



The Savvy Humanities

SIMPLIFYING MINDS, SHAPING THINKERS

CLASS 12 · CBSE 2026-27 SYLLABUS

Complete subject

Geography

Both theory books of Class 12 (029), in one

483

pages of notes

17

chapters, two books

255

exam questions solved

70 / 70

theory marks covered

What's inside

- Both NCERT theory books, 17 chapters
- One whole-subject tracker, plus one per chapter
- 17 mind maps and 59 hand-drawn diagrams
- Map work: every CBSE item, in location tables
- One combined glossary — 563 key terms
- One question bank — 255 model answers
- CBSE Sample Paper 2026-27 questions, tagged
- Textbook slips corrected and flagged

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Founder & Educator, The Savvy Humanities. Class 12 CBSE boards: 95% Psychology, 95% Sociology, 97% Political Science. Teaching Humanities on YouTube since 2023. Her YouTube classes are in Psychology, Sociology and Political Science.

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 12 Geography (029) — all seventeen chapters of the **70-mark** board 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 Human Geography (35 marks)			
1	Human Geography: Nature and Scope	I · 3	6
2	The World Population Distribution, Density and Growth	II · 8	21
3	Human Development	II · 8	35
4	Primary Activities	III · 19	48
5	Secondary Activities	III · 19	68
6	Tertiary and Quaternary Activities	III · 19	84
7	Transport and Communication	III · 19	103
8	International Trade	III · 19	126
Book 2 — India: People and Economy (35 marks)			
1	Population Distribution, Density, Growth and Composition	I · 5	144
2	Human Settlements	II · 3	166
3	Land Resources and Agriculture	III · 10	180
4	Water Resources	III · 10	204
5	Mineral and Energy Resources	III · 10	224
6	Planning and Sustainable Development in Indian Context	III · 10	243
7	Transport and Communication	IV · 7	261
8	International Trade	IV · 7	280
9	Geographical Perspective on Selected Issues and Problems	V · 5	296
My Class 12 Geography tracker — all seventeen chapters on one page			2
Combined glossary — 563 key terms, tagged by chapter			314
Question bank — 255 solved questions, grouped by chapter			342



BOOK 1 OF 2 · NCERT, CLASS XII

Fundamentals of Human Geography

35 marks of the 70-mark theory paper

- **Unit I** (3 marks) — 1. Human Geography: Nature and Scope
- **Unit II** (8 marks) — 2. The World Population Distribution, Density and Growth; 3. Human Development
- **Unit III** (19 marks) — 4. Primary Activities; 5. Secondary Activities; 6. Tertiary and Quaternary Activities; 7. Transport and Communication; 8. International Trade
- **Map work** (5 marks) — the items CBSE lists, given chapter by chapter in location tables



UNIT 1 — 3 MARKS

Book 1 · Chapter 1

Human Geography: Nature and Scope

What the paper wants from this chapter

The board paper is 70 marks in 3 hours, with 30 questions. Fundamentals of Human Geography carries 35 marks — 30 for the units and 5 for map work. Unit I is this one chapter and carries 3 marks; Unit II has 8 and Unit III 19. CBSE's 2026-27 sample paper took one 3-mark question from here, on Griffith Taylor's neo-determinism as a middle path. Other questions come from the three definitions and their key words, naturalisation of humans and humanisation of nature, the six stages of Table 1.1, the three schools of the 1970s, and sub-fields with their sister disciplines. Prepare the traffic-light diagram and the time line of stages. 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 Human Geography	☐	☐	☐
Approaches to study Human Geography — Regional and Systematic Geography, Dualism	☐	☐	☐
Nature of Human Geography	☐	☐	☐
Naturalisation of Humans and Humanisation of Nature	☐	☐	☐
Schools of thought in Human Geography	☐	☐	☐
Fields and subfields of Human Geography	☐	☐	☐



Chapter at a Glance — Mind Map

Human Geography: Nature and Scope

Introduction

- Integrative, empirical, practical
- Nature and life forms
- Earth as home of humans

Dualism

- Nomothetic or idiographic
- Regional or systematic
- Physical or human
- Dichotomy not valid

Technology

- Level of cultural development
- Follows knowledge of nature
- Loosens shackles of environment

Humanisation of nature

- Possibilism
- Necessity to freedom
- Cultural landscape
- Kari of Trondheim

Stages and schools

- Exploration to regional analysis
- Areal differentiation
- Quantitative revolution
- Welfare, radical, behavioural schools

Definitions

- Ratzel — synthesis
- Semple — dynamism
- Blache — new conception

Nature of the subject

- Physical environment
- Socio-cultural environment
- Mutual interaction
- Each modifies the other

Naturalisation of humans

- Environmental determinism
- Very low technology
- Nature feared and worshipped
- Benda of Abujh Maad

Neo-determinism

- Griffith Taylor
- Stop and go determinism
- Middle path
- Conquer nature by obeying

Fields and sub-fields

- Six fields
- Fifteen sub-fields
- Sister disciplines
- Highly inter-disciplinary



Where This Chapter Sits

Class 12 Geography opens with the question the whole book answers: **what does human geography study, and how?** This chapter is the whole of Unit 1 of *Fundamentals of Human Geography*. CBSE lists six things in it — the introduction to human geography, the approaches and dualism, the nature of the subject, naturalisation of humans and humanisation of nature, the schools of thought, and the fields and sub-fields. These notes follow that order. It is a chapter of ideas and names, not of figures.

Marks

Unit 1 — this chapter alone — carries 3 marks. The book has 35 marks: 30 for the units and 5 for map work. CBSE lists **no map item** from this chapter.

Exam tip

CBSE's 2026-27 sample paper asked a **3-mark question on neo-determinism**. Learn three sets by heart: the **three definitions with their key words**, the **three ideas** (environmental determinism, possibilism, neo-determinism) and the **six stages** of Table 1.1.

1. Introduction to Human Geography

Geography as a field of study is **integrative, empirical and practical**. Every event or phenomenon that **varies over space and time** can be studied geographically. The earth has two major components: **nature** (the physical environment) and **life forms including human beings**. **Physical geography** studies the physical environment. Human geography studies how human beings live with it.

Human geography

Human geography studies "the relationship between the **physical/natural and the human worlds**, the **spatial distributions of human phenomena** and how they come about, the **social and economic differences** between different parts of the world".

The **core concern of geography** is to understand the **earth as home of human beings** and to study all those elements which have sustained them. NCERT prints three more definitions.

Each has one key word, and the examiner looks for it.

Geographer	Definition, as NCERT prints it	Key word
Ratzel	"Human geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface."	Synthesis
Ellen C. Semple	"Human geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth."	Dynamism in the relationship
Paul Vidal de la Blache	"Conception resulting from a more synthetic knowledge of the physical laws governing our earth and of the relations between the living beings which inhabit it."	A new conception of the interrelationships between earth and human beings

Exam tip

For "define human geography" write **one definition in quotation marks with the geographer's name**, then its key word. Semple's is the shortest. Do not swap the key words: synthesis is Ratzel's, dynamism is Semple's.

2. Approaches — Regional and Systematic Geography, Dualism

Because geography studies both nature and human beings, geographers debated for long how the subject should be studied. Each debate set two sides against each other.

Dualism in geography

Dualism is the division of geography into two opposed sides on a question of its content or method — physical or human, regional or systematic. NCERT says geography "got subjected to dualism" and to wide-ranging debates.

The debate	One side	The other side
What kind of discipline?	Law making or theorising — nomothetic	Descriptive — idiographic