

4 Primary Activities

Fastrack Revision

► Human Activities for Livelihood

- There are three main categories of activities done by human for his livelihood. They are categorised as primary activities, secondary activities and tertiary activities.
- One more category has also been included into the existing categories known as quaternary activities. Primary activities are the base for all other activities. These activities include cultivation, animal husbandry, fishing, hunting etc.

Knowledge BOOSTER



People who are engaged in primary activities are called workers due to the outdoor nature of their work.

► Primary Activities

- **Hunting and Gathering:** Hunting and gathering are two of man's earliest primal pursuits. Early humans lived in woodlands and hunted animals to survive. In the beginning, they also gathered numerous goods from the trees to meet his needs. Early man lived off of food plants that they hunted and edible plants that they gathered from the forest.

Because early humans used crude instruments like stones, twigs, and arrows to carry out these tasks, the number of animals slaughtered was restricted.

However, modern technology has resulted in widespread animal poaching, making hunting unlawful. Gathering takes place in high latitude zones such as North Canada, Northern Eurasia, and Southern Chile, as well as low latitude zones such as the Amazon Basin, tropical Africa and South-East Asia's interiors. This activity necessitates a low degree of technology and a low level of capital investment.

Plants, leaves, bark, and other valuables are collected and sold in local marketplaces following minimal processing. These products are unable to compete in the global market since synthetic products are less expensive and of higher quality.

► Pastoralism

This entails animal domestication and pasture rearing. This can be done on a subsistence level (nomadic herding) or on a business one (commercial livestock rearing).

► Nomadic Herding

- Nomadic herding, also known as pastoral nomadism, is a primordial activity in which herders wander from one location to another with their animals in search of food and water. Food, clothes, housing, tools and transportation are all provided by animals.

- Cattles are raised in tropical Africa, sheep, goats, and camels in the Sahara, Asiatic deserts, Yak, llamas in Tibet and the Andes, and reindeer in Arctic and Sub-Arctic areas, depending on geographical circumstances. Mongolia, Central China, Eurasia, South-West Africa and Madagascar are among the other regions.

► Commercial Livestock Rearing

- This practice is highly organised and capital intensive and it is associated with western civilisation. This activity takes place on large, permanent ranches. Breeding, genetic enhancement, disease prevention and health care are all done using modern scientific technologies. Meat, wool and hides are produced and exported to various international markets. The ranches raise sheep, cattle, goats, and horses. Commercial livestock husbandry is concentrated in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Uruguay, South-West Africa, the Western United States and Central Asia.

► Agriculture

Agriculture is practised under a variety of physical and socio-economic conditions, resulting in several types of agricultural systems. Different types of crops and livestock are cultivated and raised based on farming practices. The primary agricultural systems are as follows:

- **Subsistence Agriculture:** Farmers consume all or virtually all of the produce in this style of agriculture because the farm is small. Primitive subsistence agriculture and intensive subsistence agriculture are two types of subsistence agriculture:

- **Primitive Subsistence Agriculture:** This is common in tropical areas of Africa and the Middle East, Central America, and South-East Asia. Milpa, Jhumling, and Ladang are some of the names given to it in different regions. Slash and burn agriculture or shifting agriculture is another name for it. Cultivation is accomplished by clearing a plot of land with basic equipment. When the soil loses its fertility after 3 to 5 years, fresh ground is cleared for cultivation.

- **Intensive Subsistence Agriculture:** This sort of agriculture is common in monsoon in Asia's densely inhabited areas. Wet paddy cultivation and crops other than paddy are dominant in this form of farming. The productivity per unit area is great, but land holdings are limited due to high population density, reduced use of machines, family labour and the usage of farm yard manures. Wheat, soyabean, barley and sorghum are some of the other crops grown in Northern China, Manchuria, North Korea and Japan. It is practised across India's Indo-Gangetic

plains, as well as the drier portions of Western and Southern India.

