

World Geography - Basic Facts About Asia

Geography is an important subject for the UPSC Prelims and Mains Exam. It is one of the more popular optional subjects in the UPSC civil services exam. The 2016 UPSC Topper Shweta Chauhan had opted for Geography as her [UPSC Optional Subject](#).

In the [IAS Exam](#), map work is an important part of the Geography optional. It is strongly recommended to find and remember all important physiographic divisions like mountains, lakes, rivers, etc. in different parts of the globe. Aspirants should have a good atlas, and be acquainted with the names mentioned below.

Continents

There are 7 continents:

1. Asia
2. [Africa](#)
3. North America
4. South America
5. Antarctica
6. Europe
7. Australia

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Asia - UPSC Geography Notes for GS1

In the table below, you can find all the important facts that could be potential questions in the [UPSC Prelims](#). These facts may also help the UPSC Aspirants score more by enhancing their Mains answers.

- Asia - Largest continent covering almost a third of the world's land area
- The earth's highest and lowest places are both in Asia:
 - The highest place on earth: Mount Everest
 - The lowest place on earth: Dead Seashore

Physical Divisions in Asia		
1	Northern Lowlands	It encompasses the Serbian plains which ranges from the Ural mountains in the West to river Lena in the East.
2	Central Mountains	It encompasses the plateaus and fold mountains.
3	Southern Plateaus	It is formed of old rocks, the southern plateaus including the plateau of Arabia, the Deccan plateau and the plateau of Yunnan.
4	Great River Valleys	Some of these river systems are:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Tigris-Euphrates 2. The Indus 3. The Ganga-Brahmaputra 4. The Ayeyarwady

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Mekong 6. The Si Kiang 7. The Chang Jiang (Yangtze- kiang) 8. The Huang He 	
5	Island Groups	Philippines, Indonesia and Japan

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Asia's Physiography

The table below shows the [Major Landforms Of The Earth](#) present on the Asian Continent.

Mountains	<p>The Asian continent has more mountains than any other continent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himalaya, Altai, Karakoram, Zagros, Elbruz, Urals, Kunlun, Tein Shan • The Pamir Knot which is known as the Roof of the World is a large group of rugged peaks and deep valleys. • Tarim Basin is an endorheic basin situated between the Kunlun and the Tein Shan. • Note: Mountains of India Infographic.
Rivers	<p>Some of the longest rivers found on the continent are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganges • Yangtze • Euphrates • Amur • Tigris • Hwang Ho • Si kIang
Deserts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabian Desert • Gobi Desert • Thar Desert
Lakes	Baikal is the deepest lake in the world. It is in Southern Siberia, Russia.
Straits	The important straits in Asia are the Strait of Malacca, Bering Strait, etc.
Total Coastline	129077 km

