



EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

# Human Geography — Nature and Scope

*Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.***FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS**

**DEFINITION:** Human geography = study of interrelationship between humans and physical environment

**NATURE — two-way:**  
NATURALISATION OF HUMANS (adapt to nature) + HUMANISATION OF NATURE (transform nature)

**SCHOOL 1 — ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINISM (Ratzel, 1882):** nature determines human life. Rigid. Critiqued.

**SCHOOL 2 — POSSIBILISM (Vidal de la Blache, ~1900):** nature offers possibilities; humans choose via culture/tech.

**SCHOOL 3 — NEO-DETERMINISM / STOP-AND-GO (Griffith Taylor):** synthesis. Humans innovate but face natural limits.

**SUBFIELDS (11+):** urban · rural · economic · political · social · cultural · population · settlement · behavioural · historical · medical · transportation · agricultural

**KEY THINKERS:** Friedrich Ratzel (Germany) · Vidal de la Blache (France) · Griffith Taylor (Australia)

**Significance today:** tackles climate change, urbanisation, migration, inequality — all SPATIAL phenomena

**TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS**

- 1 Three schools of thought**  
*5 marks · 90% of years*  
Setup debate + Ratzel determinism + Vidal possibilism + Taylor neo-determinism with stop-and-go.
- 2 Define + explain scope**  
*5 marks · 75% of years*  
Definition + naturalisation/humanisation + 5+ subfields.
- 3 Determinism vs Possibilism**  
*3 marks · 70% of years*  
Determinism = nature controls (rigid). Possibilism = nature offers options; humans choose (flexible).
- 4 Neo-determinism by whom?**  
*3 marks · 60% of years*  
Griffith Taylor; stop-and-go; synthesis.
- 5 5 subfields with one-line each**  
*3 marks · 50% of years*  
Pick from urban, rural, economic, political, social, population, etc.

**90-MIN REVISION FLOW**

- 0–15 min**  
Memorise: 3 schools + 3 thinkers + 1 key idea each. Mnemonic: R-D (Ratzel = Determinism), V-P (Vidal = Possibilism), T-N (Taylor = Neo-determinism).
- 15–30 min**  
Write the 5-mark 'three schools' answer from memory in <12 min.
- 30–45 min**  
List 8 subfields of human geography with a one-line description of each.
- 45–60 min**  
Practise: identify naturalisation vs humanisation in 5 real-world examples.
- 60–75 min**  
Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill.
- 75–90 min**  
Review wrong answers. Revise thinker name/nationality/year.

**Confidence, not anxiety.** You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning. Helpline: +91 70330 05444 · [readyforboards.com](http://readyforboards.com)