- ▶ **Plantation Agriculture:** Europeans introduced this type of agricultural crops such as cocoa and coffee to West Africa, tea to India and Sri Lanka, rubber to Malaysia, sugarcane and banana to the West Indies by the British, coconut and sugarcane to the Philippines by the Spanish, and so on. Agriculture is practised on large estates or plantations, requiring significant capital investment and scientific farming methods.
- ▶ **Extensive Commercial Grain Cultivation**
 - ▶ This is done in the interiors of semi-arid, mid-latitude regions such as the Eurasian steppes, Canadian and American Prairies, Argentina's Pampas, South Africa's velds, Australia's Downs and New Zealand's Canterbury plains.
 - ▶ Wheat, corn, barley, oats and rye are among the crops cultivated. Because farms are so huge, agriculture is heavily mechanised. The yield per acre is modest, but the yield per person is considerable.
- ▶ **Mixed Farming**
 - ▶ This is practised in North-Western Europe, Eastern North America, parts of Eurasia and temperate latitudes of Southern continents. Crop agriculture and animal husbandry are also practised here.
 - ▶ Wheat, barley, oats, rye, maize, fodder and root crops, as well as the production of farm animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens, are all used to supplement income. Crop rotation and intercropping are used, as well as a large capital investment in agricultural supplies.
- ▶ **Dairy Farming**
 - ▶ It is practised in North-Western Europe, Canada, South-Eastern Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania near urban and industrial centres. Feeding, milching equipment, animal buildings, storage facilities, veterinary services and other costs add up quickly.
 - ▶ It is also time consuming because of the necessity for meticulous animal care. Unlike crop farming, there is no off season during the year.
- ▶ **Mediterranean Agriculture**
 - ▶ It is practised in Europe on both sides of the Mediterranean, in North Africa from Tunisia to the Atlantic coast, in Southern-California, some areas of Chile, in South-Western South Africa and in South-Western Australia.
 - ▶ It is a highly specialised commercial agriculture and a major citrus fruit provider.
- ▶ **Viticulture**

This is a reference to the production of grapes in Mediterranean areas. Superior grapes are processed into wines, whereas inferior grapes are converted into raisins and currants. Olives and figs are also grown.
- ▶ **Market Gardening and Horticulture**
 - ▶ It is practised in North-West Europe's highly developed and industrialised regions, as well as the North-East United States and the Mediterranean. The growing of Tulip flowers is a speciality of the Netherlands.
 - ▶ This style of farming focuses on high-value products

such as vegetables, fruits and flowers that are grown specifically for urban markets. Small, mechanised farms are the norm. It necessitates both capital and labour.

- ▶ **Truck Farming**
 - ▶ This only refers to the growing of vegetables as a speciality.
 - ▶ Truck farming gets its name from the fact that the distance between farms and metropolitan markets can be spanned overnight by trucks.
- ▶ **Factory Farming**
 - ▶ This refers to the raising of livestock, primarily chickens and cattle.
 - ▶ This is a capital-intensive process that necessitates ongoing maintenance, supervision and scientific breeding.
 - ▶ It is used in Europe and North America's industrial zones.
- ▶ **Co-operative Farming**
 - ▶ Farmers form a co-operative organisation under this agricultural system by combining their resources willingly for more efficient and lucrative farming.
 - ▶ Farm products are bought and sold with the assistance of societies. Individual farms are unaffected.
 - ▶ Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Italy are among the countries that practise it.
- ▶ **Collective Farming**
 - ▶ It is based on group labour and social ownership of the means of production. Farmers pool their resources here, with the exception of a small portion that they are allowed to keep for themselves.
 - ▶ Produce is sold to the government at predetermined prices. Members are compensated based on the type of work they perform. It was first practised in Kolkhoz, in the former Soviet Union.
- ▶ **Mining**
 - ▶ It is the process of extracting mineral resources from the Earth's surface. The industrial revolution was the catalyst for its growth.
- ▶ **Factors Affecting Mining Activities**
 - ▶ The mining industry is influenced by two factors. These are the following:
 - The size, grade and method of occurrence of the deposits are all physical characteristics.
 - Demand for minerals, technology, capital to create infrastructure, labour and transportation costs are all economic issues.
- ▶ **Methods of Mining Activities**
 - ▶ Surface and underground mining are the two types of mining. Open cast mining takes place close to the surface, making it the simplest and most cost effective method. The other is underground mining, which uses vertical shafts to harvest minerals from very deep mines. It necessitates the use of lifts, drills and high-tech equipment.
 - ▶ Due to high labour costs, rich economies are retreating from mining, but developing economies are becoming major mineral exporters as a result of their vast labour force and desire for a higher quality of living.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Consider the following and choose the correct answer from the given options:

Statement I: Work participation rate tend to be higher in the areas of lower levels of economic development.

