# Grade: VI L.no. 3 Oceans and Continents

## **D.** Write a short note on the following:

- 1. Indian Ocean: Indian Ocean is the only ocean which is named after a country, India. This ocean does not open out northwards into the Arctic Ocean. It is completely bounded on the north by Asia and, thus referred to as 'half an ocean'. Africa and Australia border this ocean in the west and east respectively.
- **2. Disaster -** A disaster is a hazard, which causes destruction. This can cause great loss of life and property.
- **3. Cyclones -** Cyclones are circulatory winds in the lower parts of the atmosphere. These develop when a low-pressure area is surrounded by high pressure. Thus, the winds blow towards the centre at a very high speed and are destructive in nature. These winds are accompanied by heavy rains and are often disastrous.
- **4. Antarctica -** a) Antarctica is the fifth-largest continent. It is surrounded by the Pacific, Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. b) It is roughly circular in shape and is centred around the South Pole. Antarctica has a couple of mountain ranges and a vast plateau around the South Pole. c) Due to thick ice cover, it is known as the 'White Continent'. The mainland of Antarctica was first discovered in 1820. d) Since then several nations have established their scientific study stations in Antarctica as this continent provides great scope for the scientific study of weather. Thus, this continent is also called the 'Continent of Science'.

## E. Give very short answers

- 1. The average depth of ocean water is about 3,800 m below the mean sea level.
- 2. The Indian Ocean is named after a country, India. This ocean is referred to as 'half an ocean'. Africa and Australia border this ocean in the west and east respectively.
- 3. Natural hazards cause great loss of life and property. A hazard causes widespread destruction.
- 4. Mt Everest (8,848 m) in Asia is the highest peak.
- 5. Australasia includes Australia along with New Zealand and other nearby islands.

## F. Give short answers for the following

- 1. The oceans in increasing order of size are—Arctic, Indian, Atlantic, Pacific. Some geographers consider Southern Ocean as an ocean.
- **3.** A tsunami can be caused by an undersea earthquake or a volcanic eruption.
- **4.** The continents in increasing order of size are—Australia, Europe, Antarctica, South America, North America, Africa, Asia.

## G. Give Long answers for the following questions

- 1. The importance of oceans for human beings are as follows.
- They are the main source of atmospheric moisture and also exercise direct control over the atmospheric temperature.
- The ocean currents help to modify the climate of the coastal areas.
- They are the storehouse of various minerals and chemicals.
- They are the main source of fish and other marine life.
- Common salt is made from ocean water.
- The shortage of drinking water can be solved by treating ocean water.

Cyclone	Tsunami
Cyclones are circulatory winds that develop in the lower parts of the atmosphere.	Tsunamis are huge waves that develop in midocean.
Cyclones develop when a low-pressure area is surrounded by high pressure. Thus, the winds blow towards the centre at a very high speed and are destructive in nature	A tsunami develops when a large mass of water is displaced. This can be caused by an undersea earthquake or a volcanic eruption. When an undersea earthquake occurs it causes large areas of the sea floor to rise
The speed of the winds can be about 100 km per hour.  Cyclonic winds are accompanied by heavy rains.	Tsunami travels at a very high speed of about 500 to 1,000 km per hour  A tsunami appears as a wall of fast-moving water that can destroy anything in its path.

- The oceans provide free and permanent highway for travel and trade. Thus, providing natural links between continents.
- Oceans possess enormous energy in the form of tidal waves which help to generate electricity.
- 2. A cyclone develops when a low pressure area is surrounded by high pressure. Thus, the winds blow towards the centre at a very high speed and are destructive in nature. These winds are accompanied by heavy rains and are often disastrous. The areas which are prone to cyclones in India are West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and coastal areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- 3. One important physical feature found in each of the seven continents is as follows.

#### Asia

- The world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, is found in this continent.
- Mt Everest, the highest peak of the world, is located in the Himalayas.
- The world's highest plateau, the Plateau of Tibet, is located in Asia.
- The Dead Sea (418 m below sea level) is found in this continent. It is the lowest part of the Earth.
- The Arabian plateau which is a dry desert is found here.
- Japan, Philippines and Indonesia are important island groups located towards the east and southeast of Asia.
- Dormant and active volcanoes are found in some islands along the Pacific Ocean coast. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)

## Africa

- The Great Rift Valley is found in this continent.
- The volcanic peaks like Mt Kenya and Mt Kilimanjaro are located here.
- Nile is an important river flowing through this continent.
- Deserts such as the Sahara, the Kalahari and the Namib are in this continent.
- The Congo basin, an important low-lying area, is found here. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)

### **North America**

- Many glacial lakes are found in the northern part of this continent.
- The five Great Lakes are located between Canada and USA.
- The Prairies, located between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians, are found in this continent.

- The Grand Canyon formed by the Colorado River is found here. It is the deepest canyon in the world.
- The coastal ranges located along the Pacific Ocean coast is a part of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire'.
- St Lawrence, Mississippi and Missouri are important rivers flowing through this continent.
- The Rocky and the Appalachians are important mountains located in this continent. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)

#### **South America**

- The Andes mountains which stretch from the Caribbean Sea in the north to Cape Horn in the south is the world's longest unbroken mountain chain.
- Mt Aconcagua is the highest peak in the Andes mountains.
- The Orinoco, the Amazon and the La Plata are the important rivers flowing through this continent. Their basins are called Llanos, Selvas and Gran Chaco respectively.
- The Atacama desert is found in this continent. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)

### **Antarctica**

- Antarctica is covered with thick ice and, thus known as the 'White Continent'.
- A vast plateau is located around the South Pole.
- A couple of mountain ranges are found in this continent. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)

### **Europe**

- The Alpine mountain system is located between the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the Caspian Sea in the east.
- Mt Blanc is the highest peak in the Alps.
- Active volcanoes such as Vesuvius and Etna are found here.
- Mt Elbrus located in the Caucasus Mountains is the highest peak in Europe.
- The Ural, the Caucasus and the Alps are important mountains located in this continent.
- Rhine, Rhone, Volga, Danube, Don and Dniester are important rivers flowing through this continent. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)

### **Australia**

- The Great Dividing Range is located towards the eastern part of this continent. The Central Lowland, also called the Great Artesian basin, is found in this continent. The western part of Australia is a desert. The Great Barrier Reef is located along the north-eastern coast of this continent. (Accept any one of these or any other relevant response.)
- 4. The presence of water is a unique feature of our planet. About 71 per cent of the Earth's surface is covered with water. The total amount of water on the surface of the Earth is fixed. Water is found mostly in oceans, seas, gulfs, bays, lakes and rivers. The part of the Earth which has water is called the hydrosphere.
- 5. Nature is one of the biggest sources of destruction. It can be due to earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, landslides and forest fires. These are called natural hazards because they are natural phenomena. These natural hazards can cause great loss of life and property. A hazard causing destruction is called a disaster.