

1. Under the Indian constitution concentration of wealth violates

- (a) The Right to Equality
- (b) The Directive Principles of State Policy
- (c) The Right to Freedom
- (d) The Concept of Welfare

Ans: B

In Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the constitution, Article 39(c) says that, "the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment." We can say that concentration of wealth violates DPSP. So, option (B) is the correct answer.

2. What is the position of the Right to Property in India?

- (a) Legal right available to citizens only
- (b) Legal right available to any person
- (c) Fundamental Right available to citizens only
- (d) Neither fundamental Right nor legal right

Ans: B

According to Article 300A of the Indian Constitution, "no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."

Since, the article says that no person shall be deprived, so the statement, "legal rights are available to citizens only", is incorrect.

Thus, option (a) is incorrect and option (b) is correct.

3. What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January, 1950?

- (a) A Democratic Republic
- (b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
- (c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
- (d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Ans: B

As the original preamble, during 26th January-1950, constitutional status of India was a "Sovereign Democratic Republic."

Later, with 42nd Constitutional Amendment two more words were added to constitutional status of India, i.e., "Socialist and Secular."

Thus, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. Constitutional government means
- a representative government of a nation with a federal structure
  - a government whose Head enjoys nominal powers
  - a government whose Head enjoys nominal powers
  - a government limited by the terms of the Constitution

Ans: D

Constitutionalism is a doctrine in which a government's authority is determined by a body of laws or constitution. Constitutionalism or constitutional government is sometimes regarded as limited government. It is an effort to prevent arbitrary government. Hence, the government is limited by the terms of the constitution. So, option (d) is the correct answer

5. Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards.
- Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are titles under the Article 18(1) of the Constitution of India.
  - Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.
  - The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of five in a particular year.

Which of the above statements are not correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri "do not amount to titles within the meaning of Article 18(1) of the Constitution and thus are not to be used as prefixes or suffixes to the name of the recipient in any manner whatsoever", Hence Statement 1 is not correct.

Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997. Hence Statement 2 is not correct.

The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India. No formal recommendations for Bharat Ratna are necessary. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year. Government has conferred Bharat Ratna Award on 45 persons till date.

6. With reference to India, consider the following statements:
- Judicial custody means an accused is in the custody of the concerned magistrate and such accused is locked up in police station, not in jail.
  - During judicial custody, the police officer in charge of the case is not allowed to interrogate the suspect without the approval of the court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: B

Police Custody means that police has the physical custody of the accused while Judicial Custody means an accused is in the custody of the concerned Magistrate. In former, the accused is lodged in police station lockup while in latter, it is the jail. Thus, in judicial custody, the accused is not locked up in police station but in jail. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

During Judicial Custody, the police officer in charge of the case is not allowed to interrogate the suspect. However, the court may allow the interrogations to be conducted if it opines the interrogation being necessary under the facts produced before the court. Hence statement 2 is correct.

7. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.
2. State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: B

The provision was introduced with a view to humanising the prison system. It is not a matter of right. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

Prisons is a State subject in the Constitution, the Prisons Act of each state government defines the rules under which parole is granted in that state. Hence statement 2 is correct.

8. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climatic change.  
(b) Ministry of Panchayat Raj  
(c) Ministry of Rural Development  
(d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: D

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal agency at the national level to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Hence Option d is the correct answer.

9. A legislation which confers on the executive or administrative authority an unguided and uncontrolled discretionary power in the matter of the application of law violates which one of the following Articles of the Constitution of India?
- (a) Article 14 (b) Article 28  
(c) Article 32 (d) Article 44

Ans: A

A legislation which confers on the executive or administrative authority, an unguided and uncontrolled discretionary power in the matter of application of law, will violate Rule of law as prescribed under Article 14. So, option (a) is correct answer.

10. Which one of the following in Indian polity is an essential feature that indicates that it is federal in character?
- (a) The independence of the judiciary is safeguarded  
(b) The Union Legislature has elected representatives from constituent units  
(c) the Union cabinet can have elected representatives from regional parties  
(d) The Fundamental rights are enforceable by Courts of Law

Ans: A

The federal character of the Indian Polity is indicated by following features: Written Constitution, Supremacy of the Constitution, Rigid Constitution, Division of Powers, Independent Judiciary, Bicameral Legislature, Dual Government Polity, etc. Hence, option (A) is the correct answer.