Statement II: Higher number of manual workers are needed to perform the subsistence or near subsistence economic activities. (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. Only statement I is correct.
- b. Both statements are correct and statement II correctly explains statement I.
- c. Only statement II is correct.
- d. Both the statements are incorrect.

- Q 2. "Each community occupies a well-identified territory as a matter of tradition." Above mentioned line is an important characteristic of which of the following activity? (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. Subsistence agriculture
- b. Nomadic herding
- c. Plantation agriculture
- d. Collective farming

- Q 3. Which one of the following is not a method of mining? (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. Shaft mining
- b. Opencast mining
- c. Underground mining
- d. Refining

- Q 4. In rural settlements people mainly depend on which of the following sectors for their livelihood? (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- a. Primary
- b. Secondary
- c. Tertiary
- d. Quaternary

- Q 5. Choose the physical factor affecting mining:

(CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- a. demand of mineral
- b. technological knowledge
- c. infrastructural development
- d. size of occurrence of the mineral deposits

- Q 6. Which one of the following activities comes under 'Primary Activities'? (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- a. Pastoralism
- b. Weaving basket
- c. Milk vending
- d. Tailoring

- Q 7. Choose the feature of 'open-cast mining' from the following: (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- a. cheapest way of mining
- b. it requires lifts drills
- c. it requires ventilation system
- d. it has high labour cost

- Q 8. Flowers are grown through the process known as:

- a. truck farming
- b. factory farming
- c. mixed farming
- d. floriculture

- Q 9. Which one of the following types of cultivation was developed by European colonists?

- a. Kolkhoz
- b. Viticulture
- c. Mixed farming
- d. Plantation

- Q 10. Which of the following crops is not grown on a plantation?

- a. Coffee
- b. Sugarcane
- c. Wheat
- d. Rubber

- Q 11. Citrus cultivation is particularly essential in which of the following forms of agriculture?

- a. Market gardening
- b. Plantation agriculture
- c. Mediterranean agriculture
- d. Co-operative farming

- Q 12. Which of the following types of agriculture is also known as 'slash and burn agriculture'?

- a. Extensive subsistence agriculture
- b. Primitive subsistence agriculture
- c. Extensive commercial grain cultivation
- d. Mixed farming

- Q 13. In the Sahara, which of the following animals is not reared?

- a. Sheep
- b. Camel
- c. Goat
- d. Platypus

- Q 14. Consider the following statements and choose the correct answer with the help of given options:

Statement I: The resource intensive approach of modern expensive agriculture has become unmanageable for marginal and small farmers due to very meager or no saving to invest in agriculture. **Statement II:** Most of such farmers have resorted to availing credit from various institutions and money lenders but crop failures and low returns from agriculture have forced them to fall in the trap of indebtedness. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- a. Both the statements are correct.
- b. Only statement I is correct.
- c. Only statement II is correct.
- d. Both the statements are incorrect.

- Q 15. Which of the following activities is not a primary one?

- a. Forestry
- b. Fishing
- c. Hunting
- d. Manufacturing

- Q 16. Consider the following statements and choose the correct answer with the help of given options:

Statement I: Number of pastoral nomads has been decreasing and the areas operated by them are shrinking.

Statement II: Decrease in pastoral nomad is due to imposition of political boundaries and new settlement plans by different countries.

- a. Both the statements are correct.
- b. Only statement I is correct.
- c. Only statement II is correct.
- d. Both the statements are incorrect.

Passage 2

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Viticulture or grape cultivation is a speciality of the Mediterranean region. Best quality wines in the world with distinctive flavours are produced from high quality grapes in various countries of this region. The inferior grapes are dried into raisins and currants. This region also produces olives and figs. The advantage of Mediterranean agriculture is that more valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables are grown in winters when there is great demand in European and North American markets.

Q 1. What is viticulture?

Ans. Viticulture refers to cultivation of grapes in the Mediterranean regions.

Q 2. Which type of land is used for viticulture?

Ans. The type of land used for viticulture can vary depending on the specific grape varieties being grown, local environmental factors and wine making traditions.

Q 3. State the advantage of Mediterranean agriculture.

