BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD

GEOGRAPHY

SYLLABUS (2026–27)

CLASS XI

SUBJECT CODE: 160

Time: 3 Hrs. **Total Marks: 70 (Theory)**

Annual Hours: 170 Annual Periods: 204

1. RATIONALE

At the secondary level, geography equips learners with a deeper scientific understanding of Earth as a dynamic system influenced by natural and human factors. Geography draws on various aspects of the physical sciences, environmental studies, and spatial analysis to explain phenomena occurring on Earth.

In accordance with the guidelines of NEP 2020 and NCF-SE 2023, the Class XI Geography curriculum focuses on inquiry-based learning, systems thinking, and environmental sustainability. Learners are encouraged to explore Earth's structure and processes across the lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere, and to develop their map-reading and geographical data analysis skills.

The curriculum also encourages learners to critically analyse environmental issues such as climate change, natural disasters, and biodiversity depletion, which enables them to become responsible citizens of the country.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The geography curriculum for the secondary level is designed to:

- Foster an understanding of the Earth as an integrated system with its physical and ecological characteristics.
- Provide students with the ability to understand the interactions between natural processes and human activities.
- Provide students with basic skills in understanding maps, space, and representing geographical data.
- Foster sensitivity towards the environment and sustainability in decision-making processes.
- Foster inquiry, observation, and evidence-based reasoning in geographical contexts.

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- Provide students with the ability to analyse geographical phenomena using maps and data.
- Foster students' ability to observe and make scientific inquiries in the field of geography and the environment.

3. COURSE STRUCTURE

Introduction to Physical Geography (Weightage: 40 Marks)

Units	Chapters	Title	No. of Periods	Marks
Unit I - Understanding Geography	Chapter 1	Introduction to Geography	7	3
Unit II - Earth: Formation and Structure	Chapter 2	Earth in the Universe	20	8
	Chapter 3	Oceans and Continents		
	Chapter 4	Endogenic and Exogenic Processes		
Unit III - Lithosphere	Chapter 5	Interior of the Earth	18	6
	Chapter 6	Landforms		
Unit IV - Hydrosphere	Chapter 7	Oceans	18	6
	Chapter 8	Movement of Ocean Water		
Unit V - Atmosphere and Climate	Chapter 9	Composition and Structure of the Atmosphere	26	12
	Chapter 10	Insolation, Heat Budget, and Temperature		
	Chapter 11	Atmospheric Circulation		
	Chapter 12	World Climate		
Unit VI - Biosphere	Chapter 13	Ecosystem And Biodiversity	7	5
Total			**96**	**35+5 (Map)=40**

Bharat's Physical Geography (Weightage: 30 Marks)

Units	Chapters	Title	No. of Periods	Marks
I - Location of Bharat	Chapter 1	Bharat: Location and Extent	6	3
II - Physical Setting and Drainage System	Chapter 2	Physiographic Settings of Bharat	20	10
	Chapter 3	River System and Drainage Pattern in Bharat		
III - Climate and Natural Vegetation	Chapter 4	Climate of Bharat	20	10
	Chapter 5	Natural Vegetation and Wildlife in		

		Bharat		
!V - Disaster Management	Chapter 6	Hazards and Disasters in Bharat	14	7
	Chapter 7	Disaster Risk Reduction		
Total			**60**	**25+5 (Map)=30**

Book 3: Practical Geography (Weightage: 30 Marks)

Chapters	Title	No. of Periods	Marks
Chapter 1	Cartographic Techniques and Map Making	4	4
Chapter 2	Map Scale	11	6
Chapter 3	Latitude, Longitude, and Map Projection	13	7
Chapter 4	Topographical Maps	13	8
Chapter 5	Weather Maps, Instruments, and Charts	7	5
Total (Written Exam-20 Marks, Record- 5 Marks, Viva-5 Marks)		**48**	**30**

4. COMPETENCY-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Competencies	Value Outcomes	Weightage (%)
Remembering and understanding	Pupils should be able to recall key terms, facts, and fundamental ideas. Additionally, they should be able to organise information, compare concepts, interpret meaning, describe in their own words, and identify key ideas to comprehend them clearly.	25
Application	Students should be able to apply their knowledge and understanding in new situations. They should use learned concepts, facts, methods, and rules to solve problems, make decisions, and handle unfamiliar contexts independently.	50
Formulation (Analysing, Evaluating and Creating)	**Analyse:** Examine and break information into parts, and determine how the parts relate to one another and to the overall structure or purpose by identifying motives or causes, so that the organisational structure is understood. Distinguish between facts and inferences. Make inferences and find evidence to support generalisations. **Synthesis:** Build a structure or pattern from diverse elements; put parts together to form a whole, with emphasis on creating new meaning or structure. **Create:** Put elements together to form a new coherent or functional whole; reorganise elements into a new pattern or structure.	25

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EXAMINATION MARK WEIGHTAGE (THEORY)