11. Which one of the following best defines the term "State"?
- (a) A community of persons permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organized government.  
(b) A politically organized people of a definite territory and possessing an authority to govern them, maintain law and order, protect their natural rights and safeguard their means of sustenance.  
(c) A number of persons who have been living in a definite territory for a very long time with their own culture, tradition and government.  
(d) A society permanently living in a definite with a central authority, an executive responsible to the central authority and an independent judiciary.

Ans: A

Following are the elements of a state: 1) People, i.e. the community of persons permanently living there. 2) Government 3) Territory: Demarcated boundary that separates one state from the other. 4) Sovereignty: It has independent say in all domestic and external decision making.

Thus, the 1st option is the correct answer.

12. With reference to Indian Judiciary, consider the following statements.

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit by the Chief Justice of India with prior permission of the President of India.
2. A High court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does..

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

Article 128: Chief Justice of India may at any time, with the previous consent of the president, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court. Thus, statement 1 is correct.

Article 215: Every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself. As a court of record, a High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement. Thus, statement 2 is also correct.

13. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. There is only one citizenship and one domicile.
2. A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
3. A foreigner once granted citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 1 and 3                      (d) 2 and 3

Ans: A

In India, we have single citizenship, i.e., a person can have only one citizenship. Also, at a particular time, a person can have only one domicile. Thus, statement 1 is correct.

Any citizen (Citizen by birth or Naturalised Citizen) can become the Head of State, i.e., the President, in India. So, statement 2 is not correct.

A foreigner once granted the citizenship can be deprived of the citizenship under circumstances like registration is done by fraud, person is disloyal towards constitution, voluntarily acquires citizenship of other country, etc. So, statement 3 is not correct.

14. Which of the following factors constitutes the best safeguard of liberty in a liberal democracy?

- (a) A committed judiciary
- (b) Centralization of powers
- (c) Elected government
- (d) Separation of powers

Ans: D

Separation of power (executive, legislature and judiciary) checks the abuse of power by other organs. So, this helps in checking the authoritarian tendencies. This is the best safeguard to safeguard liberty. So, option (d) is the correct answer.

15. We adopted parliamentary democracy based on the British model, but how does our model differ from that model?

1. As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the parliament to legislate is limited.
2. In India, matters related to the constitutionality of the Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only            (b) 2 only            (c) Both 1 and 2            (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

Britain follows "Parliamentary Sovereignty", i.e., Parliament is supreme. But, India follows constitutional government where the power of Parliament to legislate is limited by the constitution. Hence statement 1 is correct.

The provision for a Constitution bench has been provided in the Constitution of India under Article 143 and Article 145(3).

It is the Chief Justice of India who is constitutionally authorized to constitute a constitution bench and refer cases to it. A constitution bench consists of at least five or more judges of the court which is set up to decide substantial questions of law with regard to the interpretation of the constitution in a case. Hence statement 2 is correct.

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16. With reference to the Union Government, consider the following statements:

1. N. Gopalaswamy Iyenger Committee suggested that a minister and a secretary be designated solely for pursuing the subject of administrative reform and promoting it.
2. In 1970, the Department of personnel was constituted on the recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission, 1966, and this was placed under the Prime Minister's charge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only            (b) 2 only            (c) Both 1 and 2            (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: D

1st Administrative reforms committee suggested that a minister and a secretary be designated solely for pursuing the subject of administrative reform and promoting it. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

In 1970, the Department of Personnel was constituted on the recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission, 1966, and this was placed under the charge of Cabinet Secretariat. In 1985, it was placed under the overall charge of the Prime Minister assisted by a Minister of State. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

17. 'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the constitution of India?

