HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services

PRELIMS

Previous Year Questions

with Answers & Detailed Explanations

2020 ◆ 2021 ◆ 2023 ◆ 2024 ◆ 2025

Subject-wise · Year-wise | 500 Questions



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Awakening Toppers

Preface

The Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services (HPAS) Combined Competitive Examination, conducted by the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC), opens the door to some of the most respected administrative positions in the State. The Preliminary Examination is the first and most decisive filter in this journey. In a single General Studies paper, aspirants are tested on the history, polity, geography, economy, environment and science of India, together with a substantial share of questions on Himachal Pradesh itself.

Previous year questions remain the most reliable guide to what the Commission asks and how it asks it. This compilation brings together the General Studies (Paper I) questions of the HPAS Preliminary Examinations of 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025 — five hundred questions in all — each followed by its answer and a detailed explanation.

How this book is organised

- The questions are arranged subject-wise in twelve chapters — Geography, History, Social Issues, Polity, Governance, International Relations, Science, Economy, Environment, Himachal GK, Current Affairs and Miscellaneous. Within each chapter they appear year by year, and every question carries its original year and question number for reference.
- Every question is followed by its correct answer, highlighted for quick checking, and by an explanation of the reasoning behind it — and, wherever useful, of why the other options are incorrect.
- Tables and maps are included wherever they make a concept easier to grasp and revise.
- Questions dropped by HPPSC in its final answer key are marked as such. Where the official key appears to conflict with the available evidence, the official answer is noted alongside our assessment.

How to use this book

Work through one subject at a time, attempting each question before turning to its explanation. Note the topics the Commission returns to year after year, and revisit them through your standard sources. A second reading of the explanations in the weeks before the examination is among the most efficient revision exercises available to an HPAS aspirant.

We hope this book serves as a dependable companion in your preparation, and we wish you every success.

Team Sleepy Classes

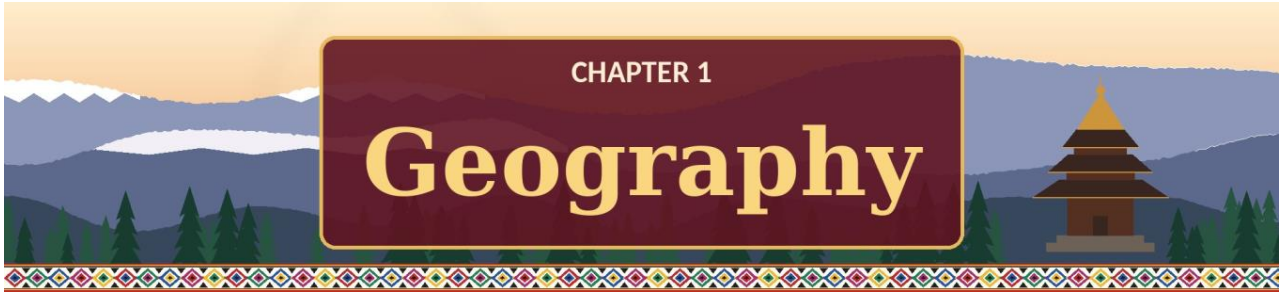
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Chapter 1 — Geography

74 Questions | Arranged Year-wise (2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025) | With Answers & Explanations

◆ HPAS PRELIMS 2020 ◆

1. Shifting cultivation in Jharkhand State is known as: *[2020 · Q4]*

(A) Koman
(B) Khil
(C) Kuruwa
(D) Kumari

Answer: (C) Kuruwa

- **Regional Name:** Shifting cultivation, a traditional agricultural practice where land is temporarily cleared and cultivated, is specifically known as **Kuruwa** in the state of **Jharkhand**.
- **Other Variations:** For context, the other options represent shifting cultivation in different regions of India: **Koman** is used in Odisha, **Khil** is practiced in the Himalayan belt, and **Kumari** is found in the Western Ghats (Kerala).
- **Process:** This method involves slashing vegetation, burning it to enrich the soil with ash, cultivating crops for a few seasons, and then moving to a new plot to let the old land recover naturally.

2. Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched? *[2020 · Q5]*

(A) Kosi - Consequent river
(B) Narmada - Rift valley river
(C) Sutlej - Antecedent river
(D) Ghaggar - Endoreic river

Answer: (A) Kosi - Consequent river

- **Mismatch Details:** The **Kosi River** is actually an **antecedent river** (pre-existing river), not a consequent river. It originated before the Himalayan upliftment and cut deep gorges to maintain its original flow path despite geological changes.

Other Pairs (Correct):

- **Narmada** correctly matches as a **Rift valley river** because it flows westward through a linear rift valley formed by tectonic faulting between the Vindhya and Satpura ranges.
- **Sutlej** correctly matches as an **Antecedent river** because it also predates the Himalayas and cuts through them from its source in Tibet.
- **Ghaggar** correctly matches as an **Endoreic river** (inland drainage) because it does not flow into any ocean; instead, it loses its water stream and dries up in the Thar Desert.

3. Which of the following glaciers is located in the Karakoram ranges of the Himalayan region? *[2020 · Q6]*

(A) Shafat
(B) Milam
(C) Zemu
(D) Biafo

Answer: (D) Biafo

Location: The **Biafo Glacier** is a massive 67 km long glacier situated in the **Karakoram Range** of the Trans-Himalayan region. It meets the Hispar Glacier to create one of the longest continuous glacial systems outside the polar regions.

Other Options are incorrect:

- **Shafat:** Located in the Nun Kun mountain massif of the Zanskar Range (Ladakh).
- **Milam:** Situated in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand (Greater Himalayas).
- **Zemu:** The largest glacier in the Eastern Himalayas, located at the base of Kangchenjunga in Sikkim.

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4. Kirghiz refers to: *[2020 · Q7]*

(A) Desert
(B) Lake
(C) Cattle herders
(D) Mountain

Answer: (C) Cattle herders

- **Identity:** The **Kirghiz** (or Kyrgyz) traditionally refers to a nomadic ethnic group of **cattle herders** and pastoralists native to the Central Asian region, primarily Kyrgyzstan.
- **Lifestyle:** They historically followed a pastoral nomadic lifestyle, moving across rugged mountain pastures (jailoos) with their livestock, which included horses, sheep, goats, and yaks.
- **Cultural Symbol:** Their cultural identity is closely tied to seasonal migration, horsemanship, and dwelling in portable felt tents known as **yurts**.

5. Alps mountain chain is related with: *[2020 · Q8]*

(A) Europe
(B) Asia
(C) Australia
(D) Antarctic

Answer: (A) Europe

- **Location:** The **Alps** are the highest and most extensive mountain range system that lies entirely within **Europe**.
- **Geographical Span:** The chain stretches approximately 1,200 kilometres across **eight Alpine countries**: France, Switzerland, Monaco, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia.
- **Highest Peak:** The highest peak in the Alpine mountain chain is **Mont Blanc**, which stands at 4,807 metres on the French-Italian border.

6. The water holding capacity is highest in: *[2020 · Q9]*

(A) Sandy soil
(B) Clayey soil
(C) Loamy soil
(D) Mixture of sand and loam

Answer: (B) Clayey soil

- **Particle Size: Clayey soil** consists of exceptionally fine, tiny particles that provide a much larger overall surface area compared to other soil types.
- **Pore Spaces:** Because these small particles are tightly packed together, they create very narrow spaces (micropores) that effectively trap and hold water molecules through capillary action instead of allowing them to drain.
- **Other Soil Comparison:** In contrast, **sandy soil** has large particles with wide gaps that drain rapidly. **Loamy soil** maintains a balanced mixture of sand, silt, and clay, offering ideal drainage and retention for agriculture, but it does not surpass the raw water retention capacity of pure clay.

Directions for Q32–41: There are two statements for each question. In the light of these two statements, choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:
(A) Both correct (B) Both incorrect (C) Statement 1 correct, 2 incorrect (D) Statement 1 incorrect, 2 correct

7. S1: Quepem and Canacona are chief bauxite areas in Goa. *[2020 · Q35]*

S2: Most Indian bauxite is associated with laterites, occurring as sheets.

Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** In Goa, while iron and manganese are the primary minerals, substantial reserves of bauxite are concentrated along the south-western coast, with **Quepem and Canacona** (along with Betul and Pernem) acting as the chief bauxite-bearing plateau regions.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Geologically, most Indian bauxite deposits are categorized as **lateritic bauxite**, formed by the intense chemical weathering of underlying aluminum-rich rocks. These residual deposits capping the tablelands and plateaus typically occur blanketed horizontally as **continuous sheets** or lenses

8. S1: Ruhr Valley (Germany) is among the world's greatest mining/industrial regions. *[2020 · Q40]*

S2: Boston is an important shipbuilding centre in the USA.

Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The **Ruhr Valley** (Ruhrgebiet), located in the North Rhine-Westphalia state of Germany, is historically one of the world's most significant and largest **heavy industrial and mining regions**. Rich in massive coal reserves, it served as the powerhouse of German industrialization, primarily dominating global coal mining, iron, and steel production.
- **Statement 2 is Correct: Boston** has a highly distinguished history as a premier **shipbuilding center** in the United States. The Boston Navy Yard (established in

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1800 in Charlestown) was one of the oldest and most vital naval shipbuilding and repair facilities in the country. It produced hundreds of world-famous vessels, including clipper ships in East Boston and massive warships during World War II

9. S1: Malacca Strait connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans. *[2020 · Q41]*

S2: The Irrawaddy River system relates to Indonesia.

Answer: (C)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The **Strait of Malacca** is one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints. Running between the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, it serves as the primary shipping lane connecting the **Indian Ocean** (via the Andaman Sea) to the **Pacific Ocean** (via the South China Sea).
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The **Irrawaddy River system** (officially known as Ayeyarwady) relates to **Myanmar**, not Indonesia. It is the principal river and the most important commercial waterway of Myanmar, flowing entirely within its borders from north to south before emptying into the Andaman Sea.

10. Arrange rivers East to West: *[2020 · Q44]*

1. Kosi
2. Teesta
3. Gandak
4. Sharda

(A) 2,3,4,1
(B) 2,1,3,4
(C) 2,1,4,3
(D) 3,2,4,1

Answer: (B) 2,1,3,4

- **2. Teesta:** Located in the eastern Himalayas, it originates in Sikkim, flows through West Bengal, and enters Bangladesh to join the Brahmaputra River. This makes it the easternmost river among the choices.
- **1. Kosi:** Known as the "Sorrow of Bihar," it lies to the west of the Teesta River. It originates in the Tibetan Himalayas, cuts through Nepal, and enters Bihar to join the Ganga.
- **3. Gandak:** Situated further west of the Kosi River, the Gandak flows out of Nepal and travels across the Indo-Gangetic plains of Bihar to meet the Ganga near Patna.
- **4. Sharda:** Also famously known as the Mahakali or Kali River in Nepal, it forms a natural boundary between India (Uttarakhand) and Nepal. Positioned well to the west of the Gandak, it is the westernmost river in this selection

11. Arrange countries North to South: *[2020 · Q45]*

1. Norway
2. Denmark
3. Austria
4. Spain

(A) 4,3,2,1
(B) 1,2,3,4
(C) 2,1,3,4
(D) 3,4,2,1

Answer: ***B — Norway–Denmark–Austria–Spain***

- **1. Norway:** Located in Scandinavia, its territory stretches the furthest north among the options, extending deep into the Arctic Circle.
- **2. Denmark:** Situated directly south of the Scandinavian Peninsula (separated by the Skagerrak strait), it sits at a mid-northern latitude.
- **3. Austria:** Positioned in Central Europe, it lies entirely south of Denmark and Germany.
- **4. Spain:** Located in Southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula, it sits at the lowest latitude among the choices, making it the southernmost country in this selection.

