

GEOGRAPHY CORE VOLUME III

50 Completely New Solved Premium MCQs for PPSC, FPSC, CSS, and Competitive Exams

Series: Unique Set C

Items: 50 Solved Questions

Standard: Advanced Exam Level

Q1. Which of the following is known as a 'fault-block' mountain range, formed by the tilting or lifting of large crustal blocks?

A. The Himalayas

B. The Alps

✓ C. The Sierra Nevada

D. The Andes

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

Unlike the Himalayas or Alps, which are fold mountains formed by continental collision, the Sierra Nevada in North America is a classic fault-block range formed by tectonic tension breaking the crust into blocks.

Q2. Which oceanic trench is recognized as the deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean?

A. Mariana Trench

✓ B. Puerto Rico Trench

C. Java Trench

D. South Sandwich Trench

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Puerto Rico Trench is the deepest feature in the Atlantic Ocean, reaching a maximum depth of over 8,370 meters (Milwaukee Deep).

Q3. The concept of 'Continental Drift' was formally proposed in 1912 by which prominent scientist?

A. Harry Hess	✓ B. Alfred Wegener
C. Charles Darwin	D. Arthur Holmes

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Alfred Wegener published his landmark theory of Continental Drift in 1912, arguing that all continents were once assembled into a single supercontinent called Pangaea.

Q4. Which unique African river flows completely inland into a vast endorheic delta rather than draining into an ocean?

A. Zambezi River	B. Congo River
✓ C. Okavango River	D. Limpopo River

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Okavango River drains into the Okavango Delta in Botswana, a massive swampy inland delta within the Kalahari Desert where the water evaporates.

Q5. What is the term for a crescent-shaped sand dune whose tips point downwind?

✓ A. Barchan	B. Seif
C. Transverse Dune	D. Parabolic Dune

CORRECT OPTION: A — CORE EXPLANATION:

Barchans are dynamic, unidirectional crescent sand dunes. Their horns or tips always point downwind, showing the path of wind migration.

Q6. The 'Katavothres' or swallow-holes are unique subterranean geomorphic formations characteristic of which landscape type?

A. Glacial Landscape	B. Arid Landscape
✓ C. Karst (Limestone) Landscape	D. Coastal Landscape

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

Swallow-holes and sinkholes are classical underground structural indicators of Karst topography, where water chemically dissolves soluble bedrock.

Q7. The 'Katmai' volcanic event is famous, but which active volcano erupted in 1991 in the Philippines, marking one of the largest modern atmospheric disruptions?

A. Mount Merapi	✓ B. Mount Pinatubo
C. Mount Mayon	D. Taal Volcano

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Mount Pinatubo's massive 1991 eruption injected millions of tons of sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere, temporarily lowering global temperatures.

Q8. Which specific atmospheric wind system is locally referred to as the 'Doctor' along the western coast of Africa?

A. Sirocco	✓ B. Harmattan
C. Mistral	D. Chinook

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Harmattan is a dry, dusty trade wind blowing from the Sahara. It is nicknamed the 'Doctor' because its extreme dryness brings relief from humid tropical dampness.

Q9. The 'Grand Coulee Dam', a monumental structure in hydraulic engineering, is built across which North American river?

A. Colorado River	✓ B. Columbia River
C. Mississippi River	D. Yukon River

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Grand Coulee Dam is a massive gravity dam built on the Columbia River in Washington State, facilitating heavy regional hydroelectric power generation.

Q10. The 'Malvinas Islands' is an alternate historical and geographic designation for which territory?

A. Galapagos Islands	✓ B. Falkland Islands
C. Canary Islands	D. Azores Islands

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Falkland Islands, located in the South Atlantic Ocean, are officially known in Spanish and South American geography as 'Islas Malvinas'.

Q11. Which highly strategic pass cuts through the Sulaiman Mountain Range to connect Balochistan with Punjab in Pakistan?

A. Khyber Pass	B. Bolan Pass
✓ C. Fort Munro / Gomal Pass	D. Kojak Pass

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

The passes across the Sulaiman range (like Fort Munro area passes or the Gomal Pass further north) historically linked the rugged highlands with the Indus basin plains.

Q12. Which landlocked country is entirely surrounded by a single country?

A. San Marino	B. Lesotho
C. Vatican City	✓ D. All of the above

CORRECT OPTION: D — CORE EXPLANATION:

San Marino and Vatican City are completely enclave nations inside Italy, while Lesotho is completely enclaved inside South Africa.

