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CLASS XII · GEOGRAPHY (029) · FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

GEOGRAPHY · CHAPTER 2

MODEL ANSWERS

The World Population

Board-Style Answer Booklet · Answers as CBSE expects them

CBSE marking-scheme pattern | Word count on every answer | 47 model answers | Most-probable 2027 answers marked

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

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HOW TO USE IT

1. Write your own answer first, in the practice notebook.
2. Then open this booklet. Tick each numbered point you also wrote.
3. Give yourself 1 mark per matching point – that is how the examiner marks.
4. Copy any point you missed into My Mistakes (last page of the Chapter Booklet).
5. Rewrite the answer after 3 days, from memory.

USE WITH **Chapter Booklet, Geography Ch 2**

READ THIS FIRST · BASED ON THE CBSE SAMPLE PAPER AND MARKING SCHEME 2026–27

How CBSE Marks Geography

Every answer in this booklet follows the official marking-scheme pattern: numbered value points, keyword first, inside the word limit. Under each answer you will see its word count and how the marks are split.

The Geography paper in 2027 (as in Sample Paper 2026–27)

Paper 029 · 70 marks · 30 questions · 3 hours

Item	Type	Marks	Words	What earns the marks
Q1–Q17	MCQs: statements, matching, data tables, assertion–reason, map or picture	1 each	–	Letter + answer
Q18–Q19	Source-based: a map or a passage with sub-parts	3 each	–	From the source + chapter facts
Q20–Q23	Short answer; one with (A) **or** (B)	3 each	80–100	3 points × 1 mark
Q24–Q28	Long answer; most with (A) **or** (B)	5 each	120–150	5 points × 1, or 2 + 3
Q29–Q30	Map: world map (identify 5 of 7) and India map (locate 5 of 7)	5 each	–	Correct place + name

This chapter came in every paper checked, mostly as 1-mark questions: data MCQs on populous countries (2026 Q15–17; SQP 2024–25 Q15–17) and single items on factors, density, Malthus and CBR (SQP 2026–27). Board 2025 asked a **5-mark** answer on migrants and demographic transition. Learn the formulas and the three stages with one feature each.

How the marking scheme gives marks

SEVEN RULES

- **Marks come from value points.** Each correct, relevant point earns 1 mark: one value point per mark – 3 marks = 3 points, 5 marks = 5 points (or 2 + 3, 2½ + 2½ when the question has parts). The scheme accepts "any other relevant point", so a correct NCERT point that is not in our answer also scores.
- **Points are numbered and backed by evidence.** The examiner wants a fact in each point: a site, a find, a writer, a date, a place or an example. Our long answers add one opening and one closing line so the answer reads well; the marks come from the numbered points.
- **Keyword first.** Start each point with the key word and underline it – the examiner scans for it. Then give one fact: a name, a date, a number or an example.
- **MCQs:** write the letter and the answer text. Combination questions are answered like "(b) Only a, b and d".
- **Case / source-based:** (i) and (ii) need one clear line each; the 2-mark part needs two separate points. Use the passage's own clues, then add chapter facts.
- **Internal choice:** write "(A)" or "(B)" in the margin and attempt only one. Map questions: attach the map to the answer book.
- **Do not repeat** one idea in two points – it earns one mark only.

Answer frames – copy this shape

3-mark answer — 80–100 words

1. Keyword: point + example.
2. Keyword: point + place / figure.
3. Keyword: point + result.

One or two sentences per point.

5-mark answer — 120–150 words

→ Opening line that answers the question in short.

1–5 Five numbered points, keyword first, each with an example, a place or a figure.

→ Closing line: "Thus / Hence …".

If the question has two parts, answer under two sub-headings.

Case / source-based 3 marks · Q18–Q19

(i)–(iv) One clear line for each part, using the clue in the source.

Map Write the name next to the letter or dot, as asked.

Never copy the whole passage.

Short of time? Learn these ten first

Most probable for 2027

C1	Study the list of the ten most populous countries (India …	[3]	C2	Distinguish between immigrants and emigrants.	[5]
C4	Explain any five factors that influence the distribution of …	[5]	D1	Case: Two Valleys	[3]
D2	Case: A Country in Transition	[3]			

ANSWERS · PART A

A Textbook Check – Answers

Model answers to every Textbook Check question. Underlined words are the keywords the examiner looks for.