(a) Article 15 (b) Article 19

(c) Article 21 (d) Article 29

Ans: C

In K. S. Puttaswamy Case (2017), Supreme Court of India has held that right to privacy is a Fundamental Right and it is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

18. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, there is no law restricting the candidates from contesting in one Lok Sabha election from three constituencies.
2. In 1991 Lok Sabha Election, Shri Devi Lal contested from three Lok Sabha constituencies.
3. As per the existing rules, if a candidate contests in one Lok Sabha election from many constituencies, his/her party should bear the cost of bye-elections to the constituencies vacated by him/her in the event of him/her winning in all the constituencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 3

Ans: B

According to Section 33 of Representation of People Act 1951, "a person shall not be nominated as a candidate for election, in the case of a general election to the House of the People, from more than two Parliamentary constituencies." Hence statement 1 is not correct.

In 1991 Lok Sabha Election, Shri Devi Lal contested from three Lok Sabha constituencies. Hence statement 2 is correct.

There is no such provision in the rules like, "if a candidate contests in one Lok Sabha election from many constituencies, his/her party should bear the cost of bye-elections to the constituencies vacated by him/her in the event of him/her winning in all the constituencies." Hence statement 3 is not correct

19. The vegetation of savannah consists of grassland with scattered small trees. The forest development in such areas is generally kept in check by one or more or a combination of some conditions.

Which of the following are such conditions?

1. Burrowing animals and termites.
2. Fire
3. Grazing herbivores
4. Seasonal rainfall
5. Soil properties

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2      (b) 4 and 5      (c) 2, 3 and 4      (d) 1, 3 and 5

Ans: C

Nutrient and soil moisture availability are usually the limiting factors affecting the biomass growth in savannas, and overall biomass is impacted by competition, fire, grazing, and harvesting.

In general, savannas grow in tropical regions  $8^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$  from the Equator. Conditions are warm to hot in all seasons, but significant rainfall occurs for only a few months each year—about October to March in the Southern Hemisphere and April to September in the Northern Hemisphere. Due to limited rainfall, it is characterized by an open tree canopy.

20. With reference to the water on the planet Earth, consider the following statements:

1. The amount of water in the rivers and lakes is more than the amount of groundwater.
2. The amount of water in polar ice caps and glaciers is more than the amount of groundwater.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only      (b) 2 only      (c) Both 1 and 2      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: B

The amount of water in polar ice caps and glaciers is more than the amount of groundwater.

21. How is permaculture farming different from conventional chemical farming?

1. Permaculture farming discourages monocultural practices but in conventional chemical farming, monoculture practices are predominant.
2. Conventional chemical farming can cause increase in soil salinity but the occurrence of such phenomenon is not observed in permaculture farming.

3. Conventional chemical farming is easily possible in semi-arid regions but permaculture farming is not so easily possible in such regions.
4. Practice of mulching is very important in permaculture farming but not necessarily so in conventional chemical farming.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 3            (b) 1, 2 and 4            (c) 4 only            (d) 2 and 3

Ans: B

Permaculture discourages monoculture and serves to open up the possibility of growing a wide range of food grains, fruits and vegetables and thereby expanding the food basket; thus permaculture also contributes to community health. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Application of permaculture methods and introducing permaculture techniques like swales, natural mulching, rainfall harvesting, legume cultivation, have a clear role in improving soil properties, increasing soil organic matter content and reducing soil salinity. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Due to its focus on water conservation and region specific crops, it is very much suitable for arid and semi arid regions. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Mulching can help to improve crop yield and optimise water use which is an essential component of permaculture. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

22. With reference to 'palm oil', consider the following statements:

1. The palm oil tree is native to Southeast Asia.
2. The palm oil is a raw material for some industries producing lipstick and perfumes.
3. The palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only            (b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only            (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: B

Palm oil tree is native to Africa. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Palm oil is a vegetable oil used in cosmetics for its moisturising and texturising properties. Palm oil is used in lipstick as it holds color well, doesn't melt at high temperatures, and has a smooth application and virtually no taste.

