

CHAPTER 5

Primary Activities

CBSE · Geography (Fundamentals of Human
Geography) · Class 12

WHAT THIS CHAPTER DOES

Boards prep that builds confidence, not anxiety.

TODAY'S MISSION

Today's Mission

WHY THIS MATTERS

The 4 Sectors of an Economy — Where We Are

TOPIC

Quick recap from Cl 11 — do you know these?

TOPIC

A

Hunting, Gathering & Pastoralism

TOPIC

Hunting and Gathering — the earliest activity

POINT 1

POINT 2

POINT 3

POINT 4

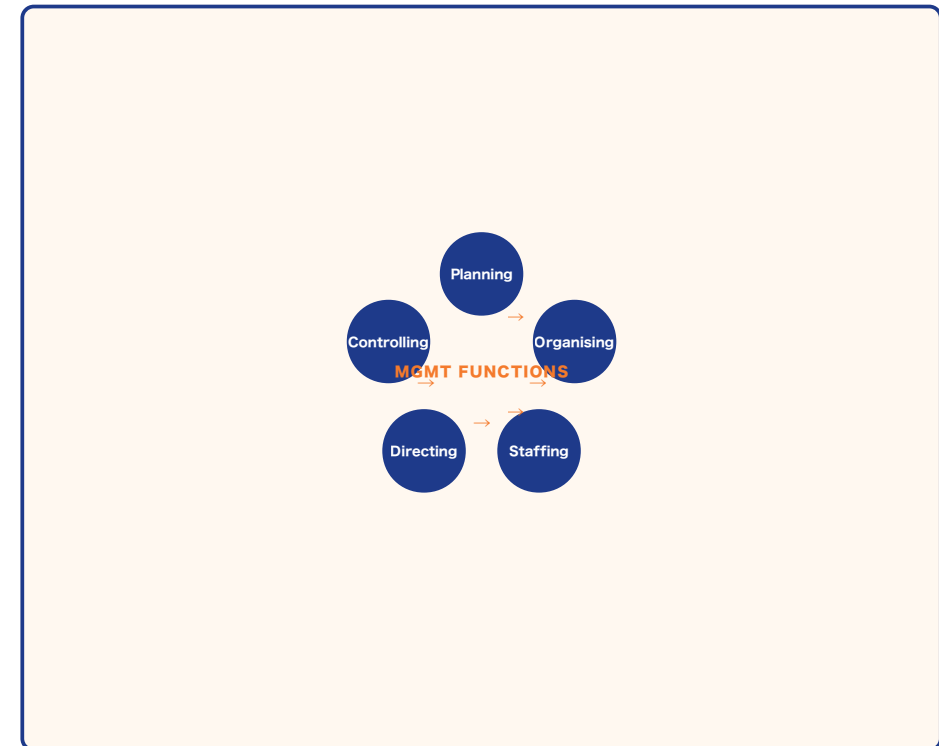
WORKED EXAMPLE

Case in point — Inuit of the Arctic

- 1 {'prompt': 'What do they hunt?', 'answer': 'Seal, walrus, polar bear, caribou (reindeer) and fish. Every part of the animal is used — meat for food, hide for clothing, bone for tools, fat for fuel.'}

- 2 {'prompt': 'Why has gathering not developed here?', 'answer': 'Tundra vegetation is sparse (lichens, mosses, dwarf shrubs) — no fruit, no nuts, no roots in usable quantity. Hunting is the ONLY viable primary activity.'}

- 3 {'prompt': 'How is it changing today?', 'answer': 'Settlement programmes have brought many Inuit into permanent villages with cash-paid jobs; younger generations now combine traditional hunting with wage work in mining and tourism.'}



TOPIC

Pastoralism at a glance

TOPIC

B

Agriculture — Subsistence & Commercial

TOPIC

Subsistence agriculture — 2 sub-types

POINT 1

POINT 2

POINT 3

POINT 4

WORKED EXAMPLE

Case in point — Shifting cultivation in Nagaland

- 1** {'prompt': 'What is the annual cycle?', 'answer': 'October–February: clear forest patch (1-2 ha). February–March: burn the dried vegetation. April: sow rice, maize, millet, vegetables in the ash-enriched soil. June–November: weed + harvest. After 2-3 years, soil fertility falls and the family moves to a new patch.'}
- 2** {'prompt': 'How long until they return?', 'answer': 'Traditionally 15-20 years — long enough for the forest to regrow and restore fertility. Today, population pressure has shortened the cycle to 3-5 years in many districts — soil never fully recovers, yields fall, environmental damage rises.'}
- 3** {'prompt': 'What are the policy responses?', 'answer': 'State govts promote terrace farming, horticulture (oranges, pineapples) and settled cultivation through subsidy. But cultural attachment to jhum is strong — change is slow.'}

TRY IT · SOLVE BEFORE YOU PEEK

Pause + Test — 60 seconds

Work it out before you flip the answer.