Distribution and density

A1. "The population of the world is unevenly distributed." Support the statement with three facts. [3]

1. **90 : 10:** about 90 per cent of the world's people live on only about 10 per cent of its land.
2. **Few countries:** the ten most populous countries hold about 60 per cent of the world's people, most of them in Asia.
3. **Contrasts:** parts of South and East Asia have over 200 persons per sq km, while polar areas and deserts have less than one.

65 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A2. What is density of population? How is it calculated? Name two very densely populated regions of the world. [3]

1. **Meaning:** the ratio between the number of people and the size of the land, in persons per sq km.
2. **Formula:** density = population ÷ area; 1,000 people on 10 sq km = 100 persons per sq km.
3. **Dense regions:** north-eastern USA, north-western Europe, and South, South-East and East Asia.

49 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A3. Explain any three geographical factors that influence the distribution of population. [3]

1. **Water:** people live where fresh water is easy to get, so river valleys are densely populated.
2. **Landforms:** flat plains and gentle slopes suit farming and roads – the Ganga plains are dense, the Himalayas sparse.
3. **Climate and soils:** pleasant climates and fertile loamy soils attract people, as in the Nile and Hwang He valleys; deserts repel them.

56 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A4. Explain the economic, social and cultural factors that influence the distribution of population. [5]

Besides nature, human factors decide where people live.

1. **Minerals:** mineral deposits attract mining and industry, as in the Katanga–Zambia copper belt.
2. **Urbanisation:** cities offer jobs, education, health care and amenities, drawing people from villages.
3. **Industrialisation:** industrial belts like Kobe–Osaka give jobs in factories, transport, banks and services.
4. **Religion and culture:** places of religious or cultural importance such as Varanasi, Jerusalem and Vatican City attract people.
5. **Peace and policy:** people leave areas of unrest and war; governments give incentives to settle sparse areas.

Thus economic and social factors can make even a difficult area densely populated.

97 words · limit 150 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

Growth and its components

A5. Distinguish between natural growth and actual growth of population. [3]

1. **Natural growth:** the population increased by the difference between births and deaths in a particular region between two points of time.
2. **Actual growth:** births minus deaths plus in-migration minus out-migration; it shows the real change in the number of people.
3. **Difference:** natural growth ignores migration, while actual growth includes people moving in and out – so a city can grow fast even with few births.

64 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A6. Define the crude birth rate and the crude death rate. Write the formula for each. [3]

1. **CBR:** the number of live births in a year per thousand of population.
2. **Formula:** CBR = (live births ÷ mid-year population) × 1000; CDR = (deaths ÷ mid-year population) × 1000.
3. **CDR:** the number of deaths in a year per thousand of population; it falls with better health care and sanitation.

51 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A7. Explain the push and pull factors of migration. [3]

1. **Push factors:** make the place of origin unattractive – unemployment, poor living conditions, political turmoil, disasters and epidemics.
2. **Pull factors:** make the destination attractive – better jobs and living conditions, peace, stability and security of life and property.
3. **Result:** people usually move from poorer, unsafe places to richer, safer ones.

48 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A8. Who are immigrants and emigrants? How does migration change the population of the places of origin and destination? [3]

1. **Immigrants:** migrants who move into a new place, for example workers who come to the Gulf countries for jobs.
2. **Emigrants:** migrants who move out of a place, for example people leaving a drought-hit village.
3. **Effect:** the place of origin shows a decrease and the destination an increase in population; migration may be permanent, temporary or seasonal.

56 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

Trends, transition and control

A9. Describe the trends in world population growth. [3]

1. **Slow start:** it took over a million years to reach one billion, by the early 19th century.
2. **Turning points:** agriculture, world trade and the Industrial Revolution, followed by better medicine and sanitation.
3. **Explosion:** growth became very fast – from 5 to 6 billion took only about 12 years.

47 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A10. What is doubling time? Why is it shorter in developing countries? [3]

1. **Meaning:** the time a population takes to double at its present growth rate.
2. **Developing countries:** high birth rates and falling death rates give fast growth, so their population doubles in a few decades.
3. **Developed countries:** low birth and death rates give slow growth, so doubling takes much longer, and some countries are not growing at all.

56 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A11. Explain the three stages of the demographic transition theory. [5]

Demographic transition explains how population changes as a society develops.

1. **Theory:** population changes from high births and deaths to low births and deaths as society becomes urban, industrial and literate.
2. **Stage I:** high fertility and mortality, slow growth; farming people, large families, low life expectancy, little technology.
3. **Stage II:** fertility stays high at first then declines; mortality falls with sanitation and health care – huge increase.
4. **Stage III:** fertility and mortality both low; population stable or slow-growing; urban, literate people control family size.
5. **Use:** it describes and predicts the future population of an area; countries today are in different stages.