Ans. Mediterranean agriculture is that more valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables are grown in winters when there is great demand in European and North American markets.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Name the two groups of elements that influence mining profitability.

Ans. Mining profitability is determined by two key factors:
(i) The size, grade and method of occurrence of the deposits are all physical characteristics.
(ii) Demand for the mineral, as well as accessible and utilised technologies are all economic variables.

Q 2. "Agri-business farms are vast and mechanised." Examine the assertion.

Ans. Agri-business farms are huge farms that produce on a vast scale. As a result, these farms are mechanised using cutting-edge scientific technology. Commercial production is carried out on these farms.

Q 3. Who are the people referred to as 'red-collar' workers?

Ans. Due to the nature of their profession, people who engage in primary activities are referred to as 'red-collar' workers.

Q 4. What is truck farming?

Ans. Vegetable cultivation is the speciality referred to as truck farming. It entails the cultivation of vegetables in the vicinity of urban centres in order to suit the everyday needs of metropolitan regions.

Q 5. What is nomadic herding?

Ans. Pastoral nomadism is another name for nomadic herding. Herders rely on animals for food, clothing, shelter, tools and transportation in this essentially primitive subsistence practice.

Q 6. What are economic activities?

(CBSE 2015)

Ans. Economic activity can be defined as any activity which results in production and distribution of goods and services. They are undertaken by people to satisfy their economic needs.



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What is nomadic herding? How do they meet their most basic requirements?

Ans. Nomadic herding, also known as pastoral nomadism, is a primordial activity in which herders wander from one location to another with their animals in search of food and water. Food, clothes, housing, tools and transportation are all provided by animals. Meeting basic requirements as nomadic herders involves several key aspects:

- (i) Mobility
- (ii) Livestock management
- (iii) Resource utilisation
- (iv) Social organisation

Q 2. Mention two most important areas of commercial dairy production.

Ans. Two important areas of commercial dairy production are:

- (i) North-West Europe region (Denmark and Netherlands).
- (ii) North-East American region (USA and Canada).

Q 3. What is commercial grazing? What are its distinguishing features?

Ans. Commercial grazing is a type of livestock farming that is done on a large scale. Meat, wool, hide and skin are provided by sheep, cattle, goats and horses. Features of commercial grazing are:

- (i) It is capital-intensive and scientifically organised.
- (ii) Livestock is reared on ranches.
- (iii) Breeding, genetic enhancement, disease management and health care are all priorities.
- (iv) Products are sold on international markets.

Q 4. What exactly do you mean when you say 'Bush fallow'?

Ans. Shifting cultivation is often referred to as 'Bush fallow'. The bushes and trees are chopped down or burned to clear the woodland. Crops are grown on the land that has been cleared. 'Slash and Burn' or 'Bush fallow' agriculture is the name given to this type of farming.

Q 5. What do you mean by 'Jhuming'?

Ans. It's a sort of shifting agriculture that is popular in N.E. India's hilly regions. Jhuming is practised by primitive tribes in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram. They fell trees, cleared the undergrowth and burned the wood and plants in the field. After a few years, when the land's fertility has dwindled, other areas are cleared for crop cultivation in the same manner.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe the basic characteristics of pastoral nomadism and the locations where it occurs.

Ans. One of the first step in the evolution of civilisation was the domestication of animals.

- (i) Cattle and horses were chosen and domesticated in grasslands, sheep and reindeer were chosen and domesticated in tundra regions, camel was chosen and domesticated in tropical deserts and Llama and Yak were chosen and domesticated at the high altitudes of the Andes and the Himalayas, respectively.
- (ii) These animals provided the majority of the milk, meat, wool and hides. Pastoral nomadism is defined as cattle herding and rearing in tropical and temperate grasslands around the world.
- (iii) Pastoral nomadism is a type of an animal-based subsistence activity. Nomads are persons who do not live in one place for long period of time. Every nomadic community has its own distinct region. The animals rely solely on natural vegetation to survive.
- (iv) Cattle are raised in meadows with plenty of rain and soft, long grasses. Sheep are raised in locations with minimal rainfall and short grasses. In the rugged terrain with little grass, goats are common.
Pastoral nomads raise six widely spread species: sheep, goats, camels, cattle, horses and donkeys. Herders' movements in several places of the world are synchronised with the seasons. Gullars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Bhotiyas, for example, move from the plains to the mountains in the summers and from the mountains to the plains in the winters in mountainous regions such as the Himalayas. Similarly, nomadic herders in the tundra region migrate from South to North in the summer and North to South in the winter. Transhumance is the term for this type of seasonal migration of people and their animals.

