

## General Awareness

### Geography Rocks

Type of Rock	Formation Process	Key Features	Examples	Additional Notes (SSC Specific)
<b>Igneous Rocks</b>	Cooling & solidification of molten magma (intrusive or extrusive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crystalline structure</li> <li>- No fossils</li> <li>- First formed rocks</li> <li>- Can be coarse or fine-grained</li> </ul>	<b>Granite</b> (intrusive), <b>Basalt</b> (extrusive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Basalt</b>: Dark, heavy, found in Deccan Plateau</li> <li>- <b>Granite</b>: Used in construction</li> <li>- No stratification or layering</li> </ul>
<b>Sedimentary Rocks</b>	Deposition, compaction, and cementation of sediments (mechanical, chemical or organic origin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Layered (strata)</li> <li>- Often fossiliferous</li> <li>- Soft, porous</li> <li>- Shows bedding &amp; cross-bedding</li> </ul>	<b>Limestone, Sandstone, Shale, Chalk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Limestone</b>: Formed from shells, coral</li> <li>- <b>Shale</b>: Fine-grained, splits easily</li> <li>- Covers ~75% of Earth's surface</li> </ul>
<b>Metamorphic Rocks</b>	Alteration of pre-existing rocks under <b>heat, pressure, and chemically active fluids</b> (without melting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hard, compact</li> <li>- Often shows <b>banding, foliation, lineation</b></li> <li>- No fossils due to recrystallization</li> </ul>	<b>Marble</b> (from limestone), <b>Slate</b> (from shale), <b>Gneiss, Schist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Marble</b>: Crystalline, used in sculpture (Rajasthan)</li> <li>- <b>Slate</b>: Fine-grained, splits easily (roof tiles)</li> <li>- <b>Gneiss</b>: Shows banding (light &amp; dark minerals)</li> <li>- <b>Schist</b>: Shows foliation due to platy minerals</li> </ul>

### Continents

Continent	Area (approx)	Population (approx)	Key Physical Features	Major Countries	SSC-Relevant Facts
<b>Asia</b>	44.58 million sq. km (1st)	~4.8 billion (1st)	Himalayas, Plateau of Tibet, Gobi Desert, Yangtze River	China, India, Japan, Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌟 Largest &amp; most populous continent</li> <li>🌟 Mt. Everest (8849 m) – world's highest peak</li> <li>🌟 River Yangtze – longest in Asia</li> <li>🌟 Countries like Russia and Turkey are transcontinental</li> </ul>
<b>Africa</b>	30.37 million sq. km (2nd)	~1.5 billion (2nd)	Sahara Desert, Nile River, Great Rift Valley, Congo Basin	Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌟 Sahara – world's largest hot desert</li> <li>🌟 Nile – traditionally known as world's longest river</li> <li>🌟 Equator passes through middle</li> <li>🌟 Rich in natural resources (gold, diamonds)</li> </ul>
<b>North America</b>	24.71 million sq. km (3rd)	~600 million	Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Mississippi River, Great Lakes	USA, Canada, Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌟 Panama Canal links to South America</li> <li>🌟 Mississippi – major river</li> <li>🌟 Niagara Falls – between US &amp; Canada</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longest land border: USA–Canada</li> </ul>
<b>South America</b>	17.84 million sq. km (4th)	~430 million	Andes Mountains, Amazon Rainforest, Atacama Desert	Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andes – longest mountain range</li> <li>Amazon – largest river by volume</li> <li>Atacama – driest desert</li> <li>Angel Falls (Venezuela) – world's tallest waterfall</li> </ul>
<b>Antarctica</b>	14.2 million sq. km (5th)	~1,000 (scientific staff only)	Ice Sheets, Polar Plateau, Transantarctic Mountains	No permanent countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coldest, driest, windiest continent</li> <li>90% of world's ice, 70% of freshwater</li> <li>No time zone, no permanent population</li> <li>Surrounded by Southern Ocean</li> </ul>
<b>Europe</b>	10.18 million sq. km (6th)	~750 million	Alps, Ural Mountains, Danube River, North European Plain	Germany, France, UK, Italy, Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separated from Asia by Ural Mountains</li> <li>Industrially developed</li> <li>Alps – highest mountain system</li> <li>Danube – longest river in EU</li> </ul>
<b>Australia (Oceania)</b>	8.6 million sq. km (7th)	~42 million	Great Dividing Range, Great Barrier Reef, Outback Desert	Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smallest continent</li> <li>Only continent that is also a country (Australia)</li> <li>Great Barrier Reef – largest coral system</li> <li>Least populated (excluding Antarctica)</li> </ul>