Q13. What is the capital of the resource-rich, landlocked Central Asian country of Kazakhstan?

A. Almaty	✓ B. Astana
C. Tashkent	D. Bishkek

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Astana is the capital of Kazakhstan (briefly renamed Nur-Sultan before reverting back to Astana), acting as its main political centerpiece.

Q14. The 'Great Artesian Basin', the largest and deepest groundwater basin in the world, is located in which continent?

A. Africa	✓ B. Australia
C. North America	D. Asia

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Great Artesian Basin is a vital freshwater resource underlying more than 22% of the arid and semi-arid Australian continent.

Q15. Which of the following describes the 'Albedo Effect' in meteorology and climatology?

A. The absorption of heat by oceans	✓ B. The reflection of solar radiation by a surface
C. The movement of air masses	D. The rotation speed of atmospheric cells

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Albedo is the measure of diffuse reflection of solar radiation out of the total solar radiation received by a body. Ice caps have high albedo; dark soils have low albedo.

Q16. The 'Sunderbans', the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest, is formed by the delta confluence of which rivers?

A. Indus and Jhelum	✓ B. Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna
C. Mekong and Irrawaddy	D. Yangtze and Yellow River

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Sunderbans are situated on the Bay of Bengal, formed by the massive sediment discharge and deltaic web of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers across India and Bangladesh.

Q17. What structural term defines the point on the Earth's surface directly vertical to the subterranean focus of an earthquake?

A. Hypocenter	✓ B. Epicenter
C. Seismic Fault	D. Anticline

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The focus (hypocenter) is where the actual rupture begins deep underground, whereas the epicenter is the map location directly above it on the surface.

Q18. Which minor tectonic plate is located directly between the Pacific Plate and the South American continent?

A. Cocos Plate	✓ B. Nazca Plate
C. Scotia Plate	D. Caribbean Plate

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The subduction of the oceanic Nazca Plate beneath the continental South American Plate is responsible for the ongoing uplift of the Andes Mountains.

Q19. What type of lake is formed when a river loop or meander is completely cut off from the main channel via siltation?

A. Caldera Lake	✓ B. Oxbow Lake
C. Glacial Tarn	D. Finger Lake

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

When a river creates a highly curved meander, erosion eventually cuts through the narrow neck, creating a straight path and stranding the old loop as a crescent-shaped oxbow lake.

Q20. The 'Atacama Desert', known as one of the driest non-polar locations on Earth, is caused primarily by which geographical factor?

A. Rain shadow of the Andes	B. Cold Humboldt Current offshore
C. Subtropical high-pressure cell	✓ D. All of the above

CORRECT OPTION: D — CORE EXPLANATION:

The extreme aridity of the Atacama is a combined result of the Andes rain shadow blocking Amazonian moisture, the cold offshore current, and persistent atmospheric high-pressure inversions.

Q21. Which sound marine body separates the island of Honshu from the island of Hokkaido in northern Japan?

A. Tsushima Strait	✓ B. Tsugaru Strait
C. Malacca Strait	D. Bering Strait

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Tsugaru Strait connects the Sea of Japan with the Pacific Ocean and directly separates northern Honshu from Hokkaido.

Q22. Which primary layer of the atmosphere contains the highest concentration of protective ozone gas molecules?

A. Troposphere	✓ B. Stratosphere
C. Mesosphere	D. Thermosphere

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The ozone layer is located within the stratosphere (roughly 15 to 35 km altitude), where it absorbs harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Q23. The 'Dead Sea' is situated within which type of structural geological landform feature?

A. A massive Volcanic Caldera	✓ B. A Continental Rift Valley
C. A Synclinal Basin	D. An Oceanic Trench

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Dead Sea occupies the Jordan Rift Valley, which is part of the larger, deep tectonic pull-apart system known as the Dead Sea Transform/Rift.

Q24. Which of the following lines on a map connects points of equal wind speed?

✓ A. Isotach	B. Isohel
C. Isoneph	D. Isohyet

CORRECT OPTION: A — CORE EXPLANATION:

An isotach is an isoline connecting points with identical wind speeds, whereas an isohel maps equal sunshine hours, and an isoneph maps equal cloud cover.

Q25. The 'Kuroshio Current' is an example of which type of ocean current?