Areas: Pastoral nomadism is found in seven unique regions: the high latitude subarctic, the Eurasian Steppe and hilly South-West Asia. Deserts of the Sahara and Arabia, sub-Saharan savannas, the Andes and Asian high altitude plateaus. These can be categorised into three categories:

- (i) The Sahara, the largest region, stretches over 13,000 kilometres from Africa's Sahel and Sahara to Mongolia and Central China.
- (ii) Tundra, the second region, includes Eurasia's tundra region's southern border.
- (iii) The third region, South-West Africa, is made up of South-Western Africa.
These locations are either very hot and dry or excessively cold. Only 15 to 20 million people are supported by nomadic herding now.

Q 2. Describe how commercial grazing has evolved in various types of grasslands.

Ans. Commercial grazing is a large-scale animal domestication on permanent ranches using scientific

procedures and fodder crops. It is practised in temperate grasslands. The commercial type of grazing thrives in these places, which have moderate rainfall, mild temperatures and plenty of available land. Cattle are raised for the purpose of producing meat, wool and dairy products for export.

Temperate Grasslands

- (i) **Prairies:** Many huge ranches can be found in North America's Prairie grasslands. Cattle of higher quality, such as Hereford, Friesian and Jersey cows are kept. On the Edward and Mexico plateaus, merino sheep graze. Corn is used to fatten cattle before they are sent to slaughter houses. 'Corn goes to market on hoofs,' as the saying goes in the United States.
- (ii) **Pampas:** Pampas, Patagonia, Uruguay and Southern Brazil are grazing regions in South- East and South America. With 50 to 100 cm of rain per year, a moderate environment and Alfa-Alfa grass, the Pampas has aided commercial grazing of cattle for beef and wool. Uruguay and Brazil are the main exporters of cattle products due to their green pastures.
- (iii) **Australia:** Australia's temperate grasslands include huge regions of 'Downs' grasslands in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Australia is the world's leading commercial grazing country. Commercial grazing is favoured by natural meadows, cool climates, artesian wells and vast ranches.
- (iv) **New Zealand:** Sheep and cattle grazing are essential for New Zealand's economic prosperity. New Zealand leads the world in meat, wool and butter exports. Small farms raise sheep and dairy cattle.
- (v) **South Africa:** The South African plateau's of veld region is a temperate grassland zone. For beef and wool, sheep and Angora goats are grazed.

Q 3. What is the definition of plantation agriculture? What are its distinguishing features? Give the names of the places and the crops that are cultivated there.

Ans. Plantation agriculture is a large-scale, specialised commercial farm on estates or plantations that focuses on a single revenue crop. Rubber, oil palm, cotton, tea, cocoa, bananas, pineapples, coffee and sugarcane are some of the principal crops. Europeans created plantations in the tropics throughout the colonial period.

Areas: Plantation can be found in various parts of Asia, Africa and America's tropical regions:

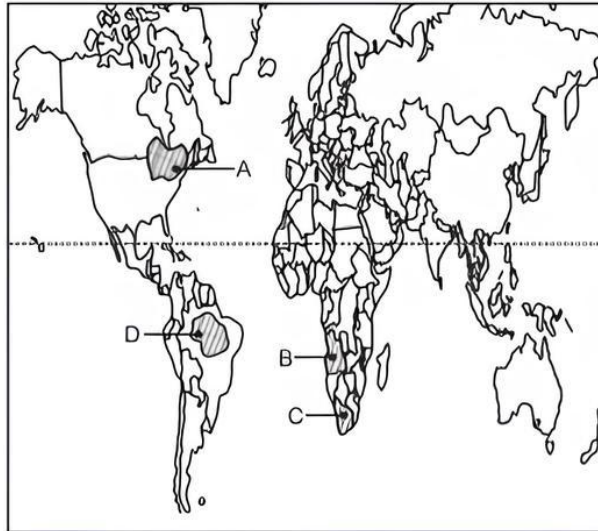
- (i) West Indies, Cuba and Jamaica.
- (ii) Guinea and the West coast of Africa.
- (iii) India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia, Philippines.



