ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12

Primary Activities

Geography (Fundamentals of Human Geography) · Chapter 5 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

HOW TO USE

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER

Section A — Very Short Answer (1 mark each)

Q1. Define a primary activity. [1 mark]

Ans: An economic activity which involves direct extraction of natural resources from the earth — hunting, gathering, fishing, forestry, pastoralism, agriculture and mining.

Q2. Name any TWO regions where hunting and gathering still survives. [1 mark]

Ans: Amazon basin (Indian tribes), Congo basin (Pygmies), Kalahari (Bushmen), Arctic tundra (Inuit). [Any 2]

Q3. Give the regional name of shifting cultivation in (a) Mexico (b) Indonesia. [1 mark]

Ans: (a) Milpa (b) Ladang.

Q4. Name TWO countries famous for commercial dairy farming. [1 mark]

Ans: Any 2 of: Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, USA (Great Lakes region), Germany.

Q5. Which is the world's leading copper-producing country? [1 mark]

Ans: Chile.

Q6. Name the TWO main methods of mining. [1 mark]

Ans: Surface mining (open-pit / strip / quarrying) and Sub-surface mining (shaft mining).

Section B — Short Answer (3 marks each)

Q7. Distinguish between nomadic herding and commercial livestock rearing. (any 3 points) [3 marks]

Ans: Nomadic herding: subsistence; herders move with animals across natural pastures; examples — Bedouin, Maasai, Mongols. Commercial livestock rearing: fully commercial; permanent, fenced ranches; scientifically managed; produce sold in world markets; examples — USA, Argentina (Pampas), Australia, NZ. Distinguishing points: scale (small vs large), mobility (mobile vs sedentary), purpose (subsistence vs market).

Q8. Explain THREE physical factors that influence mining. [3 marks]

Ans: (i) SIZE of deposit — only large reserves justify the investment. (ii) GRADE of ore — high-grade ores remain viable even when prices drop; low-grade ones become uneconomic. (iii) DEPTH of deposit — shallow deposits are mined cheaply by open-pit; deep ones need expensive shaft mining and only become viable when prices are high.

Q9. Why is intensive subsistence agriculture called 'intensive'? Give TWO examples of regions where it is practised. [3 marks]

Ans: Called 'intensive' because very high inputs of labour, fertilisers, irrigation and multiple cropping are applied per unit area of land to maximise food output from tiny holdings. Practised in densely populated monsoon Asia — eastern + southern China, eastern India + Bangladesh, the rice plains of Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, and Japan.

Section C — Long Answer (5 marks each)

Q10. Describe any FIVE characteristics of plantation agriculture with examples. [6 marks]

> **Ans:** (1) Single crop / monoculture — each plantation grows one cash crop (tea in Assam, coffee in Karnataka, rubber in Malaysia, sugarcane in Cuba, banana in Central America). (2) Large estate — often hundreds of hectares, far exceeding subsistence holdings. (3) Capital-intensive — heavy investment in land clearance, processing factory (withering, drying, fermenting), labour housing, transport. (4) Scientific methods + skilled labour — research stations, clonal planting, controlled pruning, pesticide management; workforce mixes cheap field labour with skilled supervisors. (5) Transport network + market orientation — efficient road/rail/port links move bulky produce to mills and ports; the entire output is sold on world markets.

Q11. Compare shifting cultivation with intensive subsistence agriculture under (i) holding size (ii) labour input (iii) productivity (iv) sustainability (v) example regions. [6 marks]

> **Ans:** (i) Holding size — shifting: small forest patch cleared and abandoned cyclically; intensive subsistence: tiny permanent plots (often <1 ha). (ii) Labour input — shifting: low to moderate, mostly clearance + sowing; intensive: very high, multi-cropping + irrigation + heavy weeding. (iii) Productivity — shifting: low per hectare, very low per worker; intensive: high per hectare (wet rice yields), low per worker. (iv) Sustainability — shifting: sustainable only with long fallow (15-20 yrs); breaks down under population pressure (3-5 yr fallow); intensive: sustained over millennia by manure + irrigation but cannot raise per-worker output without mechanisation. (v) Examples — shifting: NE India (jhum), Mexico (milpa), Indonesia (ladang), Brazil (roca); intensive: eastern India, eastern China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Japan.

★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES

2 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Describe any five characteristics of plantation agriculture. (5 marks)
Common

Step 1 [1 mark]	**Step 1 — Define**	Plantation agriculture is a commercial form of farming in which a single cash crop is cultivated on large estates using capital and scientific methods, with the entire output destined for the market.
Step 2 [1 mark]	**Step 2 — Point 1 (Single crop / monoculture)**	Each plantation specialises in ONE cash crop — tea in Assam, coffee in Karnataka, rubber in Malaysia, sugarcane in Cuba, banana in Central America.
Step 3 [1 mark]	**Step 3 — Point 2 (Large estates + capital)**	Estates are very large (often hundreds of hectares) and require heavy capital investment in land clearance, processing factories and labour housing.
Step 4 [1 mark]	**Step 4 — Point 3 (Scientific methods + skilled labour)**	Modern scientific cultivation, fertilisers and pest control are used; both cheap field labour and skilled supervision are employed.
Step 5 [1 mark]	**Step 5 — Point 4 + 5 (Transport network + market orientation)**	Plantations need an efficient transport network (roads, railways, ports) to move the produce; the entire output is sold on world markets — making this fully commercial despite being a single crop.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:
- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Distinguish between nomadic herding and commercial livestock rearing. (3 marks)
Common

Step 1 **[1 mark]**	**Step 1 — State the basis**	The two forms of pastoralism differ in scale, mobility, market orientation and technology.
Step 2 **[1 mark]**	**Step 2 — Nomadic herding**	Subsistence activity; herders move with their animals across natural pastures (Bedouins of Sahara, Maasai of East Africa, Mongols of Central Asia); herd size is small; little use of modern inputs.
Step 3 **[1 mark]**	**Step 3 — Commercial livestock rearing**	Organised on a commercial basis on permanent, fenced ranches (USA, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa); scientifically managed; produce (meat, wool, hide) is sold in world markets.
Step 4 **[1 mark]**	**Step 4 — Closing comparison**	Thus nomadic herding is mobile + subsistence, while commercial livestock rearing is sedentary + market-oriented.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:
- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES
- For 1-mark identifier questions, accept any one correct example; do not deduct for spelling of regional names if pronunciation is clear.
- For 3-mark 'distinguish' questions, award 1 mark per valid distinguishing point (max 3); the points must contrast both sides, not merely describe one side.
- For 5-mark plantation question, the locked 5 features (single crop / large estate / capital / scientific methods / transport + market) are each worth 1 mark; if the student gives a definition, give 1 mark from the feature pool and award the remaining 4 for any 4 valid features.
- Give 1 bonus mark (within the section ceiling) for a labelled diagram of plantation cycle, mining cross-section or world-map of agricultural types.
- Penalise factually wrong examples (e.g. saying Llanos is a wheat belt) by deducting 0.5 mark from the relevant point.
- Spelling of regional names (jhum, milpa, ladang, roca, chena, masole) must be reasonably close; small slips not penalised but a swap (jhum = Mexico) is wrong.