

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Geography as a Discipline

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

Definition: Geography = the science of SPATIAL ATTRIBUTES (where things are, why there, how they relate).

Integrating discipline = synthesis of PHYSICAL + HUMAN phenomena over space.

The 4 questions: WHAT (is it) · WHERE (is it) · WHY (is it there) · HOW (does it interact / manage).

Systematic approach = ONE theme, ALL places — founder: Alexander von Humboldt.

Regional approach = ONE place, ALL themes — founder: Karl Ritter.

3 main branches: Physical Geography · Human Geography · Biogeography (interface).

Physical sub-branches: Geomorphology · Climatology · Hydrology · Soil Geography (Pedology).

Human sub-branches: Population · Settlement · Economic · Political · Cultural geography.

Geography = BOTH a natural science (physical side) AND a social science (human side).

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Explain geography as an integrating / interdisciplinary discipline

5 marks · 80% of years

Definition → two-way physical-human example → link to sister disciplines → spatial-synthesis conclusion.

2 Branches of geography under the systematic approach

5 marks · 75% of years

Name 3 main branches; detail 4 physical sub-branches with one-liners; mention human sub-branches + biogeography.

3 Systematic vs regional approach + founders

3 marks · 70% of years

Humboldt = systematic (one theme, all places); Ritter = regional (one place, all themes). Never reverse them.

4 What questions does a geographer ask?

3 marks · 55% of years

What · Where · Why there · How it relates. Stress that 'why there' makes geography explanatory, not descriptive.

5 Why is geography both a natural and a social science? / Dualism

5 marks · 60% of years

Physical side = natural-science methods; human side = social-science methods; dualism = physical vs human + systematic vs regional.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Write the one-sentence definition of geography ('science of spatial attributes') and the four questions (What/Where/Why/How) from memory. Then write the integrating-discipline definition.

15-30 min

Draw the branches tree: 3 main branches + the 4 physical sub-branches + 5 human sub-branches + biogeography. Add a one-line definition to each physical sub-branch.

30-45 min

Make the systematic-vs-regional grid. Write 'Humboldt = one theme, all places' and 'Ritter = one place, all themes' three times until it is automatic. Note the dualism / dichotomy point.

45-60 min

Write two physical-affects-human and two human-affects-physical examples (e.g. alluvial plains → dense population; deforestation → climate change). Then a one-line 'geography is both a natural and social science' justification.

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer. Target >= 12/15.

75-90 min

Review every wrong answer; re-read the matching notes-slide. Recite the three main branches and two founders one final time. Done.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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