

Subject- S.S.T

Class- 9

Topic- Physical Features of India

Learn and Write

Question 3:

Distinguish between

- (i) Converging and diverging tectonic plates.
- (ii) Bhangar and Khadar
- (iii) Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

Answer 3:

(i) The internal heat of the earth makes the molten rocks to rush towards the surface of the earth and drive the crust into large fragments known as "Tectonic Plates". These plates are drifting over the mantle of the earth. As a result when the two or more plates are pushed towards each other they are called 'Converging Plates'. On the other hand if they are moving away from each other, they are called 'Diverging Plates'.

(ii) According to the age of the soils of the Northern Plain they have been differentiated by two names: (a) Bhangar and (b) Khadar. The difference between these two are mentioned below:

- a) *Bhangar* - These are the older alluvium or old soil and form the largest part of the Northern Plains. They lie above the flood plains of the rivers and present a terrace like structure. It often contains *Kankar nodules* made of calcareous deposits.
- b) *Khadar* - The newer and younger deposits of the flood plains are known as 'Khadar'. So, these are the new alluvium or new soil and are very fertile. Thus, Khadar is ideal for intensive agriculture.

(iii)

Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
1. The Western Ghats are situated and mark the western edges of Deccan Plateau parallel to the western coasts of India along the Arabian Sea.	1. The Eastern Ghats are situated and mark the eastern edges of Deccan Plateau parallel to the eastern coasts of India along the Bay of Bengal.
2. Continuous, can be crossed through the passes only.	2. Discontinuous, irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.
3. The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats. Average elevation is 900 - 1600 meters.	3. Average elevation is 600 meters.
4. The height increases progressively from north to south. The highest peaks include the Anai Mudi, the Doda Belta.	4. The highest peaks include the Mahendragiri, the Javadi Hills.
5. The Western Ghats enclose a narrow strip between its western slopes and the Arabian Sea which is known as Western Coastal Plain. Its maximum width is 64 km.	5. The Eastern Ghats also enclose a strip of land between its eastern slopes and the Bay of Bengal which is known as the Eastern Coastal Plain. It is wider than the Western Coastal strip with its maximum breadth 120 km.
6. It experiences orographic rain mostly in summer due to the summer monsoons. The climate is hot and moist.	6. It receives rain both in summer and winter, especially in winter through winter monsoons. However, here the rain is lesser than the western strip.
7. Here the soil is highly fertile. Rice, spices, rubber and fruits like coconuts, cashew nuts etc. are grown here.	7. The soil is not as fertile as western strip. Rice, ground nuts, cotton, tobacco, coconuts etc. are grown here.

Question 4:

Describe how the Himalayas were formed.

Answer 4:

The Indian Peninsula drifted towards the north and finally collided with the much larger Eurasian Plate. As a result of this collision, the sedimentary rocks which were accumulated in the geosynclines (known as Tethys) got folded and formed the mountain systems of the West Asia and Himalaya.

Question 5:

Which are the major physiographic divisions of India? Contrast the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau.

Answer 5:

The major physiographic divisions of India are the following:

- a) The Himalayan Mountain Wall of the north.
- b) The Northern Plains.
- c) The Peninsular Plateau.
- d) The Indian Dessert.
- e) The Coastal Plains.
- f) The Islands.

The following table compares and contrasts between the relief of the Himalayan region with that of the Peninsular plateau.



Himalayan Region	Peninsular Plateau
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Himalayas are young fold mountains of comparatively recent origin. 2. They are the highest mountains in the world. 3. Many great rivers like - the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra originate from the Himalayas. 4. The Himalayas are formed of the sedimentary rocks. 5. They are formed at the edge of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. 6. Important hill stations like - Shimla, Mussoorie, Darjeeling, Nainital are found on the Himalayas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They are a part of the oldest structures of the Indian subcontinent. 2. The Central Highlands are formed of low hills and there is no high peak of world-wide fame in these hills. 3. Very few rivers like - the Narmada and the Tapti originate from these hills. 4. The Central Highlands are formed of igneous and metamorphic rocks. 5. They are formed at the edge of the Deccan Plateau. 6. No well known hill station is found here.