12. Arrange South to North: *[2020 · Q46]*

1. Arctic Ocean
2. Gulf of Mexico
3. Hudson Bay
4. Baffin Bay

(A) 1,2,3,4
(B) 2,4,1,3
(C) 1,3,2,4
(D) 2,3,4,1

Answer: ***D — Gulf of Mexico – Hudson Bay – Baffin Bay – Arctic Ocean***

- **2. Gulf of Mexico:** Located at the lowest latitude among the options (primarily between 20°N and 30°N), bordered by the United States, Mexico, and Cuba, making it the southernmost body of water in this selection.
- **3. Hudson Bay:** A massive inland sea located in northeastern Canada, positioned further north of the Gulf of Mexico (primarily between 51°N and 63°N).

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- **4. Baffin Bay:** Situated between Baffin Island and Greenland, it lies even further north than Hudson Bay, stretching mostly between 68°N and 78°N.
- **1. Arctic Ocean:** Covering the north polar region, it represents the northernmost body of water on Earth, surrounding the North Pole.

Directions for Q50–60: Four statements each — choose the correct pair.

13. 1. Jute is used for making decorative items. *[2020 · Q52]*

2. Sugarcane is a cereal crop.

3. Cotton requires a clear sky during flowering.

4. Sugarcane is a temperate crop.

(A) 3,4
(B) 1,3
(C) 2,4
(D) 2,3

Answer: (B) 1,3

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Jute is a versatile natural fibre widely used to manufacture traditional packaging items like sacks and gunny bags, as well as high-value **decorative items**, carpets, and handicrafts.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Sugarcane is not a cereal crop; it belongs to the grass family (*Poaceae*) and is classified as a commercial cash crop primarily cultivated for sugar production. Cereal crops include grains like rice, wheat, and maize.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Cotton requires specific climatic conditions to grow successfully. During its **flowering and boll-opening stages**, a clear sky, bright sunshine, and a minimum of 210 frost-free days are essential to ensure a high-quality yield.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect:** Sugarcane is a **tropical and subtropical crop**, not a temperate one. It requires a warm, humid climate with temperatures between 21°C to 27°C and heavy rainfall to grow effectively.

14. 1. Bedouins are wandering tribes of Central Asia. *[2020 · Q54]*

2. Croats are inhabitants of Croatia.

3. Eskimos live in the Philippines.

4. People of New Zealand are known as Kiwis.

(A) 2,4
(B) 1,4
(C) 2,3
(D) 1,2

Answer: (A) 2,4

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The **Bedouins** are historically nomadic Arab herdsmen inhabiting the desert regions of North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Levant, rather than Central Asia.
- **Statement 2 is Correct: Croats** are a South Slavic nation and ethnic group native to **Croatia**, representing the primary inhabitants and founders of the country.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect: Eskimos** (historically referring to the Inuit and Yupik peoples) live in the extreme circumpolar regions of the Northern Hemisphere—including Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland, and eastern Siberia—not in the tropical country of the Philippines.
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** Inhabitants of **New Zealand** are universally and colloquially known as **Kiwis**, a friendly demonym inspired by their national flightless bird.

15. 1. Miami Beach hosts many world beauty contests. *[2020 · Q55]*

2. Glasgow is known for diamond mining.

3. Honolulu is famous for textiles.

4. Istanbul was formerly Constantinople.

(A) 2,4
(B) 3,4
(C) 1,2
(D) 1,4

Answer: (D) 1,4

- **Statement 1 is Correct: Miami Beach** in Florida, USA, has historically been a premier global resort destination that has frequently hosted major international beauty pageants, including multiple editions of the world-famous Miss Universe contest.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect: Glasgow** in Scotland is historically celebrated as a powerhouse for heavy engineering, marine engineering, and **shipbuilding**, not diamond mining. Major diamond mining hubs are

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typically found in countries like South Africa, Russia, and Botswana.

- **Statement 3 is Incorrect: Honolulu** in Hawaii is globally renowned as a major hub for international **tourism**, hospitality, and aviation rather than textile manufacturing.
- **Statement 4 is Correct: Istanbul**, the largest city in Turkey, was historically named **Constantinople** (and originally Byzantium). It served as the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires before being officially renamed Istanbul in 1930.

