Chapter 1: India — Location

Exercises — Exercises

Q1 Which one of the following latitudinal extent is relevant for the extent of India's area? (a) 8°41'N - 35°7'N (b) 8°4'N - 37°6'N (c) 8°4'N - 35°6'N (d) 6°45'N - 37°6'N

(b) 8°4'N - 37°6'N. This is the latitudinal extent of the Indian mainland, from Kanniyakumari in the south to Kashmir in the north, spanning roughly 30 degrees. The chapter notes that the southern boundary reaches 6°45'N only in the Bay of Bengal, i.e. the island territory.

Q2 Which one of the following countries shares the longest land frontier with India? (a) Bangladesh (b) China (c) Pakistan (d) Myanmar

(a) Bangladesh. India's land border with Bangladesh is the longest of all its neighbours, longer than those with China, Pakistan and Myanmar.

Q3 Which one of the following countries is larger in area than India? (a) China (b) Egypt (c) France (d) Iran

(a) China. India, with 3.28 million sq. km, is the seventh largest country in the world; China is larger, while Egypt, France and Iran are all smaller than India.

Q4 Which one of the following longitudes is the standard meridian for India? (a) 69°30'E (b) 82°30'E (c) 75°30'E (d) 90°30'E

(b) 82°30'E. Countries choose standard meridians in multiples of 7°30' of longitude, and 82°30'E was selected for India. Indian Standard Time is ahead of Greenwich Mean Time by 5 hours 30 minutes.

Q5 Does India need to have more than one standard time? If yes, why do you think so?

India's longitudinal spread of nearly 30 degrees causes a time difference of about two hours between its easternmost and westernmost parts, so the sun rises about two hours earlier in the northeast. Yet a single standard time avoids confusion, and the difference is manageable, so one time is generally considered sufficient, though a second zone could be argued for the northeast.

Q6 What are the implications of India having a long coastline?

India has a coastline of 6,100 km on the mainland and 7,517 km including the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands. Its maritime location on the Indian Ocean, with the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, provides sea and air links with neighbouring regions and the world, and supports varied coastal resources.

Q7 How is the latitudinal spread of India advantageous to her?

India's southern part lies in the tropics and its northern part in the sub-tropical (warm temperate) zone. This latitudinal spread produces large variations in landforms, climate, soil types and natural vegetation, giving the country a wide range of resources and crops.

Q8 While the sun rises earlier in the east, say Nagaland and also sets earlier, how do the watches at Kohima and New Delhi show the same time?

The whole country follows Indian Standard Time, based on the single standard meridian 82°30'E. Local time varies by about two hours across India, but all watches are set to this one meridian's time, so Kohima and New Delhi show the same time despite different sunrise and sunset.