

chapter - 1INDIA - SIZE AND LOCATION

1. Why $82^{\circ}30'E$ has been selected as the standard meridian of India?

Ans 1) $82^{\circ}30'E$ has been selected as the standard meridian because it is completely divisible by $7\frac{1}{2}$ standard adopted by almost all countries of the world for the convenience of all. This is because the time difference for $7^{\circ}30'E$ is half hour.
($7\frac{1}{2} \times 4$)

2) It runs almost through the centre of the country. ~~Other~~

3) Otherwise, different regions would have different times which would create problems for routine of timetable of Indian railways, airways and postal services.

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Expt. No. _____

2/ The sun rises two hours earlier in ~~Arunachal~~ Arunachal Pradesh as compared to Gujarat in the west but watches show the same time. How does this happen?

Ans From Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh there is a time lag of about 2 hours ($30^\circ \times 4 = 120$ min). Hence time along the standard meridian of India $82^\circ 30'E$ passing through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh is taken as the standard time for the whole country. Otherwise different regions of India would have different times which would create problems so to have one common standard time for the whole country.

3. The central location of India at the head of the Indian ocean is considered of great significance. Why?

Ans 1. The trans Indian ocean routes which connect the countries of Europe in the west and the countries of east Asia provide a strategic central location to India.

- 2) The Deccan peninsula protrudes into the Indian Ocean, thus helping India to establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast and with Southeast and East Asia from the eastern coast.
- 3) No other country has a long coastline on the Indian Ocean as India has and indeed, it is India's eminent position in the Indian Ocean which justifies the naming of an ocean after it.
- 4) These routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities since ancient times. The ideas of the Upanishads and the Ramayana, the stories of the Panchatantra, the Indian numerals and the decimal system thus could reach many parts of the world.
- 5) The spices, muslin and other merchandise were taken from India to different countries. On the other hand, the influence of Greek sculpture, and the architectural styles of dome and ~~minarets~~ and minarets from West Asia could be seen in different parts of our country.

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4 Why is the difference between ^{the durations of} ~~the~~ the day and night hardly felt at ~~the~~ Kanyakumari but not so in Kashmir?

Ans. The circle of illumination of the earth varies from summer to winter because the axis of rotation of the earth is tilted $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ to the perpendicular. At the equator it does not cause any time difference between day and night throughout the world. But further towards north or south of equator the difference between the length of the day and night becomes progressively larger. ~~Kan~~

Kanyakumari is close to the equator, the maximum difference is 45 minutes only while Kashmir is far away from the equator it has 5 hours difference in the duration of day and night in different seasons.

5. Justify the name of an ocean after India.

Ans. No other country has a long coastline on the Indian ocean as India has and indeed

Date _____

Expt. No. _____

Page No. _____

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