Directions for Q61–71: Match List I with List II

16. *[2020 · Q62]*

Climate Type	Area
A. Tropical savannah	Coromandel coast of Tamilnadu
B. Hot desert	Most of the peninsular plateaus
C. Polar type	Western Rajasthan
D. Monsoon with dry summer	Jammu and Kashmir

(A) A2,B4,C1,D3
(B) A2,B3,C4,D1
(C) A2,B3,C1,D4
(D) A1,B3,C4,D2

Answer: (B) A2,B3,C4,D1

- **A. Tropical Savannah matches with 2 (Most of the peninsular plateaus):** Designated as the **Aw** climate type, this region experiences high temperatures year-round with a distinct dry season in winter and a wet season during the summer monsoon.
- **B. Hot Desert matches with 3 (Western Rajasthan):** Designated as the **BWhw** climate type, this region experiences extreme temperatures, low relative humidity, and highly deficient rainfall (typically under 30 cm annually).
- **C. Polar Type matches with 4 (Jammu and Kashmir):** Designated simply as the **E** type, this climate is found in the highest-altitude mountain belts of the Himalayas, where the average temperature of the warmest month remains below 10°C.
- **D. Monsoon with Dry Summer matches with 1 (Coromandel coast of Tamil Nadu):** Designated as the **As** climate type, this unique coastal strip remains dry during the southwest summer monsoon but receives heavy precipitation from the retreating northeast monsoon in winter.

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17. Milam glacier is located in: *[2021 · Q11]*

(A) Karakoram region
(B) Pir Panjal region
(C) Nepal region
(D) Kumaun Garhwal region

Answer: (D) Kumaun Garhwal region

- **(A) Karakoram region (Incorrect choice):** The Karakoram range is located in the trans-Himalayan region spanning borders across Ladakh (India), Gilgit-Baltistan (Pakistan), and Xinjiang (China). It houses some of the world's largest non-polar glaciers like the **Siachen, Baltoro, and Biafo glaciers**, but not the Milam glacier.
- **(B) Pir Panjal region (Incorrect choice):** The Pir Panjal range is a part of the Lesser Himalayan region running through Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Glaciers here are typically smaller and seasonal, and it does not contain the Milam glacier.
- **(C) Nepal region (Incorrect choice):** The Central Nepal Himalayas host major glacial networks like the **Annapurna and Dhaulagiri glacier systems**. While the Milam glacier feeds river systems flowing toward the Indo-Nepal border, the glacier itself lies entirely within Indian territory.
- **(D) Kumaun Garhwal region (Correct choice):** The Milam Glacier is one of the largest and most famous glaciers in the **Kumaon Himalayas**. It is located in the Munsiyari tehsil of the Pithoragarh district in **Uttarakhand, India**. Situated in the Johar Valley near the Nanda Devi sanctuary, it acts as the primary source of the **Goriganga River.**

18. Zojila pass is located in: *[2021 · Q12]*

(A) Punjab Himalayas
(B) Kumaun Himalayas
(C) Nepal Himalayas
(D) Assam Himalayas

Answer: (A) Punjab Himalayas

- **(A) Punjab Himalayas (Correct choice):** Geographically, Sir Sidney Burrard classified the Himalayas into longitudinal divisions based on river valleys. The region lying between the **Indus River and the Satluj River** is defined as the **Punjab Himalayas** (also known as the Kashmir or Himachal Himalayas). The Zoji La Pass lies within this section, serving as a strategic high mountain

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pass that connects Srinagar (Kashmir Valley) with Dras and Leh (Ladakh).

- **(B) Kumaun Himalayas (Incorrect choice):** This division spans the region between the **Satluj River and the Kali River**, located primarily within Uttarakhand. Famous peaks like Nanda Devi and glaciers like Milam lie here, but Zoji La is positioned much farther to the northwest.
- **(C) Nepal Himalayas (Incorrect choice):** This section stretches between the **Kali River and the Teesta River**, encompassing the major portion of the mountain range running through Nepal. It holds the world's highest peaks, such as Mount Everest, and has no geographical connection to Zoji La.
- **(D) Assam Himalayas (Incorrect choice):** Also known as the Eastern Himalayas, this division is bounded by the **Teesta River and the Dihang (Brahmaputra) River**. It covers parts of Sikkim, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh, making it entirely distant from the western axis where Zoji La is located

19. Vadinar oil refinery is managed by: *[2021 · Q13]*

(A) Reliance Industries
(B) Bharat Petroleum
(C) Essar Oil Ltd.
(D) Hindustan Petroleum

Answer: (C) Essar Oil Ltd.