A. Cold Eastern Boundary Current	✓ B. Warm Western Boundary Current
C. Deep Equatorial Undercurrent	D. Subpolar Gyre Current

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Kuroshio Current is a powerful, warm western boundary ocean current flowing north along the western side of the North Pacific Ocean basin, similar to the Atlantic Gulf Stream.

Q26. Which historic city is widely considered the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world?

A. Cairo	B. Athens
✓ C. Damascus	D. Rome

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

Damascus, Syria, has archaeological evidence of continuous human habitation dating back at least 11,000 years, making it a primary candidate for the oldest continuously inhabited city.

Q27. The 'Vinson Massif' is the highest peak on which isolated global continent?

A. Australia	B. Africa
✓ C. Antarctica	D. South America

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

Vinson Massif is the highest mountain peak in Antarctica, rising to an elevation of approximately 4,892 meters above sea level.

Q28. Which specific economic indicator describes the total number of people per unit area of arable (cultivable) land?

A. Crude Population Density	✓ B. Physiological Density
C. Agricultural Density	D. Economic Density

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Physiological density provides a more accurate view of land pressure than crude density because it only measures the population against land that can actually yield food.

Q29. The 'Kattegat' was previously reviewed, but what about the 'Skagerrak'? Which two bodies does the Skagerrak strait connect?

A. The Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia	✓ B. The North Sea and the Kattegat sea area
C. The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea	D. The English Channel and the Celtic Sea

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Skagerrak is a strait running between Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, serving as the outer connection link between the North Sea and the interior Baltic shipping channels via the Kattegat.

Q30. What is the primary factor responsible for the shifting directional deflection of global planetary winds?

A. Gravitational Pull	✓ B. The Coriolis Effect
C. Centrifugal Force	D. Solar Flare Cycles

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Coriolis Effect, caused by Earth's rotation, deflects moving air to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

Q31. The 'Chaj Doab' is a primary geographic land feature in Punjab, Pakistan. It lies between which two rivers?

A. Indus and Jhelum	✓ B. Chenab and Jhelum
C. Ravi and Chenab	D. Sutlej and Beas

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The name 'Chaj' is derived directly from the names of the two rivers bounding it: 'Cha' from Chenab and 'j' from Jhelum.

Q32. Which deep strait separates the island of Sumatra from mainland Peninsular Malaysia?

✓ A. Strait of Malacca	B. Sunda Strait
C. Lombok Strait	D. Torres Strait

CORRECT OPTION: A — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Strait of Malacca is the primary shipping channel linking the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, bounding Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia.

Q33. The 'Canterbury Plains' represent a notable low-lying agricultural region located in which country?

A. Canada	B. South Africa
✓ C. New Zealand	D. United Kingdom

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Canterbury Plains occupy a vast region on the South Island of New Zealand, serving as one of its most productive agricultural zones.

Q34. What type of map projection preserves the accurate shape of local geographic features but distorts their true area size toward the poles?

A. Peters Projection	✓ B. Mercator Projection
C. Robinson Projection	D. Mollweide Projection

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The cylindrical Mercator Projection preserves conformal shapes and rhumb line angles, making it great for navigation, but it severely inflates landmass sizes near the poles.

Q35. Which landlocked country in Europe is completely bounded by Ukraine and Romania?

A. Bulgaria	B. Hungary
✓ C. Moldova	D. Slovakia

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

Moldova is an eastern European landlocked state situated neatly between western Ukraine and eastern Romania.

Q36. The 'Toba Kakar Range' runs primarily along the western frontier of which province of Pakistan?

A. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	✓ B. Balochistan
C. Sindh	D. Gilgit-Baltistan

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Toba Kakar mountain range forms an extensive upland boundary plateau system along the northern border of Balochistan, separating it from Afghanistan.

Q37. Which historical region spanning across parts of modern Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran is geographically referred to as the cradle of early agrarian civilization?

A. Anatolia	✓ B. The Fertile Crescent
C. The Levant	D. The Maghreb

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Fertile Crescent contains the Tigris, Euphrates, and Jordan river valleys, supporting the earliest transitions to sedentary farming and urban life.

Q38. The 'McMahon Line' serves as a historical and disputed frontier boundary demarcating which two entities?

A. India and Pakistan	✓ B. India and China
C. Pakistan and Afghanistan	D. China and Russia

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The McMahon Line was drawn during the 1914 Simla Accord to define the frontier border between northeastern India and Tibet, currently contested by China.