Thus development finally slows population growth.

105 words · limit 150 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

A12. What were Malthus's views on population? Name three measures of population control. [3]

1. **Malthus (1793):** the number of people grows faster than the food supply, so any further increase ends in a population crash through famine, disease and war.
2. **Checks:** he preferred preventive checks – smaller planned families – to such physical checks.
3. **Measures:** family planning, free availability of contraceptives, tax disincentives and active propaganda.

50 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

B

ANSWER KEY · PART B

Objective – Answer Key

All 20 MCQ and assertion–reason answers, each with a one-line reason so you learn the fact, not only the letter.

Write the option letter **and** the answer, as the marking scheme does – e.g. "(b) ..." followed by the answer text.

Q	Answer	Why (one line)
B1	**(d) 90 per cent**	90 per cent on 10 per cent of the land.
B2	**(d) George B. Cressey**	George B. Cressey.
B3	**(b) 300 persons per sq km**	4,50,000 ÷ 1,500 = 300.
B4	**(b) areas near the poles**	Also hot and cold deserts and high-rainfall equatorial zones.
B5	**(a) a-iv, b-i, c-ii, d-iii**	SQP 2026–27 Q1 asked a similar match.
B6	**(b) births − deaths**	Actual growth adds migration.
B7	**(c) 30**	(1,500 ÷ 50,000) × 1000 = 30 per thousand; CDR = 10.
B8	**(c) security of life and property**	The others push people out.
B9	**(d) immigrants**	Emigrants move out.
B10	**(a) Thomas Malthus**	Malthus, 1793.
B11	**(c) I, III and IV**	Growth is slow in Stage I.
B12	**(c) Stage II**	Result: a huge increase in population.
B13	**(a) Sweden**	Also western China, southern India, Norway.
B14	**(c) five**	India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh (Russia is in both Europe and Asia).
B15	**(a) Asia**	Board 2026 and SQP 2024–25 asked three MCQs on such a table.
B16	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R explains A.
B17	**(d) A is false, but R is true.**	A is false – population is stable or grows slowly; R is true.
B18	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	Landforms affect distribution.
B19	**(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**	Both true, but R does not explain A.
B20	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	Shortages and unemployment.

C

ANSWERS · PART C

Board Pattern – Answers

Model answers in the marking-scheme pattern. Orange tags show where a similar question came in a board or sample paper.

Data on populous countries

★★★ 3 of 5 papers · 3 × 1 mark

C1. Study the list of the ten most populous countries (India, China, USA, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bangladesh, Russia, Mexico). Answer: (i) which two are the most populous; (ii) which countries are in Africa and South America; (iii) why most of them are in Asia. [3]

1. **Most populous:** India and China, each with over 1.4 billion people – together more than a third of the world.
2. **Other continents:** Africa – Nigeria; South America – Brazil; North America – USA and Mexico; Russia lies in both Europe and Asia.
3. **Why Asia:** fertile river plains, a long history of farming and favourable monsoon climate support very large populations.

56 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | Board 2026 (64/1/3, 64/1/2) Q15–17; SQP 2024–25 Q15–17 (data MCQs)

MUST DO

Migration and demographic transition

★★☆ 1 of 5 papers · 5 marks

C2. Distinguish between immigrants and emigrants. Explain the demographic transition theory. [5]

1. **Immigrants and emigrants:** immigrants move into a new place; emigrants move out of a place.
2. **The theory:** as society becomes urban, industrial and literate, births and deaths both fall from high to low.
3. **Stage I:** high fertility and mortality; slow growth; agricultural, illiterate people with large families.
4. **Stage II:** mortality falls with better health and sanitation while fertility stays high at first – rapid growth.
5. **Stage III:** low fertility and mortality; stable or slow growth; urban, literate people control family size.

Thus development and migration together shape population change.

88 words · limit 150 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | Board 2025 (64/1/1) Q24

MUST DO

C3. "Population growth is the result of births, deaths and migration." Explain the three components. [5]

Population changes through three components.

1. **Births:** measured by CBR – live births per thousand people per year.
2. **Deaths:** measured by CDR – deaths per thousand people per year; it falls with health care and sanitation.
3. **Natural growth:** births minus deaths gives the natural growth of population.
4. **Migration:** people move from a place of origin to a destination; the origin loses and the destination gains.
5. **Actual growth:** births − deaths + in-migration − out-migration gives the actual growth.

So a region can grow even with low births if many people move in.