Section A		
Types of Questions	**No. of Questions**	**Marks**
1. Multiple Choice Questions	1-17 (Direct – 11, Source-Based – 3, Diagram-Based – 3)	17 X 1 = 17
Section B		
2. Very Short Answer Types	18-21	4 X 2 = 8
Section C		
3. Source and Diagram-Based Types	22-23 (Source-based – 1, Diagram-based – 1)	2 X 3 = 6
Section D		
4. Short Answer Types	24-26	3 X 3 =9
Section E		
5. Long Answer Types	27-30	4 X 5 = 20
Section F		
6. Map-Based Types	31 - 32	2 X 5 = 10
Total Marks		**70**

5. DETAILED COURSE CONTENT

Introduction To Physical Geography

Chapter 1 - Introduction to Geography: Explain the origin and trace the historical evolution of Geography as a discipline. Analyse the major geographical approaches and dualisms in geographical thought. Describe the nature, scope, and relevance of Geography in understanding the Earth system. Identify the main branches of Geography and examine their interrelationship with other disciplines.

Chapter 2 - Earth in the Universe: Explain the formation of the universe and the solar system. Describe the processes involved in the formation of planets and their satellites. Analyse the structure and orderly arrangement of the solar system. Interpret how planetary motions influence geographical phenomena on the Earth.

Chapter 3 - Evolution of Oceans and Continents: Explain the mechanisms responsible for the evolution of continents and ocean basins. Analyse the role of plate tectonics in shaping the Earth's surface. Describe the formation of mid-oceanic ridges, mountains, rift valleys, and oceanic trenches. Examine the causes and impacts of earthquakes, volcanism, and tsunamis.

Chapter 4 - Endogenic and Exogenic Processes: Explain the factors responsible for the ruggedness and irregularities of the Earth's surface. Classify the major geomorphic processes shaping the Earth's crust. Differentiate between endogenic and exogenic processes. Analyse the interaction between geomorphic processes and geomorphic agents.

Chapter 5 - Interior of the Earth: Identify the sources of information used to understand the Earth's interior. Distinguish between direct and indirect sources of geological information. Explain the role of seismic waves in interpreting the internal structure of the Earth. Correlate the behaviour of seismic waves with the layered structure of the Earth. Describe the physical and chemical composition of the Earth's interior.

Chapter 6 - Landforms: Classify landforms based on their order and origin. Explain how geomorphic agents such as rivers, glaciers, wind, groundwater, and sea waves shape the Earth's surface. Differentiate between erosional and depositional processes. Analyse the landforms produced by different geomorphic agents.

Chapter 7 - Oceans: Identify and locate the major oceans of the world. Describe the major relief features of the ocean floor. Analyse the spatial distribution of salinity and temperature in ocean waters. Explain the role of the hydrosphere in sustaining life and regulating the Earth's climate.

Chapter 8 - Movement of Ocean Water: Explain the nature and causes of ocean water movement. Classify and describe ocean waves and tides. Analyse ocean currents and vertical water movements. Identify and interpret the major ocean currents of the world. Evaluate the influence of ocean circulation on climate and coastal environments. Assess the significance of ocean water movement for human activities and sustainable development.

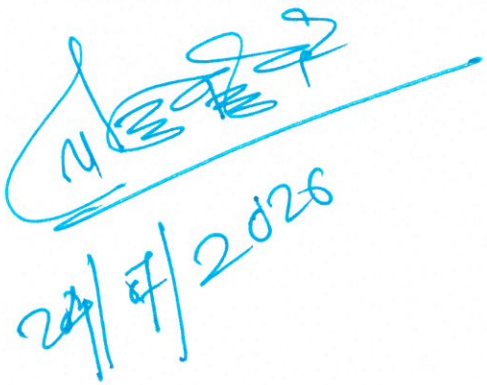
Chapter 9 - Composition and Structure of the Atmosphere: Describe the composition and vertical structure of the atmosphere. Explain the role of gases, water vapour, and particulates in weather and climate processes. Analyse the significance of atmospheric layers for life on Earth. Evaluate the impact of human activities on atmospheric composition and environmental balance.

Chapter 10 - Insolation, Heat Budget and Temperature: Explain the concept of insolation and the factors influencing its spatial variation. Analyse the heat budget of the Earth. Interpret the distribution and variation of temperature on the Earth's surface. Explain the phenomenon of temperature inversion.

Chapter 11 - Atmospheric Circulation: Explain the formation of global pressure belts and wind systems. Analyse the forces influencing wind movement, such as pressure gradient force, Coriolis force, and friction. Describe the processes of condensation and precipitation. Interpret the influence of atmospheric circulation on global precipitation patterns.

Chapter 12 - World Climate: Explain the need and basis of climatic classification. Analyse the characteristics of Köppen's climatic classification. Interpret the spatial distribution of the world's climatic regions. Examine the causes and impacts of climate change and global efforts to address it.