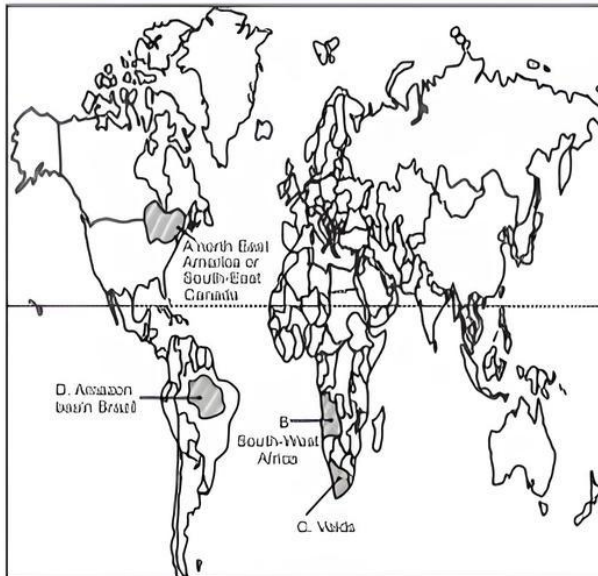
Map Based Questions

Q 1. Identify the geographical areas depicted on the globe map's outline:

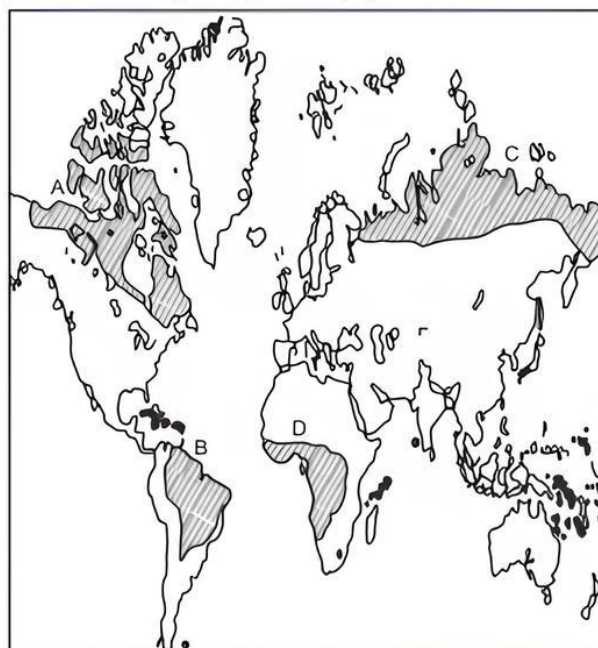
- A. A dairy farming region.
- B. A nomadic herding region.
- C. A large area of commercial grain farming.
- D. A subsistence gathering area.



Ans.



Q 2. Identify and label the regions on the map designated A, B, C and D.



Ans. A. Northern Canada B. Amazon Basin C. Northern Eurasia D. Tropical Africa



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Flowers are grown through the process known as:
- Truck farming
 - Factory farming
 - Mixed farming
 - Floriculture
- Q 2. Which one of the following types of cultivation was developed by European colonists?
- Kolkhoz
 - Viticulture
 - Mixed farming
 - Plantation

Assertion and Reason Type Question

- Q 3. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Nomadic herding or pastoral nomadism is a primitive subsistence activity, in which the herders rely on animals for food, clothing, shelter, tools and transport.

Reason (R): Each nomadic community occupies a well-identified territory as a matter of tradition.

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Passage Based Question

- Q 4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:
Viticulture or grape cultivation is a speciality of

the Mediterranean region. Best quality wines in the world with distinctive flavours are produced from high quality grapes in various countries of this region. The inferior grapes are dried into raisins and currants. This region also produces olives and figs. The advantage of Mediterranean agriculture is that more valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables are grown in winters when there is great demand in European and North American markets.

- What is viticulture?
- Which type of land is used for viticulture?
- State the advantage of Mediterranean agriculture.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 5. What is viticulture?
Q 6. What is pastoralism?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 7. What is co-operative farming?
Q 8. What are the different methods of mining?

Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. What is the definition of plantation agriculture? What are its distinguishing features? Give the names of the places and the crops that are cultivated there.
Q 10. Describe how commercial grazing has evolved in various types of grasslands.