

WORLD GEOGRAPHY · CSS / FPSC PREPARATION

# Deserts, Plains & Grasslands

35 essential MCQs on the world's great deserts and grassland regions — fully solved, fact-checked and explained.

✓ All 35 Answers Verified & Corrected

## DESERTS & GRASSLANDS MCQS

One question per section · correct answer highlighted & ticked · short explanation included

**1** A traveler is thirsty in a desert at 15°E and 25°S. The desert in question is

☒ **Kalahari**

☐ Patagonia

☐ Sahara

☐ Mohave

**WHY:** These coordinates fall in the arid interior of Southern Africa. The Kalahari Basin stretches across Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, and 15°E/25°S sits squarely within it.

**2** Which is the largest desert in the world present in North Africa?

☐ Atacama

☒ **Sahara**

☐ Gobi

☐ Rub' al-Khali

**WHY:** The Sahara covers roughly 9.2 million sq. km of North Africa, making it both the largest desert in North Africa and the largest hot desert on Earth.

**3 Ogaden desert is present in**

**A** Asia

**✓ Africa**

**C** Europe

**D** America

**WHY:** The Ogaden is an arid region in the Somali-inhabited part of eastern Ethiopia, on the African continent.

**4 The temperate grasslands of Asia and Europe are known as**

**A** Pampas

**B** Prairies

**C** Tundras

**✓ Steppes**

**WHY:** The vast temperate grassland belt stretching from Eastern Europe across Central Asia is called the Steppe.

**5 The Kalahari Desert, which stretches over 225,000 miles (900,00 sq. m), is in**

**A** Australia

**✓ South Africa**

**C** East Africa

**D** Saudi Arabia

**WHY:** The Kalahari lies in Southern Africa, spanning Botswana, Namibia and South Africa — 'South Africa' is the best fit among the choices given.

**6 Oasis is associated with**

**A** Glaciers

☒ **Desert**

**C** Islands

**D** Veld

**WHY:** An oasis is a fertile spot in a desert where the water table lies close enough to the surface for springs or wells to support vegetation.

**7 Which one of the following regions of the world is called "the bread basket of the world"?**

☒ **Temperate grassland**

**B** Tropical monsoonal region

**C** Mediterranean region

**D** Savanna grassland

**WHY:** Temperate grasslands, such as the North American Prairies and the Eurasian Steppes, produce huge wheat surpluses, earning them this title.

**8 "Dasht-e-Lut" desert is located in**

**A** China

**B** Libya

**C** Turkmenistan

☒ **Iran**

**WHY:** Dasht-e Lut is a large salt-and-sand desert in south-eastern Iran, famous for having recorded some of the hottest land surface temperatures on Earth.

**9 Down plains is grassland plains present in**

**A** USA

**B** New Zealand

**✓ Australia**

**D** Russia

**WHY:** 'The Downs' refers to open, gently rolling grassland plains found in Australia, such as the Darling Downs of Queensland.

**10 Veld is the name of**

**A** Valley in mountain areas

**✓ South Africa's grasslands**

**C** New Zealand's grass lands

**D** Grasslands around the black sea

**WHY:** 'Veld' (Afrikaans for 'field') is the term for the open grassland and savanna country of South Africa.

**11 Canterbury plains are present in**

**✓ New Zealand**

**B** Australia

**C** Russia

**D** USA

**WHY:** The Canterbury Plains are New Zealand's largest area of flat land, located on the east coast of the South Island.

**12** Grass land plains present in Argentina are called

**A** Prairies

**B** Campos

**C** Steppes

**✓ Pampas**

**WHY:** The fertile lowland plains of Argentina and Uruguay are known as the Pampas.

**13** Sonoran is desert present in

**A** China

**✓ Mexico**

**C** Australia

**D** India

**WHY:** The Sonoran Desert straddles the US-Mexico border, covering parts of Arizona/California and the Mexican states of Sonora and Baja California.

**14** Great victoria desert is present in

**A** New Zealand

**B** England

**✓ Australia**

**D** South Africa

**WHY:** The Great Victoria Desert, Australia's largest desert, spans Western Australia and South Australia.

**15 Simpson desert is present in**

- ☐ A USA
- ☐ B UK
- ☐ C Morocco

☒ **Australia**

**WHY:** The Simpson Desert lies in central Australia, spread across the Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia.