- **(A) Reliance Industries (Incorrect choice):** Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) owns and operates the massive **Jamnagar Refinery complex** in Gujarat. It is the largest single-location oil refining facility in the world, but it is separate from the Vadinar facility.
- **(B) Bharat Petroleum (Incorrect choice):** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is a major public sector undertaking that operates prominent refineries in places like **Mumbai (Maharashtra), Kochi (Kerala), and Bina (Madhya Pradesh)**. It does not manage the Vadinar installation.
- **(C) Essar Oil Ltd. (Correct choice based on options):** Historically, the grassroots Vadinar oil refinery was set up, commissioned, and managed by the private player **Essar Oil Limited**. It is India's second-largest single-location refinery. *(Note: In August 2017, Essar Oil was acquired by a Rosneft-led consortium and was subsequently rebranded as **Nayara Energy Limited**, which operates the refinery).*
- **(D) Hindustan Petroleum (Incorrect choice):** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is another leading public sector enterprise managing prominent refineries in **Mumbai and Visakhapatnam**, as well as a joint-venture refinery in Bathinda (HMEL). It has no operational stake in Vadinar

20. Which of the following countries is landlocked? *[2021 · Q14]*

(A) Peru
(B) Bolivia
(C) Surinam
(D) Uruguay

Answer: (B) Bolivia

- **(A) Peru (Incorrect choice):** Peru is located on the western coast of South America. It has an extensive coastline along the **Pacific Ocean**, making it easily accessible by maritime trade routes.
- **(B) Bolivia (Correct choice):** Bolivia is a completely **landlocked country** situated in western-central South America. Along with Paraguay, it is one of only two landlocked nations on the South American continent. Historically, Bolivia possessed a coastline along the Pacific Ocean, but it lost its coastal territory to Chile during the **War of the Pacific** (1879–1883).
- **(C) Surinam (Incorrect choice):** Suriname (also spelled Surinam) is the smallest sovereign country in South America by land area. It is located on the northeastern coast of the continent and opens directly into the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- **(D) Uruguay (Incorrect choice):** Uruguay is positioned on the southeastern coast of South America. It has a long coastline facing the **Atlantic Ocean** and the major estuary of the Río de la Plata, rendering it a coastal nation rather than a landlocked one.



21. Where are the Balearic islands located? *[2021 · Q15]*

(A) Mediterranean Sea
(B) Black Sea
(C) Baltic Sea
(D) North Sea

Answer: (A) Mediterranean Sea

- **(A) Mediterranean Sea (Correct choice):** The Balearic Islands (including Majorca, Minorca, Ibiza, and Formentera) are an archipelago located in the western portion of the **Mediterranean Sea**. They form an autonomous community and province of **Spain**, situated off the eastern coast of the Spanish mainland.
- **(B) Black Sea (Incorrect choice):** The Black Sea is an inland sea bounded by Southeastern Europe and Western Asia (surrounded by countries like Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, and Romania). It contains islands like Snake Island, but the Balearic archipelago is nowhere near this region.
- **(C) Baltic Sea (Incorrect choice):** The Baltic Sea is located in Northern Europe, enclosed by Scandinavia, Finland, the Baltic states, and the North European Plain. Notable islands here include Gotland and Bornholm, but it features a cold climate completely distinct from the Balearics.
- **(D) North Sea (Incorrect choice):** The North Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean located between Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, and France. It houses island groups like the Frisian Islands, not Mediterranean holiday destinations.



