

OCEANS AND LIFE

Important Questions

Understanding Society: India and Beyond • Grade 9 Part 2 • New Syllabus 2026–27

Exam Practice: Important conceptual, short-answer, long-answer and competency-based questions covering the major topics of Chapter 1.

A. Very Short Answer Questions (1–2 Marks)

1. What is meant by ocean relief or submarine relief?
2. What is a continental shelf?
3. What is a continental slope?
4. What is an abyssal plain?
5. What is a mid-ocean ridge?
6. What is an ocean trench?
7. What is a seamount?
8. What is a guyot?
9. What is a submarine canyon?
10. What are ocean waves?
11. What causes tides?
12. What is an ocean current?
13. What is the Coriolis force?
14. What is a marine resource?
15. What is meant by the Blue Economy?
16. What is a tsunami?
17. What is an early warning system?
18. What is the Territorial Sea?
19. What is an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)?
20. What does UNCLOS stand for?
21. What is MARPOL?
22. What is meant by innocent passage?

B. Short Answer Questions (3 Marks)

1. Differentiate between the continental shelf and continental slope.

2. Explain the importance of the continental shelf for human activities.
3. Describe the major features of the deep ocean floor.
4. Explain the difference between waves, tides and ocean currents.
5. How do waves affect coastal areas?
6. Explain spring tides and neap tides.
7. How are ocean currents important for climate and marine life?
8. Distinguish between warm currents and cold currents.
9. Why are marine resources important for coastal communities?
10. Give three examples each of living and non-living marine resources.
11. Explain three ways in which oceans support human livelihoods.
12. What is the Blue Economy? Why is sustainability important for it?
13. How can marine pollution affect ocean ecosystems and human activities?
14. How can cyclones affect coastal communities?
15. Why are tsunamis particularly dangerous for coastal areas?
16. How do early warning systems help reduce disaster risks?
17. What is the importance of tsunami monitoring and warning systems?
18. What is the difference between the Territorial Sea and the EEZ?
19. Why are international maritime rules necessary?
20. Explain the importance of UNCLOS in the use of oceans.

C. Long Answer Questions (4–5 Marks)

1. Explain the major features of ocean relief and discuss how they influence fishing, transport, resource use and underwater exploration.
2. Explain how waves, tides and ocean currents influence climate, marine ecosystems and human activities.
3. Describe the importance of marine resources under the following headings: food, livelihoods, minerals, energy, trade, tourism and biotechnology.
4. Explain the concept of the Blue Economy and discuss how ocean resources can be used sustainably.
5. Explain the causes and possible impacts of cyclones and describe the importance of cyclone warning systems.
6. What is a tsunami? Explain how tsunami early warning systems can help protect coastal communities.
7. Describe the major maritime zones from the coast to the high seas and explain the rights or responsibilities associated with them.
8. Explain the role of UNCLOS and MARPOL in regulating ocean use and protecting the marine environment.
9. Why is international cooperation important for sustainable use of oceans? Explain with suitable examples.
10. Explain how oceans are connected with climate, livelihoods, natural resources and disasters.

D. Competency-Based / Application Questions

1. A fishing community depends heavily on a nearby continental shelf. Explain why this area may support fishing and what could happen if the marine ecosystem is damaged.
2. A coastal town receives a cyclone warning several hours before expected landfall. Prepare a step-by-step action plan for scientists, officials, emergency workers and residents.
3. A ship is travelling through the territorial sea of another country. What principle permits passage under certain conditions? Explain the idea.
4. A country wants to exploit oil, fish and other natural resources within 200 nautical miles of its coast. Which maritime zone is involved and what kind of rights does the coastal state have?
5. A coastal region is experiencing overfishing, plastic pollution and habitat destruction. Suggest four measures that could support sustainable ocean use.
6. A strong underwater earthquake occurs in the ocean. Explain how authorities could determine whether a tsunami threat exists and how a warning could reach coastal communities.
7. A new shipping route is proposed near a sensitive marine ecosystem. What factors should planners consider to balance navigation, safety and environmental protection?
8. A student says, 'The ocean floor is flat, so it has little effect on human activities.' Do you agree? Give reasons using at least three ocean-floor features.
9. A warm ocean current moves towards a cooler coastal region. Explain two possible effects this movement of heat may have on the region.
10. Why can an international approach be necessary when dealing with marine pollution even if the pollution begins near the coast of one country?

E. Case-Based Questions

1. A coastal village receives information that a severe cyclone may approach within 24 hours. The administration asks residents to move to designated shelters. (a) Why is early evacuation important? (b) What role do scientists play? (c) What should residents do before leaving?

2. A region has rich fishing grounds but catches have declined because of excessive fishing. (a) What does this indicate about resource use? (b) Suggest two sustainable fishing measures. (c) How does this relate to the Blue Economy?
3. A foreign merchant ship is travelling through a country's territorial sea. (a) What principle may allow the passage? (b) Why are conditions attached to this passage? (c) Why are international maritime rules necessary?
4. A coastal country wants to explore resources 150 nautical miles from its baseline. (a) Which maritime zone includes this area? (b) What type of resource rights does the coastal state have there? (c) Why does international law matter in this situation?

F. HOTS / Think and Answer

1. Why should economic development from ocean resources be balanced with conservation of marine ecosystems?
2. How might ocean currents create connections between regions that are thousands of kilometres apart?
3. Why is an early warning useful only when it is followed by effective communication and preparedness?
4. Why might the same ocean area be important for both economic activity and environmental protection?
5. How do maritime zones help organise the different uses of ocean space?
6. If all marine resources were treated as unlimited, what long-term problems could arise?
7. How are ocean geography and human geography connected in this chapter?

■ **High-Priority Revision Topics:** Ocean relief • Waves, tides and currents • Marine resources • Blue Economy • Cyclones and tsunamis • Early warning systems • Maritime zones (12 nm, 24 nm, 200 nm) • Innocent passage • UNCLOS • MARPOL • Sustainable ocean use

These questions are designed from the chapter's key concepts and the textbook's Questions and Activities for focused exam practice.