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GEOGRAPHY NOTES

INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

Abstract

Introduction to geography entails meaning of geography, importance of geography, branches and relationship of geography with other disciplines

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Introduction to Geography

The meaning of Geography

1. Scientific study of the earth as a home of man.
 2. Study of interrelationship on natural and human phenomena on the earth's surface.
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BY END OF THIS TOPIC, THE LEARNER SHOULD

BE ABLE TO:

Define the terms Geography and Environment.

Describe the branches of Geography

Explain the importance of studying Geography.

Explain the relationship between Geography and other disciplines.

Environment

1. The surroundings
2. All external conditions surrounding an organism which has influence over its behaviour.

Environment can be divided into two:

1. The Physical Environment

Natural physical conditions of weather, climate, vegetation, animals, soil, landforms and drainage.

Course Outline

Definition of:

1. Geography
2. Environment

Branches of Geography

1. Physical Geography
2. Human Geography

Importance of studying
Geography

Relationship between
Geography and other disciplines



2. The Human Environment

Human activities such as farming, forestry, mining, tourism, settlement, transportation, trade and industry.

Branches of Geography

1. Physical Geography

Deals with the study of natural physical environment of human kind.

The areas covered include:

- a. **Geology** - study of the origin, structure and composition of the earth. It includes study of rocks.
- b. **Geomorphology** - the study of internal and external land forming processes and landforms.
- c. **Climatology** - the study of climate and weather
- d. **Pedology** - the study of soils
- e. **Biogeography** - the study of soils, vegetation and animals.
- f. **Hydrology**- the study of water bodies
- g. **Spatial geography** -study of space

2. Human and Economic Geography

Study of people and their activities on the earth's surface.

The areas covered include:

- a. Mining
- b. Forestry
- c. Agriculture
- d. Fishing

- e. Wildlife and tourism
- f. Industry
- g. Energy etc.

3. Practical Geography

A smaller branch which equips the learner with practical skills that enhance their understanding and interpretation of human and physical geographical information.

The areas are:

- a) Statistical methods
- b) Map work
- c) Field work
- d) Photograph work

Importance of Studying Geography

- a. Facilitates good relationship among nations by studying geography of other regions of the world.
- b. it's a career subject in that it enables one to go for advanced studies in specialised fields e.g. geography teachers, meteorology, surveying etc.
- c. Enables us to appreciate other people's way of life by learning economic activities of different communities within our country and other parts of the world.
- d. Enables us to conserve our environment when we learn negative and positive effects of human activities on the environment.
- e. Enables us to conserve our resources when we learn wise use of resources in conservation and management of resources e.g. wildlife, forests, energy, etc.
- f. Inculcates in us virtues of cooperation and patience as we work in groups.
- g. Makes us to appreciate manual work as we are involved in practical geography which may lead to self-employment.

- h. Promotion of industry such as tourism by guiding tourists to places of interest by using maps, calculations of distances etc.

“OUR WORLD IS EVOLVING WITHOUT CONSIDERATION, AND THE RESULT IS A LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY, ENERGY ISSUES, AND CONGESTION IN CITIES. BUT GEOGRAPHY, IF USED CORRECTLY, CAN BE USED TO REDESIGN SUSTAINABLE AND MORE LIVABLE CITIES.”

Jack Dangermond

Relationship between Geography and Other Subjects

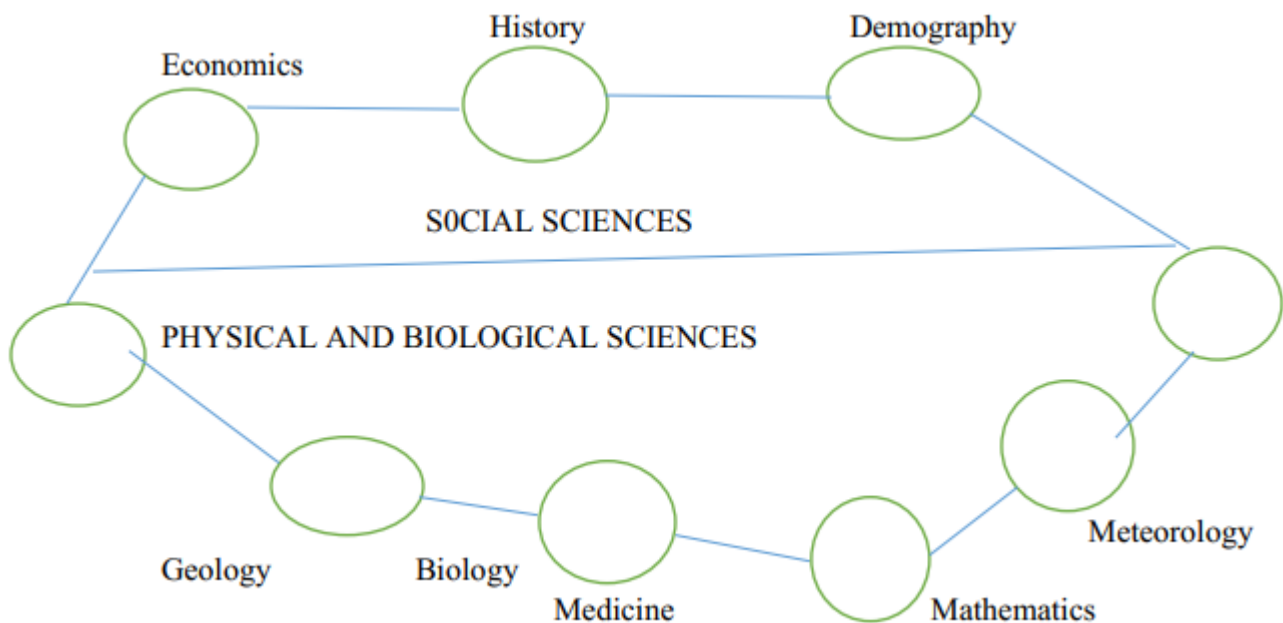


FIGURE 1: A MODEL SHOWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY AND OTHER DISCIPLINES

- Mathematics-mathematical techniques are used in drawing graphs and pie charts and mathematical formulae are used in geography to calculate distances, areas, population density, population densities, etc.
- History-history uses geographical tools like maps, charts and graphs to show where past events took place e.g. the movement of people in the past.
- Biology-Geography explains the distribution of organisms and factors influencing their distribution on the earth's surface.

- d) Physics-geography uses physics principles and formulae to calculate and describe aspects such as magnetic field, gravity, vibrations of the earth etc.
- e) Chemistry-geography applies chemistry in studying chemical composition and chemical changes which take place in soils and rocks.
- f) Agriculture-geography studies farming systems, their distribution and factors affecting farming activities.
- g) Meteorology-geography uses meteorological information in the study of weather and in classifying climatic regions and mapping them.
- h) Geology-geography studies rocks.

Introduction to geography Questions



- a) Describe how Geography is related to the following subjects:
 - a. Mathematics
 - b. Physics
 - c. Agriculture
 - d. Chemistry
 - e. Biology
- b) What is Geography?
- c) Name **three** branches of Geography giving three examples in each branch.
- d) Define the term environment.
- e) Explain **five** reasons why people study Geography.
- f) Distinguish between habitat and environment
- g) State **three** areas where Geography is applicable and how it is applicable.