22. Turkey is located between: *[2021 · Q16]*

(A) Black Sea and Caspian Sea
(B) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
(C) Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea
(D) Dead Sea and Black Sea

Answer: (B) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea

- **(A) Black Sea and Caspian Sea (Incorrect choice):** The landmass positioned between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea is the **Caucasus region** (encompassing nations like Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, alongside southwestern Russia). Turkey lies to the west of this area.
- **(B) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea (Correct choice):** Turkey occupies the Anatolian peninsula, which acts as a natural bridge between Europe and Asia. It is bordered by the **Black Sea** directly to its north and the **Mediterranean Sea** (specifically the Aegean and Levantine basins) to its south and west, placing it squarely between these two major body masses.
- **(C) Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea (Incorrect choice):** The land bridge running between the Gulf of Suez and the Mediterranean Sea is the **Sinai Peninsula**, which belongs to **Egypt**. This region also marks the location of the man-made Suez Canal.
- **(D) Dead Sea and Black Sea (Incorrect choice):** The Dead Sea is a landlocked salt lake located further south in the Jordan Rift Valley, bordered by Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank. The vast geographic territory of the Levant separates the Dead Sea from the Black Sea.



23. Flemish are the tribes of: *[2021 · Q17]*

(A) Croatia
(B) South Africa
(C) New Zealand
(D) Belgium

Answer: (D) Belgium

(A) Croatia (Incorrect choice): Croatia is a South Slavic nation located in the Balkans. Its native population is predominantly Croats, who are linguistically and culturally distinct from the Germanic groups of Western Europe.

(B) South Africa (Incorrect choice): South Africa features numerous indigenous African ethnic groups and tribes (such as the Zulu, Xhosa, and Sotho), alongside Afrikaners (descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers). While Afrikaners speak Afrikaans—a language derived from Dutch—they are not referred to as the Flemish.

(C) New Zealand (Incorrect choice): The indigenous Polynesian tribal people of New Zealand are the **Māori**. The rest of the population is predominantly of European (primarily British) descent, with no indigenous connection to the Flemish.

(D) Belgium (Correct choice): The **Flemish** (or Flemings) are a Germanic ethnic and linguistic group native to the northern region of **Belgium**, known as Flanders. They speak Flemish (a southern variant/dialect of Dutch)and constitute the largest cultural community in Belgium, making up roughly **60% of the country's total population**

24. Sequence these countries North to South: *[2021 · Q18]*

(1) Romania
(2) Bulgaria
(3) Ukraine
(4) Greece

(A) 1,2,3,4
(B) 3,1,2,4
(C) 4,3,2,1
(D) 3,2,4,1

Answer: ***B — Ukraine – Romania – Bulgaria – Greece***

- **(3) Ukraine (Northernmost):** Ukraine is a large Eastern European country. Its capital, Kyiv, lies at approximately **50.45° N** latitude. This positions it the furthest north among the given choices.
- **(1) Romania (Second):** Located directly south of Ukraine, Romania sits in Central/Southeastern Europe. Its capital, Bucharest, is located at roughly **44.43° N** latitude.
- **(2) Bulgaria (Third):** Bulgaria shares its northern border with Romania (divided largely by the Danube River). Its capital, Sofia, is located at approximately **42.69° N** latitude.
- **(4) Greece (Southernmost):** Greece forms the southern tip of the Balkan Peninsula. Its capital, Athens, lies far to the south at roughly **37.98° N** latitude.



25. Match List I (Sea) with List II (Country): *[2021 · Q19]*

Sea	Country
a. Black Sea	i. Bulgaria
b. Red Sea	ii. China
c. Yellow Sea	iii. Eritrea
d. Caspian Sea	iv. Kazakhstan

(A) i,iv,ii,iii
(B) ii,iii,i,iv
(C) i,iii,ii,iv
(D) iii,ii,i,iv

Answer: (C) i,iii,ii,iv

a. Black Sea — i. Bulgaria: The Black Sea is bordered by six countries, one of which is **Bulgaria** on its western coast (along with Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Turkey).

b. Red Sea — iii. Eritrea: The Red Sea is a narrow strip of water bordered by northeast African and Middle Eastern nations. **Eritrea** possesses a long coastline along its southwestern shores.

c. Yellow Sea — ii. China: The Yellow Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean located between mainland **China** and the Korean Peninsula.

d. Caspian Sea — iv. Kazakhstan: The Caspian Sea (the world's largest inland body of water) is bordered by five

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