

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Distribution of Oceans and Continents

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

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

Continental Drift: Wegener (1912) — PANGAEA (all-land) surrounded by PANTHALASSA (all-water).

Pangaea split → LAURASIA (north) + GONDWANALAND (south), separated by the TETHYS Sea.

Wegener's forces: POLE-FLEEING (earth's rotation) + TIDAL (sun & moon) — both too WEAK (why rejected).

Evidences: jigsaw fit · matching rocks of same age · TILLITE (glacial) · PLACER (gold) · FOSSILS (Mesosaurus, Glossopteris).

Convection currents (Arthur HOLMES) = the real engine driving drift.

Sea-floor spreading (Harry HESS): new crust at MID-OCEANIC RIDGE, old crust destroyed at TRENCHES.

PALAEOMAGNETISM = symmetrical magnetic stripes either side of the ridge → proof of spreading.

Plate Tectonics (1960s): 7 major + several minor rigid plates moving over the asthenosphere.

Boundaries: DIVERGENT (apart, new crust) · CONVERGENT (towards, subduction) · TRANSFORM (slide past).

Indian plate broke from Gondwanaland, drifted NE, collided with Eurasia → raised the HIMALAYAS.

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Explain Wegener's Continental Drift Theory

5 marks · 80% of years

Pangaea/Panthalassa → Laurasia/Gondwanaland → two forces → evidences → limitation (forces too weak).

2 Evidences supporting continental drift

5 marks · 78% of years

Classify: geological (jigsaw, matching rocks), climatological (tillite, placer), biological (Mesosaurus, Glossopteris).

3 Sea-floor spreading + palaeomagnetism

3 marks · 65% of years

New crust at ridge (Hess); magnetic stripes symmetric about ridge prove it; floor youngest at ridge, oldest at trench.

4 Plate tectonics — plates and boundary types

5 marks · 70% of years

7 major plates; divergent/convergent/transform each with an example (Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Himalayas, San Andreas).

5 Movement of the Indian plate

5 marks · 55% of years

From Gondwanaland → rapid NE drift → Tethys closes → collision with Eurasia → Himalayas + marine fossils high up.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Write Wegener (1912), Pangaea, Panthalassa, Laurasia, Gondwanaland, Tethys and the two forces from memory. Add 'forces too weak = why rejected'.

15-30 min

List the five evidences under three headings — geological (jigsaw, matching rocks), climatological (tillite, placer), biological (Mesosaurus, Glossopteris).

30-45 min

Draw the sea-floor spreading diagram: ridge in centre, magma rising, floor spreading to trenches. Add the magnetic-stripe symmetry. Credit Holmes (convection) and Hess (spreading).

45-60 min

Name the 7 major plates and sketch the three boundary types with one example each. Then trace the Indian plate from Gondwanaland to the Himalayan collision.

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 Pangaea → break-up → spreading → plate boundaries 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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