## Oceans

Ocean	Area (Approx)	Average Depth	Location & Boundaries	Key Features	SSC-Relevant Facts (Integrated)
<b>Pacific Ocean</b>	<b>168.7 million sq. km (1st)</b>	~4,280 m	Between Asia/Australia (west) and Americas (east)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Largest &amp; deepest</b> ocean</li> <li>Ring of Fire (volcano belt)</li> <li>Home to coral reefs like <b>Great Barrier Reef</b></li> <li>Most island-rich ocean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mariana Trench</b> – Deepest point (11,034 m)</li> <li><b>Ocean with most islands</b> (Philippines, Micronesia)</li> <li><b>Kuroshio Current</b> – warm current near Japan</li> <li>Rich in marine biodiversity and reefs</li> </ul>
<b>Atlantic Ocean</b>	<b>85.1 million sq. km (2nd)</b>	~3,646 m	Between Americas (west) and Europe/Africa (east)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>S-shaped</b> ocean</li> <li>Mid-Atlantic Ridge (longest undersea mountain chain)</li> <li>Important for trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gulf Stream</b> – warm current</li> <li><b>Busiest commercial ocean route</b></li> <li><b>Sargasso Sea</b> – no coastline</li> <li><b>Bermuda Triangle</b> lies here</li> </ul>

<b>Indian Ocean</b>	<b>70.6 million sq. km</b> (3rd)	~3,741 m	Bounded by Africa (west), Asia (north), Australia (east)	<b>- Warmest ocean</b> - Influences Indian monsoon - Busy oil trade route	✨ <b>Only ocean named after a country</b> (India) ✨ <b>Sunda Trench</b> – Deepest point (7,725 m) ✨ <b>Agulhas Current</b> (South Africa) ✨ <b>Coral-rich</b> (Lakshadweep, Maldives) ✨ <b>Key strategic route for oil trade</b>
<b>Southern Ocean</b>	<b>21.9 million sq. km</b> (4th)	~4,500 m	Surrounds Antarctica; south of 60°S latitude	<b>- Coldest ocean</b> - Covered with pack ice - Has <b>Antarctic Circumpolar Current</b>	✨ Circulates <b>clockwise</b> around Antarctica ✨ Influences global climate and heat distribution ✨ No permanent population ✨ <b>Recent recognition</b> (2000) as an ocean
<b>Arctic Ocean</b>	<b>15 million sq. km</b> (5th)	~1,205 m ( <b>Shallowest</b> )	Surrounds North Pole; bordered by Europe, Asia, and North America	- Ice-covered most of the year - Rich in marine life and oil reserves	✨ <b>Smallest and shallowest</b> ocean ✨ <b>Northwest Passage</b> opens due to melting ✨ Major oil and gas deposits ✨ Plays a key role in <b>global temperature regulation</b>

### Geomorphology – Detailed Table for SSC CGL

Topic / Concept	Explanation	Key Examples / Features	SSC Exam Facts
<b>Geomorphology</b>	Study of landforms, their origin, evolution, and structure	Involves study of mountains, plateaus, plains, valleys, etc.	Frequently asked in SSC under Physical Geography
<b>Endogenic Forces</b>	Internal forces from within the Earth	Volcanism, Earthquakes, Diastrophism (folding, faulting)	Create mountains, rift valleys, island arcs
<b>Exogenic Forces</b>	External forces on Earth's surface	Weathering, erosion, deposition	Modify existing landforms, create valleys and dunes
<b>Weathering</b>	Disintegration of rocks without movement	Physical, chemical, biological	Weakens rocks before erosion; <b>no transport involved</b>
<b>Erosion</b>	Wearing away of earth's surface by natural agents	River, wind, glacier, sea	Erosion <b>removes</b> material and reshapes landforms
<b>Deposition</b>	Settling of eroded material	River delta, sand dunes, moraines	Forms <b>new landforms</b> like plains, deltas, beaches
<b>Diastrophism</b>	Large-scale deformation of Earth's crust	Folding (e.g. Himalayas), Faulting (e.g. Rift Valley)	Creates new landforms like block mountains, grabens
<b>Volcanism</b>	Movement of magma onto Earth's surface	Active, dormant, extinct volcanoes	Creates volcanic mountains (e.g. Mt. Fuji, Mauna Loa)
<b>Earthquake</b>	Sudden release of energy in Earth's crust	Measured by Richter Scale / Seismograph	Focus = origin point; Epicenter = point on surface
<b>Plate Tectonics</b>	Theory of movement of lithospheric plates	Convergent, Divergent, Transform boundaries	Explains formation of mountains, earthquakes, volcanoes
<b>Rock Cycle</b>	Continuous transformation between rock types	Igneous → Sedimentary → Metamorphic → back to Igneous	Basis of physical structure of Earth
<b>Mountains</b>	Large landforms that rise above surroundings	Fold (Himalayas), Block (Vosges), Volcanic (Mt. Kilimanjaro)	Fold mountains are <b>youngest and highest</b> (e.g. Himalayas)