89 words · limit 150 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark

Factors of distribution and density

★★☆ 1 of 5 papers · 1 mark

C4. Explain any five factors that influence the distribution of population in the world. **[5]**

Both physical and human factors decide where people live.

1. **Water:** river valleys with fresh water are densely settled.
2. **Landforms:** flat plains like the Ganga plains attract people; mountains like the Himalayas do not.
3. **Climate:** moderate climates attract people; hot and cold deserts and very wet equatorial areas repel them.
4. **Soils:** fertile loamy soils of the Nile, Ganga and Hwang He valleys support dense populations.
5. **Economic factors:** minerals, cities and industries such as the Katanga belt and Kobe–Osaka region create jobs and draw people.

Hence the world population is very unevenly spread.

92 words · limit 150 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | SQP 2026–27 Q1 (match places and factors) | MUST DO

C5. Calculate the density of a state with 2.4 crore people living on 80,000 sq km. What does the figure tell us? **[3]**

1. **Formula:** density = number of people ÷ area of land, in persons per sq km.
2. **Working:** 2,40,00,000 ÷ 80,000 = 300 persons per sq km.
3. **Meaning:** the state is very densely populated – above 200 persons per sq km, like much of South and East Asia – so its land and resources are under heavy pressure.

54 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | SQP 2026–27 Q3 (density MCQ)

Malthus, birth and death rates

★★☆ 1 of 5 papers · 1 mark

C6. Explain Malthus's theory of population. Do you think it is fully true today? **[3]**

1. **Theory:** population grows faster than food supply and is finally checked by famine, disease and war.
2. **Preventive checks:** he advised planned smaller families instead of these physical checks.
3. **Today:** partly true – technology like the Green Revolution raised food output, but rapid growth still strains resources.

45 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | SQP 2026–27 Q8

C7. A country has a CBR of 30 and a CDR of 10. Work out its rate of natural growth and say in which stage of demographic transition it may be. **[3]**

1. **Natural growth:** 30 − 10 = 20 per thousand, that is 2 per cent a year.
2. **Stage:** death rate has fallen while birth rate is still high – Stage II.
3. **Result:** the population will grow rapidly until education, urbanisation and family planning bring the birth rate down.

46 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | SQP 2026–27 Q9 (CBR, CDR, natural growth)

Growth trends and impact

★☆☆ not asked in the 5 papers · 3 and 5 marks

C8. Explain the impact of population change on a country. **[3]**

1. **Small increase:** desirable in a growing economy – it gives more workers, more consumers and a larger market.
2. **Rapid increase:** shortage of resources, unemployment, and pressure on housing, health and schools.
3. **Decline:** a problem too – too few people to use the resources and run the economy, and a growing share of old people.

52 words · limit 100 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

C9. Explain the turning points that led to the rapid growth of world population. **[5]**

For most of history population grew very slowly.

1. **Agriculture:** settled farming about 8,000–12,000 years ago supported larger populations.
2. **Trade:** expanding world trade in the 16th–17th centuries spread new crops and wealth.
3. **Industrial Revolution:** from about 1750, industry and transport raised production and food supply.
4. **Medicine and sanitation:** vaccines, medicines and clean water reduced death rates sharply.
5. **Result:** growth became explosive – from 5 to 6 billion took only about 12 years.

Thus technology turned slow growth into a population explosion.

81 words · limit 150 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark

D

ANSWERS · PART D

Case-Based – Answers

One line each for the 1-mark parts; separate points for the 2-mark parts. The whole answer stays within the word limit.

D1. Case-Based · Two Valleys (printed in the booklet) **[3]**

(i) Name two geographical factors that explain the crowded first valley. **[1]**
Availability of water and flat land with fertile loamy soil.

(ii) What kind of factor makes young people leave the second valley? **[1]**
Push factors – lack of jobs and poor living conditions (unemployment).

(iii) Which economic factor attracts people to the town at the mouth of the valley? **[1]**
Industrialisation and urbanisation, which provide jobs.

26 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 1 = 3

D2. Case-Based · A Country in Transition (printed in the booklet) **[3]**

(i) Which stage of demographic transition was the country in fifty years ago? **[1]**
Stage I – high fertility and high mortality.

(ii) Why did the population almost double after health care improved? **[1]**
Death rates fell while birth rates stayed high – Stage II.

(iii) Give one feature of the country today that shows Stage III. **[1]**
Urban, literate people deliberately control family size, so births and deaths are both low.

31 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 1 = 3 | Board 2025 Q24 asked about demographic transition