Chapter 13 - Ecosystem and Biodiversity: Explain the evolution of the biosphere and the development of life forms on the Earth. Analyse the different levels of ecological organisation. Interpret patterns of biodiversity across regions. Evaluate threats to biodiversity and strategies for conservation and sustainable management.



Bharat's Physical Geography

Chapter 1 - Bharat – Location and Extent: Explain the historical significance of the name "Bharat". Analyse the geographical location and extent of Bharat. Interpret the geopolitical significance of the Indian Ocean region. Evaluate the strategic importance of Bharat's location. Examine the unity and diversity reflected in Bharat's geographical characteristics

Chapter 2 - Physiographic Settings of Bharat: Explain how internal and external forces have shaped the physical features of Bharat. Identify and locate the major physiographic divisions of Bharat on a map. Analyse the origin and characteristics of the Himalayan Mountains. Explain the formation and features of the Northern Plains and Peninsular Plateau. Differentiate between the Coastal Plains, the Thar Desert, and the island groups. Evaluate the influence of physiography on agriculture, settlement, and economic activities.

Chapter 3 - River Systems and Drainage Pattern in Bharat: Define drainage, drainage system, and drainage patterns. Analyse the factors controlling drainage patterns. Distinguish between the Himalayan and Peninsular drainage systems. Evaluate the significance of river systems in the social and economic life of Bharat.

Chapter 4 - Climate of Bharat: Explain the factors influencing the climate of Bharat. Analyse the mechanism and characteristics of the monsoon system. Interpret the seasonal cycle and climatic variations. Examine the spatial distribution of rainfall in different regions. Evaluate the impacts of global environmental changes on the climate of Bharat. Analyse the relationship between climate and socio-economic activities.

Chapter 5 - Natural Vegetation and Wildlife in Bharat: Identify the major vegetation types and their regional distribution in Bharat. Analyse the ecological significance of forests, wetlands, and wildlife. Explain the policies and programmes for forest and wildlife conservation. Evaluate the role of local communities in environmental conservation. Interpret Bharat's conservation initiatives in relation to global environmental goals.

Chapter 6 - Hazards and Disasters in Bharat: Classify disasters into natural and human-induced categories. Analyse the causes and impacts of earthquakes, floods, cyclones, and industrial accidents. Explain the components of disaster management, including preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Interpret case studies to understand disaster management strategies. Evaluate the role of integrated approaches in enhancing disaster resilience.

Chapter 7 - Disaster Risk Reduction: Explain the concept and components of Disaster Risk Reduction. Analyse international and national policies related to disaster risk reduction. Evaluate the role of traditional knowledge in disaster management. Examine community participation and best practices in disaster risk reduction.

Practical Geography

Chapter 1 - Cartographic Techniques and Map Making: Explain the concept and principles of cartography. Trace the historical development of cartography. Recognise traditional Indian contributions to cartography. Classify different types of maps and their purposes. Interpret cartographic techniques used to represent socio-economic data. Construct climatic diagrams and thematic maps.

Chapter 2 - Map Scale: Explain the concept and importance of map scale. Differentiate between various types of scales. Analyse the methods used to express map scales. Construct and convert map scales for geographical interpretation.

Chapter 3 - Latitude, Longitude and Map Projection: Explain the concept of the globe and geographic coordinates. Identify locations using latitude and longitude. Analyse the need for map projections. Classify major types of map projections and evaluate their advantages and limitations. Interpret distortions in shape, area, distance, and direction in different projections.

Chapter 4 - Topographical Maps: Explain the purpose and components of topographical maps. Interpret conventional signs, colours, and symbols. Analyse contour patterns and relief features. Identify drainage patterns and water features. Locate cultural features such as settlements, transport networks, and land-use patterns.

Chapter 5 - Weather Maps, Instruments and Charts: Identify the major weather elements and climatic parameters. Describe weather instruments and their functions. Interpret weather maps and synoptic charts. Analyse weather data collected from meteorological instruments. Construct weather charts and interpret atmospheric conditions.

6. PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

The teaching–learning process shall emphasise inquiry-based and experiential learning. Utilise maps, globes, models, and digital tools to facilitate understanding. Promote project-based and collaborative activities. Integrate case studies and real-world applications. Incorporate environmental and sustainability perspectives in learning.

7. ASSESSMENT PHILOSOPHY

Assessment shall be competency-based and continuous, with a focus on conceptual understanding. Evaluate analytical and critical thinking abilities. Assess the application of geographical skills. Emphasise map work and spatial analysis. Include data interpretation and graphical representation. Incorporate project work and field-based learning.

8. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of Class XI, learners will be able to understand Earth systems and their interdependencies. Apply spatial and analytical skills to interpret geographical phenomena. Demonstrate responsible environmental attitudes and sustainable practices. Use maps and data effectively for geographical analysis. Engage with local and global environmental issues. Interpret geographical patterns using maps, diagrams, and spatial data.

This syllabus is aligned with NEP 2020 and NCF 2023 and is designed to promote conceptual clarity, skill development, and environmental consciousness among learners.

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