<b>Plateaus</b>	Elevated flat-topped areas	Deccan Plateau, Colorado Plateau	Formed by volcanic or tectonic activity
<b>Plains</b>	Low, flat lands with fertile soil	Indo-Gangetic Plain	Result from sediment deposition by rivers
<b>Valleys</b>	Depressions between hills or mountains	V-shaped (river), U-shaped (glacier)	Indicates type of erosional agent
<b>Rift Valley</b>	Formed by faulting, where land sinks	East African Rift, Narmada Valley	Common in tectonically active zones
<b>Delta</b>	Triangular deposit at river mouth	Ganga-Brahmaputra Delta	Largest delta in the world; formed by deposition
<b>Moraine</b>	Deposits left by glaciers	Terminal, lateral, medial moraines	Common in glaciated regions like Himalayas
<b>Sand Dunes</b>	Wind-deposited mounds of sand	Found in deserts (Thar Desert)	Barchans are crescent-shaped dunes
<b>Karst Topography</b>	Landscape formed by chemical weathering of limestone	Stalactites, stalagmites, sinkholes	Found in areas like Meghalaya (India), Slovenia

### Landforms

Type of Landform	Formation Agent	Sub-Types / Features	Key Examples	SSC-Relevant Facts
<b>Mountains</b>	Endogenic (internal tectonic forces)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fold Mountains</b> (formed by compression)</li> <li>- <b>Block Mountains</b> (formed by faulting)</li> <li>- <b>Volcanic Mountains</b> (from volcanism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fold:</b> Himalayas, Andes</li> <li>- <b>Block:</b> Vosges (France), Sierra Nevada (USA)</li> <li>- <b>Volcanic:</b> Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Fuji</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Himalayas – youngest, highest</li> <li>✨ Aravallis – oldest fold mountains</li> <li>✨ Andes – longest mountain chain</li> </ul>
<b>Plateaus</b>	Uplift due to endogenic forces or lava flow	Elevated flat-topped areas; may be dissected or volcanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deccan Plateau (India)</li> <li>- Colorado Plateau (USA)</li> <li>- Tibet Plateau (world's highest)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Tibet – "Roof of the World"</li> <li>✨ Deccan – formed by volcanic lava</li> <li>✨ Often rich in minerals</li> </ul>
<b>Plains</b>	Exogenic agents (rivers, wind, glaciers)	Flat and low-lying, fertile due to deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indo-Gangetic Plain</li> <li>- Great Chinese Plain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Most densely populated regions</li> <li>✨ Ideal for agriculture</li> <li>✨ Formed by alluvial deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Deserts</b>	Wind (Aeolian)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Erg:</b> Sand seas</li> <li>- <b>Reg:</b> Stony deserts</li> <li>- <b>Dunes:</b> Barchans, Seif dunes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thar (India), Sahara (Africa), Gobi (Asia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Barchans: Crescent-shaped dunes</li> <li>✨ Found in rain shadow zones</li> </ul>
<b>Valleys</b>	Rivers or Glaciers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>V-shaped</b> (river)</li> <li>- <b>U-shaped</b> (glacier)</li> <li>- Rift Valleys (faulting)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ganga Valley (V-shaped)</li> <li>- Kashmir Valley (U-shaped)</li> <li>- Narmada Rift Valley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Rift valleys = Block mountains &amp; faults</li> <li>✨ River valleys = Agricultural zones</li> </ul>
<b>Delta</b>	Deposition by rivers at mouth	Triangular or fan-shaped depositional land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ganga-Brahmaputra Delta (India/Bangladesh)</li> <li>- Nile Delta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Ganga-Brahmaputra: World's largest delta</li> <li>✨ Rich in sediments and biodiversity</li> </ul>

<b>Canyons / Gorges</b>	River erosion in hard rock areas	Deep, narrow valleys with steep sides	- Grand Canyon (USA) - Kali Gandaki Gorge (Nepal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Kali Gandaki – deepest gorge</li> <li>★ Shows river's erosional power</li> </ul>
<b>Glacial Landforms</b>	Glacier erosion and deposition	- Cirque, Arete, Horn, Moraines, Drumlin - Fjords (submerged glacial valleys)	- Moraines in Himalayas - Fjords in Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Moraines = glacial deposits</li> <li>★ U-shaped valleys, Horn peaks (Matterhorn)</li> </ul>
<b>Karst Landforms</b>	Chemical weathering of limestone (carbonation)	Sinkholes, caves, stalactites, stalagmites	- Meghalaya (India), Slovenia, Karst Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Features formed by underground water</li> <li>★ Stalactites (ceiling), Stalagmites (floor)</li> </ul>
<b>Coastal Landforms</b>	Sea waves and tides	- Cliffs, sea caves, arches, stacks, beaches	- Marina Beach (India), Durdle Door (UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Formed by marine erosion/deposition</li> <li>★ Constantly changing by wave action</li> </ul>
<b>Aeolian Landforms</b>	Wind erosion and deposition	Mushroom rocks, yardangs, dunes	- Thar Desert, Sahara Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Wind is active in arid/semi-arid zones</li> </ul>
<b>Lacustrine Landforms</b>	Formed in or around lakes	Lakes, oxbow lakes, lake terraces	- Dal Lake (India), Lake Victoria (Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Oxbow lakes = old river meanders</li> </ul>

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