SOLUTION

TOPIC

Commercial agriculture — 6 sub-types

POINT 1

POINT 2

POINT 3

POINT 4

WORKED EXAMPLE

Case in point — Tea plantation in Assam (Plantation agriculture)

- 1 {'prompt': '1. Single crop?', 'answer': 'YES — almost the entire estate is under TEA, with a few shade trees and a kitchen garden. Monoculture is total.'}
- 2 {'prompt': '2. Large estate?', 'answer': 'YES — average 400 ha; some estates exceed 1000 ha. Compare to a subsistence holding of 0.5 ha in eastern India.'}
- 3 {'prompt': '3. Capital-intensive?', 'answer': 'YES — initial clearing, planting, processing factory (withering, rolling, fermenting, drying), labour housing, hospital, roads. Outlay before first harvest is huge.'}
- 4 {'prompt': '4. Scientific methods + skilled labour?', 'answer': 'YES — research stations (Tocklai), clonal planting, controlled pruning, pesticide management. Workforce mixes thousands of pluckers with trained agronomists + managers.'}
- 5 {'prompt': '5. Transport network + market orientation?', 'answer': 'YES — daily green-leaf-to-factory transport + weekly auctions in Guwahati + Kolkata + global export to UK, Russia, Germany, Middle East. 100% of output sold.'}

TOPIC

C

Mining

TOPIC

Mining — factors + methods

POINT 1

POINT 2

POINT 3

POINT 4

TOPIC

Developed vs Developing — the mining contrast

MARKS DISTRIBUTION

Where do the marks come from?

PYQ PATTERNS

5-year PYQ pattern lens

TOPPER TEMPLATE · MARK-BY-MARK

Topper's 5-mark answer — Plantation agriculture

1 DEFINITION (1 MARK)

2 FEATURE 1 — SINGLE CROP

3 FEATURE 2 — LARGE ESTATE + CAPITAL

4 FEATURE 3 — SCIENTIFIC METHODS + SKILLED LABOUR

5 FEATURE 4 + 5 — TRANSPORT NETWORK + MARKET ORIENTATION

TRY IT · SOLVE BEFORE YOU PEEK

Closing check — 60 seconds

Work it out before you flip the answer.

SOLUTION

TOPPER TEMPLATE · MARK-BY-MARK

Describe any five characteristics of plantation agriculture. (5 marks)

- 1 STEP 1 — DEFINE**
1 m

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.
- 2 STEP 2 — POINT 1 (SINGLE CROP / MONOCULTURE)**
1 m

Each plantation specialises in ONE cash crop — tea in Assam, coffee in Karnataka, rubber in Malaysia, sugarcane in Cuba, banana in Central America.
- 3 STEP 3 — POINT 2 (LARGE ESTATES + CAPITAL)**
1 m

Estates are very large (often hundreds of hectares) and require heavy capital investment in land clearance, processing factories and labour housing.
- 4 STEP 4 — POINT 3 (SCIENTIFIC METHODS + SKILLED LABOUR)**
1 m

Modern scientific cultivation, fertilisers and pest control are used; both cheap field labour and skilled supervision are employed.
- 5 STEP 5 — POINT 4 + 5 (TRANSPORT NETWORK + MARKET ORIENTATION)**
1 m

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.

TOPPER TEMPLATE · MARK-BY-MARK

Distinguish between nomadic herding and commercial livestock rearing. (3 marks)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 STEP 1 — STATE THE BASIS
1 m</p> | <p>The two forms of pastoralism differ in scale, mobility, market orientation and technology.</p> |
| <p>2 STEP 2 — NOMADIC HERDING
1 m</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>3 STEP 3 — COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK REARING
1 m</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>4 STEP 4 — CLOSING COMPARISON
1 m</p> | <p>Thus nomadic herding is mobile + subsistence, while commercial livestock rearing is sedentary + market-oriented.</p> |

PYQ PATTERNS

Top PYQ patterns to drill

#1	Distinguish two farming types (3-mark table) (3 marks)	95%
#2	Plantation agriculture	5 features (5-mark) (5 marks) — 88%
#3	Define + locate (1-mark identifier) (1 marks)	80%
#4	Factors affecting mining (3-mark) (3 marks)	70%
#5	Shifting cultivation	characteristics or problems (3-5 mark) (5 marks) — 60%

RECAP · MEMORISE THESE

What you now know

1 PRIMARY activity = direct extraction from nature — hunting, gathering, pastoralism, agriculture, mining, forestry, fishing.

2 Pastoralism splits into NOMADIC (subsistence, mobile) and COMMERCIAL livestock rearing (sedentary, ranch, market).

3 Agriculture splits into SUBSISTENCE (primitive shifting + intensive wet rice / dry farming) and COMMERCIAL (grain, mixed, dairy, Mediterranean, plantation, market gardening + factory farming).

WHAT'S NEXT

Next class — Chapter 6 · Secondary Activities



Drill it before you forget it

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