



The Savvy Humanities

SIMPLIFYING MINDS, SHAPING THINKERS

CLASS 11 · CBSE 2026-27 SYLLABUS

Complete subject

Geography

Both theory books of Class 11 (029), in one

527

pages of notes

20

chapters, two books

285

exam questions solved

70 / 70

theory marks covered

What's inside

- Both NCERT theory books, 20 chapters
- One whole-subject tracker, plus one per chapter
- 20 mind maps and 88 hand-drawn diagrams
- Map work: every CBSE item, in location tables
- One combined glossary — 638 key terms
- One question bank — 285 model answers
- Questions chosen for the paper's pattern
- Textbook slips corrected and flagged

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Handwritten-style, for revision

Every page inside is handwritten-style with highlighting, boxes and a mind map — built to be read the night before, not skimmed.



Contents

Both NCERT theory books of CBSE Class 11 Geography (029) — all twenty chapters of the 70-mark paper. CBSE gives marks by unit: the third column shows each chapter's unit and the marks that unit carries, shared by its chapters.

Ch	Title	Unit · marks	Page
Book 1 — Fundamentals of Physical Geography (35 marks)			
1	Geography as a Discipline	I · 3	6
2	The Origin and Evolution of the Earth	II · 9	29
3	Interior of the Earth	II · 9	41
4	Distribution of Oceans and Continents	II · 9	64
5	Geomorphic Processes	III · 6	81
6	Landforms and their Evolution	III · 6	99
7	Composition and Structure of Atmosphere	IV · 8	116
8	Solar Radiation, Heat Balance and Temperature	IV · 8	125
9	Atmospheric Circulation and Weather Systems	IV · 8	141
10	Water in the Atmosphere	IV · 8	160
11	World Climate and Climate Change*	IV · project	171
12	Water (Oceans)	V · 4	186
13	Movements of Ocean Water	V · 4	203
14	Biodiversity and Conservation*	VI · project	216
Book 2 — India: Physical Environment (35 marks)			
1	India – Location	I · 5	231
2	Structure and Physiography	II · 13	243
3	Drainage System	II · 13	262
4	Climate	III · 12	281
5	Natural Vegetation	III · 12	303
6	Natural Hazards and Disasters*	IV · project	322
My Class 11 Geography tracker — all twenty chapters on one page			2
Combined glossary — 638 key terms, tagged by chapter			344
Question bank — 285 solved questions, grouped by chapter			377



UNIT 1 · GEOGRAPHY AS A DISCIPLINE — 3 MARKS

Book 1 · Chapter 1

Geography as a Discipline

What the paper wants from this chapter

The Class 11 theory paper is 70 marks in 3 hours; your school sets it on the design CBSE uses for Class 12. Each book carries 35 marks — 30 for its units and 5 for map work. This chapter is the whole of Unit 1 of Fundamentals of Physical Geography and carries 3 marks: enough for three one-mark questions or one short answer. Questions come from the meaning of geography and the scholar who coined the term, spatial and temporal synthesis, the systematic and regional approaches with Humboldt and Ritter, the branches of geography and the importance of physical geography. Prepare three charts: the links with other disciplines and the two branch charts. CBSE lists no map items for this chapter. Fifteen questions chosen for the paper's pattern are solved in the question bank at the back of this book.

Your revision tracker

Three ticks across a row means that topic is exam-ready.

Syllabus topic	Read	Practised	Revised
Introduction to Geography as a discipline	☐	☐	☐
Geography as an integrating discipline: Spatial and Temporal synthesis	☐	☐	☐
Approaches to study Geography: Systematic and Regional	☐	☐	☐
Branches of Geography: Physical Geography, Human Geography and Bio Geography	☐	☐	☐
Physical Geography and its importance	☐	☐	☐



Chapter at a Glance — Mind Map

Geography as a Discipline

What geography is

- Description of the earth
- Coined by Eratosthenes
- geo + graphos
- Earth as human abode

Nature and humans

- Adaptation and modification
- Technology loosens the shackles
- Humanised nature, naturalised humans
- Necessity to freedom

Integrating discipline

- Geography — spatial synthesis
- History — temporal synthesis
- Holistic approach
- Linked with all sciences

Approaches

- Systematic — Humboldt
- Regional — Karl Ritter
- Phenomenon versus region
- Dualism — physical and human

Regional branches

- Regional studies
- Regional planning
- Regional development
- Regional analysis

Areal differentiation

- Phenomena vary over space
- Hartshorne and Hettner
- Causes of variation studied
- Cause-and-effect relationships

Three questions

- What — patterns
- Where — distribution
- Why — causal explanation
- Why made it scientific

Time and space

- Time the fourth dimension
- 1,500 km or two hours
- Distance alters history
- Himalayas, passes, sea coast

Systematic branches

- Physical geography
- Human geography
- Biogeography — the interface

Physical geography

- Lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere
- Evaluating and managing resources
- Needed for sustainable development



Where This Chapter Sits

This is the first chapter of *Fundamentals of Physical Geography* and the whole of Unit 1. It does not yet teach landforms, climate or oceans. It tells you **what geography is, how it works and how it is divided**, so that every later chapter has a place. CBSE lists five topics: the introduction to geography as a discipline; geography as an integrating discipline; the two approaches; the branches of geography; and physical geography and its importance.

Marks

Unit 1 has only this chapter and carries **3 marks**. Book 1 carries **35 marks** in all — 30 for its units and 5 for map work. CBSE lists **no map items** for this chapter.

Exam tip

With 3 marks, this chapter comes as **one-mark questions** (who coined the term, which discipline attempts temporal synthesis, who introduced which approach) or as **one short answer**. Learn the names with their dates, the difference between the two approaches and the three charts. The charts also earn marks in a long answer.

1. Introduction to Geography as a Discipline

Up to Class 10, geography was one part of Social Science. From Class 11 it is an **independent subject**. It studies the physical environment of the earth, human activities and the interactive relationship between the two. NCERT opens with two questions: *Why should we study geography?* and *What is geography?*

Why should we study geography?

- We **live on the surface of the earth**, and our surroundings affect our lives in many ways.
- We **depend on the resources** of the surrounding areas. Primitive societies lived on "natural means of subsistence" — edible plants and animals. With time, people developed technologies and began to produce food using land, soil and water.
- We **adjusted our food habits and clothing** to the prevailing weather.
- All of this **varies from place to place**: the natural resource base, technological development, adaptation with and modification of the physical environment, social organisation and cultural development.



What geography gives you	What it means
An eye for diversity	You learn about diverse lands and people, and about all the phenomena that vary over space
A sense of change	You understand the changes that have taken place over time
The habit of asking why	You investigate the causes that create variations over time and space
Map skills	You understand the globe converted into maps and get a visual sense of the earth's surface
Modern techniques	GIS and computer cartography equip you to contribute to the national effort for development

What is geography?

Geography

In very simple words, **geography is the description of the earth**. Because the earth has always been seen as the home of human beings, scholars defined geography as **the description of the earth as the abode of human beings**.

The word "geography"	As NCERT gives it
Coined by	Eratosthenes, a Greek scholar
His dates	276–194 BC
Greek roots	geo (earth) and graphos (description)
Meaning	Put together: description of the earth

A slip in the textbook

NCERT spells the scholar's name in two ways: "**Eratosthenese**" in the chapter and "**Erathosthenese**" in the exercise MCQ. The usual spelling is **Eratosthenes**. In the MCQ, tick the option as it is printed; in a written answer, use **Eratosthenes**.