**16 Kyzyl-Kum desert is present in**

☒ **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan**

- ☐ B China
- ☐ C Russia and Kazakhstan
- ☐ D Morocco

**WHY:** The Kyzylkum ('Red Sand') Desert lies between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, mainly across Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

**17 Gibson desert is present in**

☒ **Australia**

- ☐ B USA
- ☐ C France
- ☐ D Ethiopia

**WHY:** The Gibson Desert is located in Western Australia, between the Great Sandy and Great Victoria Deserts.

## 18 The grassland of Asia is called

☐ A Downs

☐ B Veld

☐ C Pampas

☒ **Steppes**

**WHY:** Asia's temperate grasslands, running from Ukraine to Mongolia, are collectively called the Steppes.

## 19 What is horticulture?

☒ **Cultivation of flowers and fruits**

☐ B Growing of small plants

☐ C Cultivation of spices

☐ D Rearing animals for meat and milk

**WHY:** Horticulture (from Latin hortus, 'garden') is the branch of agriculture concerned with growing fruits, vegetables and flowers.

## 20 Atacama desert is located in

☒ **Chile**

☐ B China

☐ C Japan

☐ D Peru

**WHY:** The Atacama Desert runs along the Pacific coast of northern Chile and is considered the driest non-polar desert on Earth.

**21 Which of the following valleys is a rift valley?**

**A** The Amazon Valley

**B** The Thames Valley

☒ **The Rhine Valley**

**D** The Mississippi Valley

**WHY:** The Rhine Valley (Upper Rhine Graben) formed where the Earth's crust pulled apart, making it a textbook example of a rift valley.

**22 Area dominated by trees and shrubs is commonly known as**

☒ **Woodland**

**B** Forest

**C** Shrubland

**D** Grassland

**WHY:** Geographers define woodland as vegetation cover made up of both trees and shrubs with an open canopy — a forest, by contrast, denotes dense, continuous tree cover.

**23 How many types of the deserts are in the world?**

**A** 3

☒ **4**

**C** 6

**D** 7

**WHY:** Deserts are generally classified into four types: subtropical (hot) deserts, cold winter deserts, coastal deserts, and polar deserts.

## 24 The second largest desert of the world is

☒ **Arabian Desert**

☐ **B** Gobi Desert

☐ **C** Sonoran Desert

☐ **D** Namibian Desert

**WHY:** After the Sahara, the Arabian Desert (about 2.3 million sq. km) ranks as the world's second-largest hot desert.

## 25 What is the total area of Sahara desert?

☐ **A** 8,000,000 sq. km

☐ **B** 8,200,000 sq. km

☐ **C** 8,400,000 sq. km

☒ **None of these**

**WHY:** Current surveys put the Sahara at roughly 8.6–9.2 million sq. km, which does not exactly match any of the fixed figures offered — so 'None of these' is the accurate choice.

## 26 Karakum desert is located in

☐ **A** Iran-Iraq

☒ **Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan**

☐ **C** China and Mongolia

☐ **D** Russia and China

**WHY:** The Karakum ('Black Sand') Desert occupies about 70% of Turkmenistan and extends slightly into neighbouring Uzbekistan.

**27** Thar Desert is of which of the following type?

☐ A Polar desert

☒ B Subtropical desert

☐ C Cold winter desert

☐ D Temperate desert

**WHY:** The Thar Desert, spanning India and Pakistan, is classed as a subtropical (hot) desert.

**28** Mojave desert is located in

☐ A Australia

☐ B Egypt

☒ C USA

☐ D UK

**WHY:** The Mojave Desert lies in the south-western United States, across parts of California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah.

**29** Namib desert is situated in

☐ A China

☐ B Libya

☐ C North Africa

☒ D None of these

**WHY:** The Namib Desert runs along the Atlantic coast of Namibia in Southern Africa — not North Africa — so none of the first three options is correct.

**30 Gobi desert is situated in**

☒ **Mongolia**

☐ B India

☐ C Russia

☐ D Syria

**WHY:** The Gobi Desert spans southern Mongolia and northern China, with Mongolia giving it its name.

**31 Rub' al-khali is the name of**

☐ A Lake

☐ B Plain

☒ **Desert**

☐ D River

**WHY:** Rub' al Khali, the 'Empty Quarter', is the largest continuous sand desert in the world, covering much of the southern Arabian Peninsula.

**32 Taklamakan desert is located in**

☐ A Mongolia

☒ **China**

☐ C Kazakhstan

☐ D Russia

**WHY:** The Taklamakan Desert lies in the Tarim Basin of China's Xinjiang region.

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

**A** 8th

**✓ 9th**

**C** 10th

**D** 11th

**WHY:** The Thar Desert is commonly cited as the 9th-largest desert in the world by area (rankings vary slightly between sources).

**34** Which desert of the world is known as "friendly desert"?

**✓ Thar desert**

**B** Sahara desert

**C** Gobi desert

**D** Kalahari desert

**WHY:** The Thar Desert is nicknamed the 'Friendship Desert' because, unlike most deserts, it is relatively densely populated and supports agriculture and livestock.

**35** Death valley is located in USA in

**A** Michigan

**✓ California**

**C** Alaska

**D** New York

**WHY:** Death Valley, the lowest and hottest point in North America, lies in eastern California.