

Geography Notes

Chapter-7(a)

Study of continents

(Europe and Africa)

Q.1 Define the following

1. Peninsula – A large stretch of land surrounded by sea except for one side through which it is connected to a large landmass.
2. Fjord – A deep inlet of sea between high cliffs. They are formed through erosion by glaciers.
3. Fold mountains – Mountains formed due to buckling of the crust of the earth under the influence of the compressional forces beneath the surface of the earth.
4. Intermontane plains – Plains surrounded by mountains.
5. Island – A body of land completely surrounded by water.
6. Rift valley – A narrow steep sided valley formed between two parallel faults.

Q.2 Fill in the blanks

1. Belgium, Netherland and Luxembourg are called the **low** countries.
2. **Mount Blanc** is the highest peak of Alps.
3. **Seine** and **Rhine** are important rivers of Europe.
4. **Mt. Kilimanjaro** is the highest mountain peak of Africa.
5. **Sahara** is the largest desert of Africa.

Q.3 Match the following

1. Iceland - Scandinavian country
2. Baltic State - Latvia
3. Balkan State - Bosnia
4. Low country - Netherlands
5. Smallest country - Vatican

Q.4 Answer in brief

1. What is the location of Europe ? 44

Answer – The latitudinal extension of Europe 35°N and 73°N whereas its longitudinal extension is 25°W and 65°E.

2. Name the mountains which separate Europe from Asia.

Answer – Ural mountains separate Europe from Asia.

3. “The coastline of Europe is highly indented.” Give Reason.

Answer – The coastline of Europe is highly intended (broken) due to large number of enclosed seas and bays.

4. Mention the physical divisions of Europe.

Answer – On the basis of the physical features, this continent can be divided into four major physical divisions.

- The North-Western Highlands
- The North European Plains
- The Central Uplands
- The Alpine System

5. Define Fjord.

Answer – A deep inlet of sea between high cliffs. They are formed through erosion by glaciers.

6. Name the longest river of Europe.

Answer – River Volga is the longest river of Europe.

7. What is the location of Africa ?

Answer – It stretches from 37°N to 35°S latitude and 20°W to 52°E longitude. At about 30.2 million km² (11.7 million sq. mi.) including adjacent islands, it covers 6% of the earth's total surface area.

8. Name any two lakes of Africa.

Answer – Lake Victoria and Lake Malawi are two lakes of Africa.

9. Name the important lines of longitude which pass through Africa.

Answer – Prime Meridian is the important line of longitude which pass through Africa.

10. What is a rift valley ?

Answer – A rift valley is a long, deep valley with steep sides. Such valleys formed due to cracks or fracture or fault in the crust of the earth.

Q.5 Answer in detail

1. Describe the major features of North Western highlands of Europe.

Answer – The North-Western highlands are :

- This is the highland region situated in the far north of Europe. These highlands stretch from Finland through Sweden, Norway and the British Isles to Iceland.
- This highland region in its Northern part is called the Fenno-Scandian Shield.
- The region is rich in metallic minerals such as iron ore and copper.
- The soils of the shield area are coarse and have very low fertility.

2. Write the major features of North European plains.

Answer – The features of North European Plains are :

- i. This is a stretch of flat land extending between Ural mountains in the east and the Atlantic coast in the west.
- ii. Agriculture has been the major activity in this plain since very old time.
- iii. The Seine and the Rhine are the most important among the navigable rivers of this area. They are both used for inland navigation and flow into the English channel and North sea respectively.

- iv. In some parts of the plain are found rich deposits of fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas. The North sea oil deposits are believed to be an extension of the deposit in the Northern European plains.
3. State any four features of the Alpine system.

Answer – The four features are :

- i. The Alpine chain extends from the Atlantic ocean in the west to the Caspian sea in the East.
 - ii. Alps are the most important in this mountain system. The highest peak of the Alps Mont Blanc, is 4,807 meters high.
 - iii. The Pyrenees, the Carpathian and the Caucasus are the other important mountains of this system.
 - iv. The highest peak of Europe, Mount Elbrus (5,633 meters) is in the Caucasus.
4. Write any four major features of great rift valley of Africa.

Answer – The features of great rift valley are :

- i. The great rift valley is name given to the continuous geographic trough, approximately 6000 kilometers in length that runs from Northern Syria in southwest Asia to Central Mozambique in East Africa.
- ii. A rift valley is a long, deep valley with steep sides.
- iii. Such valleys are formed due to cracks or fracture or fault in the crust of the earth.
- iv. A long chain of rift valleys extend from South of Lake Malawi to the Red sea in the north and from the gulf of Aqaba to the Dead sea beyond it.

Q.6 Assignment –

- I. On a physical map of Africa locate the following –**
 - A Desert
 - An Ocean
 - The Equator
 - The Atlas Mountains
 - A sea
- II. On a physical map of Europe locate the following –**

- **A mountain range**
- **A sea**
- **A river**
- **A plateau**
- **A bay**