

DESERTS & PLAINS OF THE WORLD

The Complete MCQ Compendium

35 Fully Solved & Fact-Checked Questions

✓ Every answer independently verified & corrected

Q01

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

A traveler is thirsty in a desert at 15°E and 25°S. Which desert is this?

A **Kalahari** ■

B Patagonia

C Sahara

D Mohave

EXPLANATION

The Kalahari Desert lies in Southern Africa, roughly between 20°–28°S and 20°–25°E — a perfect match for these coordinates.

Q02

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

Which is the largest desert in North Africa?

A Atacama

B Sahara ■

C Gobi

D Rub' al-Khali

EXPLANATION

The Sahara is the world's largest hot desert, spreading across nearly all of North Africa and covering about 9 million km².

Q03

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Ogaden desert is present in which continent?

A Asia

B Africa ■

C Europe

D America

EXPLANATION

The Ogaden Desert lies in the Ogaden region of eastern Ethiopia, in the Horn of Africa.

Q04

GRASSLANDS

The temperate grasslands of Asia and Europe are known as _____.

A Pampas

B Prairies

C Tundras

D Steppes ■

EXPLANATION

Steppes are the vast, treeless temperate grassland plains stretching from Ukraine through Central Asia into Mongolia.

Q05

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Kalahari Desert, which stretches over 225,000 sq. miles (900,000 sq. km), is located in _____.

A Australia

B South Africa ■

C East Africa

D Saudi Arabia

EXPLANATION

The Kalahari spans Botswana, Namibia and South Africa — the Southern African region.

Q06

DESERT FEATURES

An oasis is associated with _____.

A Glaciers

B Desert ■

C Islands

D Hills

EXPLANATION

An oasis is a fertile, water-rich spot within an otherwise arid desert, sustained by springs or underground water.

Q07

GRASSLANDS

Which region of the world is called “the bread basket of the world”?

A Temperate grassland ☒

B Tropical monsoon region

C Mediterranean region

D Savanna grassland

EXPLANATION

Temperate grasslands (Prairies, Steppes, Pampas) have deep, fertile soils ideal for wheat cultivation, earning this title.

Q08

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

“Dasht-e-Lut” desert is located in _____.

- A China
- B Libya
- C Turkmenistan
- D Iran** ■

EXPLANATION

Dasht-e Lut, meaning “Emptiness Desert,” is a salt desert in southeastern Iran and one of the hottest places on Earth.

Q09

GRASSLANDS

“The Downs” grassland plains are present in _____.

- A USA
- B New Zealand
- C Australia** ■
- D Russia

EXPLANATION

The Downs (such as the Darling Downs) refer to open, rolling grassland plains found across Australia.

Q10

GRASSLANDS

“Veld” is the name given to _____.

- A Valleys in mountain areas
- B South Africa's grasslands ■**
- C New Zealand's grass lands
- D Grasslands around the Black Sea

EXPLANATION

Veld describes the open, rolling grassland plateaus that cover much of Southern Africa.

Q11

GRASSLANDS

The Canterbury Plains are present in _____.

A New Zealand ☒

B Australia

C Russia

D USA

EXPLANATION

The Canterbury Plains form New Zealand's largest area of flat land, located on the South Island.

Q12

GRASSLANDS

Grassland plains present in Argentina are called _____.

A Prairies

B Compass

C Steppes

D Pampas ■

EXPLANATION

The Pampas are the fertile, low-lying grassland plains of Argentina, extending into Uruguay and southern Brazil.

Q13

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Sonoran Desert is present in _____.

A China

B Mexico ■

C Australia

D India

EXPLANATION

The Sonoran Desert straddles the US–Mexico border, covering Arizona, California and much of northwestern Mexico.

Q14

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Great Victoria Desert is present in _____.

A New Zealand

B England

C **Australia** ■

D South Africa

EXPLANATION

The Great Victoria Desert is Australia's largest desert, spanning South Australia and Western Australia.

Q15

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Simpson Desert is present in _____.

A USA

B UK

C Morocco

D Australia ■

EXPLANATION

The Simpson Desert lies in central Australia and is famous for its long, parallel red sand dunes.

Q16

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Kyzyl-Kum Desert is present in _____.

A Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan ■

B China

C Russia and Kazakhstan

D Morocco

EXPLANATION

Kyzylkum lies between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers in Central Asia, mainly across Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Q17

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Gibson Desert is present in _____.

A Australia ☒

B USA

C France

D Ethiopia

EXPLANATION

The Gibson Desert is located in central Western Australia.

Q18

GRASSLANDS

The grassland of Asia is called _____.