Q39. Which of the following bodies of water is technically an expansive endorheic lake, yet holds the title of the world's largest inland body of water?

A. Lake Superior	✓ B. The Caspian Sea
C. The Aral Sea	D. Lake Tanganyika

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Caspian Sea is classified as an inland endorheic lake because it has no ocean outlets, but its ancient oceanic crust bed and massive scale lead to it being called a 'sea'.

Q40. What type of soil, highly common in the humid tropical regions, develops via intense leaching due to heavy precipitation?

A. Podzol	✓ B. Laterite Soil
C. Chernozem	D. Regur Soil

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Laterite soils develop in tropical climates with high seasonal rainfall. Soluble silica dissolves and leaches away, leaving a soil rich in iron and aluminum oxides.

Q41. The 'Irrawaddy River' is the primary commercial and geographical artery of which Southeast Asian country?

A. Vietnam	B. Thailand
✓ C. Myanmar	D. Laos

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Irrawaddy (Ayeyarwady) River flows from north to south entirely within Myanmar, emptying through a massive delta network into the Andaman Sea.

Q42. Which basic structural category of rock is formed via the cooling, solidification, and crystallization of molten magma?

A. Sedimentary Rock	B. Metamorphic Rock
✓ C. Igneous Rock	D. Evaporite Rock

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

Igneous rocks originate directly from deep mantle magma cooling either beneath the surface (plutonic/intrusive) or out on the surface (volcanic/extrusive).

Q43. The 'Simpson Desert' and the 'Gibson Desert' are massive hyper-arid physiographic regions located on which continent?

A. Africa	B. Asia
✓ C. Australia	D. South America

CORRECT OPTION: C — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Simpson, Gibson, Great Sandy, and Great Victoria deserts collectively comprise the expansive arid interior biome of Western and Central Australia.

Q44. What name is given to the atmospheric boundary zone where the trade winds of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres converge?

A. Subtropical High Pressure Belt	✓ B. Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)
C. Polar Front	D. Horse Latitudes

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The ITCZ is a low-pressure belt near the equator where converging trade winds generate rising air currents, frequent cloudiness, and heavy thunderstorm activity.

Q45. The 'Yellowstone National Park', famous for its geothermal geysers like Old Faithful, sits directly on top of which geological feature?

A. A Subduction Zone Line

✓ B. A Continental Hotspot Caldera

C. A Transform Fault Line

D. An Oceanic Ridge Crest

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Yellowstone is an active volcanic continental hotspot. Deep mantle plumes supply magma, fueling the geothermal activity and forming its huge volcanic caldera basin.

Q46. What is the official administrative and political capital city of the South American nation of Ecuador?

A. Guayaquil

✓ B. Quito

C. Cuenca

D. Bogota

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Quito is the capital of Ecuador, notably situated at an elevation of roughly 2,850 meters, making it the second-highest official capital city globally.

Q47. The 'Great Plains' of North America are bounded on their western fringe by which extensive mountain chain?

A. Appalachian Mountains

✓ B. Rocky Mountains

C. Cascade Range

D. Sierra Nevada Range

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Rocky Mountains run directly along the western boundary of the interior Great Plains, casting a pronounced rain shadow across their western segments.

Q48. Which European river is celebrated as the longest river on the European continent, draining into the Caspian Sea?

A. Danube River	✓ B. Volga River
C. Rhine River	D. Dnieper River

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Volga River flows entirely through Russia for over 3,530 kilometers, making it Europe's longest river by length and discharge basin scale.

Q49. The 'Brenner Pass' cuts through the Alps to form a critical transit route connecting which two European states?

A. France and Italy	✓ B. Austria and Italy
C. Switzerland and Germany	D. Spain and France

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

The Brenner Pass is a mountain pass across the Eastern Alps, establishing a key alpine highway corridor between Tyrol (Austria) and South Tyrol (Italy).

Q50. What fundamental spatial process explains the rapid urban sprawl and outward expansion of cities into surrounding agricultural land?

A. Gentrification	✓ B. Suburbanization
C. Agglomeration	D. Counter-urbanization

CORRECT OPTION: B — CORE EXPLANATION:

Suburbanization occurs as residential housing, commercial zones, and populations drift from congested urban centers out to peripheral suburban fringes.