Oman/UAE.

**Q33. The 'Llanos' are expansive tropical grassland plains situated in which South American region?**

|                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Argentina and Uruguay | ✓ <b>B. Venezuela and Colombia</b> |
| C. Brazil and Peru       | D. Bolivia and Paraguay            |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Llanos is a vast tropical grassland plain situated east of the Andes in northwestern South America, split between Venezuela and Colombia.

**Q34. What is the official term used for lines of latitude on a map?**

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| A. Meridians | ✓ B. Parallels |
| C. Contours  | D. Grids       |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Lines of latitude are called parallels because they run perfectly parallel to the Equator and never intersect one another.

**Q35. Which European nation is famously bordered by the Baltic Sea to its north and east and the North Sea to its west?**

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| A. Germany | ✓ B. Denmark |
| C. Poland  | D. Sweden    |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Denmark's unique peninsula (Jutland) sticks out to divide the North Sea shipping lanes from the interior Baltic Sea gates.

**Q36. The 'Kirthar Mountain Range' forms a natural boundary between which two provinces of Pakistan?**

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Punjab and Balochistan | ✓ B. Sindh and Balochistan |
| C. KPK and Punjab         | D. Sindh and Punjab        |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Kirthar Mountains extend south from Balochistan to Sindh, defining the boundary landscape between the two provinces.

**Q37. Which African nation was historically referred to as 'Abyssinia'?**

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| A. Egypt      | B. Libya |
| ✓ C. Ethiopia | D. Ghana |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Abyssinia is the traditional, historical name used by external merchants and states to refer to the Empire of Ethiopia.

**Q38. What is the name of the boundary line that separates Germany and Poland?**

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ✓ A. Oder-Neisse Line | B. Maginot Line |
| C. Siegfried Line     | D. Curzon Line  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Oder-Neisse Line marks the international border between Germany and Poland, drawn mostly along the Oder and Lusatian Neisse rivers post-WWII.

**Q39. The 'Lake Superior', the largest freshwater lake by surface area, is shared by which two countries?**

|                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Russia and Kazakhstan | ✓ B. United States and Canada |
| C. Tanzania and Uganda   | D. Brazil and Venezuela       |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Lake Superior is bounded by Ontario (Canada) to the north, and Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan (USA) to the south.

**Q40. Which soil type, rich in calcium carbonate, is highly typical of semi-arid grassland regions?**

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ✓ <b>A. Chernozem / Mollisols</b> | B. Laterite Soil |
| C. Podzol                         | D. Tundra Soil   |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Chernozem (black earth) or Mollisols are nutrient-rich soils highly characteristic of natural prairie and steppe grassland biomes.

**Q41. The 'Brahmaputra River' originates near which sacred geographic feature in Tibet?**

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Gangotri Glacier | ✓ <b>B. Lake Mansarovar</b> |
| C. Mount Everest    | D. Siachen Glacier          |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Brahmaputra originates in the Angsi Glacier near Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar in Tibet, where it is initially known as the Yarlung Tsangpo.

**Q42. Which of the following is an example of a metamorphic rock?**

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| A. Sandstone       | B. Granite |
| ✓ <b>C. Marble</b> | D. Basalt  |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Marble is formed when the sedimentary rock limestone undergoes intense heat and pressure recrystallization.

**Q43. The 'Dasht-e-Kavir' and 'Dasht-e-Lut' are two massive desert regions located in which country?**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| A. Saudi Arabia | B. Iraq        |
| ✓ C. Iran       | D. Afghanistan |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Both deserts are large arid basins situated within the central plateau region of Iran, with Dasht-e-Lut noted as one of the hottest surface spots on Earth.

**Q44. Which specific atmospheric layer is ideal for flying commercial jet aircraft due to its stability?**

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| A. Troposphere | ✓ B. Stratosphere |
| C. Mesosphere  | D. Ionosphere     |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Commercial jets often fly in the lower stratosphere to avoid the turbulent convective weather systems that dominate the troposphere.

**Q45. The 'Katmai National Park', famous for its Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, is located in which US state?**

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| A. California | B. Hawaii     |
| ✓ C. Alaska   | D. Washington |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Located in southern Alaska, this site was formed following the cataclysmic 1912 volcanic eruption of Novarupta.

**Q46. What is the capital of the island nation of Cyprus?**

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| ✓ <b>A. Nicosia</b> | B. Limassol |
| C. Valletta         | D. Athens   |

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

Nicosia is the largest city and official capital of Cyprus, and it remains politically divided into Greek and Turkish sectors.

**Q47. The 'Great Barrier Reef' runs parallel to the coast of which Australian state?**

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| A. New South Wales   | ✓ <b>B. Queensland</b> |
| C. Western Australia | D. Victoria            |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The world's largest coral reef system is situated in the Coral Sea, right off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

**Q48. Which river is often historically described as the 'Father of Waters'?**

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| A. Amazon River               | B. Nile River |
| ✓ <b>C. Mississippi River</b> | D. Danube     |

**CORRECT ANSWER: C — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The name 'Mississippi' comes from an Ojibwe word meaning 'Great River', and it is traditionally nicknamed the 'Father of Waters' in North American folklore.

**Q49. The 'Simplon Pass' connects which two European countries through the Alps?**

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. France and Italy    | ✓ <b>B. Switzerland and Italy</b> |
| C. Austria and Germany | D. Switzerland and France         |

**CORRECT ANSWER: B — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The Simplon Pass is a high mountain pass that cuts through the Pennine Alps, bridging Valais (Switzerland) with Piedmont (Italy).



**Q50. Which geographic phenomenon is responsible for the movement of tectonic plates?**

✓ **A. Mantle Convection Currents**

**B. Oceanic Tides**

**C. Earth's Rotation**

**D. Atmospheric Pressure Changes**

**CORRECT ANSWER: A — CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN:**

The intense heat rising and cooling within the Earth's mantle creates circular convection currents that act as the driving engine shifting the lithospheric plates above.