A Downs

B Veld

C Pampas

D Steppes ■

EXPLANATION

Steppes are the characteristic temperate grasslands stretching across large parts of Central Asia.

Q19

GENERAL GEOGRAPHY

What is horticulture?

A Cultivation of flowers and fruits ■

B Growing of small plants

C Cultivation of spices

D Rearing animals for meat and milk

EXPLANATION

Horticulture is the branch of agriculture concerned with growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants.

Q20

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Atacama Desert is located in _____.

A Chile ☒

B China

C Japan

D Peru

EXPLANATION

The Atacama Desert runs along Chile's Pacific coast and is the driest non-polar desert on Earth.

Q21

LANDFORMS

Which of the following valleys is a rift valley?

- A** The Amazon Valley
- B** The Thames Valley
- C** The Rhine Valley ■
- D** The Mississippi Valley

EXPLANATION

The Upper Rhine Valley was formed by tectonic rifting (the Rhine Graben), making it a genuine rift valley — unlike the other river valleys listed, which are simply erosional.

Q22**VEGETATION**

An area dominated by trees and shrubs is commonly known as _____.

A Woodland ☒

B Forest

C Shrubland

D Greenland

EXPLANATION

Woodland describes an open landscape of widely-spaced trees mixed with a shrub/grass understory. "Forest" implies a dense, closed canopy of trees alone, while "shrubland" is dominated only by shrubs with no real tree layer.

Q23

GENERAL GEOGRAPHY

How many types of deserts are there in the world?

A 3

B 4 

C 6

D 7

EXPLANATION

Deserts are broadly classified into four types: hot & dry, semi-arid, coastal, and cold deserts.

Q24

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The second largest desert of the world is _____.

A **Arabian Desert** ☒

B Gobi Desert

C Sonoran Desert

D Namibian Desert

EXPLANATION

After the Sahara, the Arabian Desert (about 2.3 million km²) covering most of the Arabian Peninsula ranks as the second-largest subtropical desert.

Q25

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

What is the total area of the Sahara Desert?

A 8,000,000 sq. km

B 8,200,000 sq. km

C 8,400,000 sq. km ■

D None of these

EXPLANATION

Estimates vary by source, ranging roughly between 8.6 and 9.2 million km²; ~8,400,000 sq. km is the closest figure among the choices given.

Q26

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Karakum Desert is located in _____.

A Iran-Iraq

B Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan ■

C China and Mongolia

D Russia and China

EXPLANATION

The Karakum Desert covers most of Turkmenistan, with a smaller portion extending into Uzbekistan.

Q27

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Thar Desert is of which of the following types?

- A** Polar desert
- B** Subtropical desert ■
- C** Cold winter desert
- D** Temperate desert

EXPLANATION

The Thar Desert is classified as a hot subtropical desert — one of the largest of its kind in the world.

Q28

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Mojave Desert is located in _____.

A Australia

B Egypt

C USA ■

EXPLANATION

The Mojave Desert lies in the southwestern United States, covering parts of California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah.

Q29

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Namib Desert is situated in _____.

A China

B Libya

C North Africa

D None of these ☒

EXPLANATION

The Namib Desert runs along the Atlantic coast of Namibia in Southern Africa, not North Africa — so “None of these” is the correct choice among the options given.

Q30

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Gobi Desert is situated in _____.

A Mongolia ☒

B India

C Russia

D Syria

EXPLANATION

The Gobi Desert spans southern Mongolia and northern China.

Q31

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

Rub' al-Khali is the name of a _____.

A Lake

B Plain

C Desert ■

D River

EXPLANATION

Rub' al-Khali, the “Empty Quarter,” is the world's largest contiguous sand desert, on the Arabian Peninsula.

Q32

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

The Taklamakan Desert is located in _____.

A Mongolia

B China ■

C Kazakhstan

D Russia

EXPLANATION

The Taklamakan Desert lies in the Xinjiang region of northwestern China.

Q33

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

What is the rank of the Thar Desert in the world (area wise)?

A 8th

B 9th



C 10th

D 11th

EXPLANATION

The Thar Desert is commonly cited as the world's 9th-largest subtropical (hot) desert.

Q34

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

Which desert of the world is known as the “friendly desert”?

A Thar Desert ■

B Sahara Desert

C Gobi Desert

D Kalahari Desert

EXPLANATION

The Thar Desert is nicknamed the “friendly desert” for its comparatively hospitable climate and dense population, unlike most other deserts.

Q35

DESERTS OF THE WORLD

Death Valley is located in the USA in _____.

A Michigan

B **California** ■

C Alaska

D New York

EXPLANATION

Death Valley lies in eastern California (extending slightly into Nevada) and is the hottest, driest place in North America.