Also, palm oil makes perfumed and deodorants more effective and helps the fragrance to last longer. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Palm oil contains various phytonutrients that can be separated out prior to biodiesel production. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

23. Among the following, which one is the least water-efficient crop?

- (a) Sugarcane      (b) Sunflower      (c) Pearl millet      (d) Red gram

Ans: A

It takes about 210 litres of water to produce 1 kg of sugar cane. Water footprint of sunflower is 7-9 litre per kg. Millets are sown in dry areas with minimal irrigation. Red gram requires 35 to 40 cm water, during its entire growth period. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

24. Consider the following statements:

1. In the tropical zone, the western sections of the oceans are warmer than the eastern sections owing to the influence of trade winds.
2. In the temperate Zone, westerlies make the eastern sections of oceans warmer than the western sections

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only      (b) 2 only      (c) Both 1 and 2      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

At low latitudes the trade winds act to move water away from the lee coasts of the landmasses to produce areas of coastal upwelling of water from depth and reduce surface temperatures. Hence option (c) is correct.

25. "Leaf litter decomposes faster than in any other biome and as a result, the soil surface is often almost bare. Apart from trees, the vegetation is largely composed of plant forms that reach up into the canopy vicariously, by climbing the trees or growing as epiphytes, rooted on the upper branches of trees." This is the most likely description of

- (a) Coniferous forest      (b) Dry deciduous forest  
(c) Mangrove forest      (d) Tropical rain forest

Ans: D

The tropical rainforest is a hot, moist biome found near Earth's equator. The hot and humid conditions make tropical rainforests an ideal environment for bacteria and other microorganisms. Because these organisms remain active throughout the year, they quickly decompose matter on the forest floor.

26. Consider the following statements: (forest)

1. Moringa (drumstick tree) is a leguminous evergreen tree.
2. Tamarind tree is endemic to south Asia.
3. In India, most of the tamarind is collected as minor forest produce.
4. India exports tamarind and seeds of moringa.
5. Seeds of moringa and tamarind can be used in the production of biofuels.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 (b) 3, 4 and 5  
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Ans: B

Moringaceae is a member of the mustard-oil plants, the great group of families that includes the mustards, the capers, the papayas etc. It does not fix nitrogen. Hence, statement 1 is not correct

Tamarind is native to tropical Africa. It is widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its edible fruit, the sweet and sour pulp of which is extensively used in foods, beverages, and traditional medicines. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Tamarind (with seeds) is classified as minor forest produce. It's also covered under Minimum Support Price Scheme for NTFP. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The country is also the largest moringa exporter and meets 80 per cent of its world demand. Tamarind is exported from India to about 60 countries. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

Tamarind seed oil biodiesel possesses excellent combustion properties and can be sanctioned for its adoption in engine. Moringa seed oil exhibit a high oxidative stability and its thermal stability exceeds other oil crops like sunflower oil, soybean oil amongst others. Hence, statement 5 is correct.

27. Consider the following Rivers:

1. Brahmani 2. Nagavali  
3. Subarnarekha 4. Vamsadhara

Which of the above rise from the Eastern Ghats?

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 4 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 3

Ans: B

Nagavali River forms a prime river of north eastern Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha. The origin of Nagavali River lies in the eastern slopes of the Eastern Ghats near Lakhbahal, located at an altitude of 1,300 metres in the Kalahandi district of the Indian state Odisha. Hence option 2 is correct.

Vamsadhara river rises in the Eastern Ghats on the border Kalahandi district and Rayagada district of Odisha. It runs for a distance of about 254 kilometers, where it joins the Bay of Bengal at Kalingapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Hence option 4 is correct.

28. With references to India, Didwana, Kuchaman, Sargol and khatu are the names of

- (a) Glaciers (b) Mangrove areas  
(c) Ramsar sites (d) Saline lakes





34. In India, the Central Bank's function as the "lender of last resort" usually refers to which of the following?

1. Lending to trade and industry bodies when they fail to borrow from other sources
2. Providing liquidity to the banks having a temporary crisis
3. Lending to governments to finance budgetary deficits

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2            (b) 2 only            (c) 2 and 3            (d) 3 only

Ans: B

As a Banker to Banks, the Reserve Bank also acts as the 'lender of the last resort'. It can come to the rescue of a bank that is solvent but faces temporary liquidity problems by supplying it with much needed liquidity when no one else is willing to extend credit to that bank.

35. Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is appointed by the Central Government.
2. Certain provisions in the Constitution of India give the Central Government the right to issue directions to the RBI in the public interest.
3. The Governor of the RBI draws his power from the RBI Act.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only            (b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only            (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: C

A Governor and (not more than four) Deputy Governors to be appointed by the Central Government. Hence statement 1 is correct.

There is no such provision in the constitution of India. Hence statement 2 is not correct  
The Governor and in his absence the Deputy Governor nominated by him in this behalf, shall also have powers of general superintendence and direction of the affairs and the business of the Bank. Hence statement 3 is correct.

36. With reference to the casual workers employed in India, consider the following statements:

1. All casual workers are entitled to employees Provident Fund Coverage
2. All casual workers are entitled to regular working hours and overtime payment
3. The government can by notification specify that an establishment or industry shall pay wages only through its bank account.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

All the above statements are correct.

37. Which among the following steps is most likely to be taken at the time of an economic recession?

- (a) Cut in tax rates accompanied by increase in interest rate  
(b) Increase in expenditure on public projects  
(c) Increase in tax rates accompanied by reduction of interest rate  
(d) Reduction of expenditure on public projects

Ans: B

Increase in expenditure on public projects- It is one of the tool to stimulate the economy at the time of recession, as it triggers the virtuous cycle of investment, which leads to increase in GDP (production of goods & services) and income in the economy and in turn increase in demand, and thus completes the virtuous cycle.

38. Consider the following statements

Other things remaining unchanged, market demand for a good might increase if

1. Price of its substitute increases
2. Price of its complement increases
3. The good is an inferior good and income of the consumers increases
4. Its price falls

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 4 only (b) 2, 3 and 4  
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: A

Law of Demand states that other things being equal, there is a negative relation between demand for a commodity and its price. In other words, when price of the commodity increases, demand for it falls and when price of the commodity decreases, demand for it rises, other factors remaining the same. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

The demand for a good usually moves in the direction of the price of its substitutes.

Eg: Since tea is a substitute for coffee, if the price of coffee increases, the consumers can shift to tea.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

39. With reference to Urban Cooperative Banks in India, consider the following statements:
1. They are supervised and regulated by local boards set up by the State Governments.
  2. They can issue equity shares and preference shares.
  3. They were brought under the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 through an Amendment in 1996

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 and 3 only                      (c) 1 and 3 only                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: B

Large cooperative banks with paid-up share capital and reserves of Rs.1 lakh were brought under the preview of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 with effect from 1st March, 1966 and within the ambit of the Reserve Bank's supervision. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

This marked the beginning of an era of duality of control over these banks. Banking related functions were to be governed by RBI and registration, management, audit and liquidation, etc. governed by State Government

The Reserve Bank has given new guidelines allowing primary urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to augment capital through issuance of equity shares, preference shares and debt instruments. Hence statement 2 is correct.

40. Indian Government Bond yields are influenced by which of the following?

1. Actions of the United States Federal Reserve
2. Actions of the Reserve Bank of India
3. Inflation and short-term interest rates.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) 3 only                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

Actions of the United States federal reserve can impact the investments flowing in India. The investments by foreign players in government securities can be affected by this. This will lead to change in demand of government securities and thereby impacting its yield. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Actions of Reserve bank determine the liquidity and also the cost of funds available in the economy through its various inflation management tools. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Inflation and short term rates determine the purchasing capacity of the people in the economy. Therefore, this also has impact on the demand and price of the government - securities thereby influencing the yield. Hence statement 3 is correct.

41. Consider the following:

1. Foreign currency convertible bonds
2. Foreign institutional investment with certain conditions
3. Global depository receipts
4. Non-resident external deposits

Which of the above can be included in Foreign Direct Investments?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 3 only  
(c) 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 4

Ans: A

Investment includes Equity flow in the economy. Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCB), Foreign Institutional Investment with certain conditions (subject to the overall limit of 24%), and Global Depository Receipts (GDR) are the instruments for the foreign investment in India.

Hence options 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Non-Resident external deposits are a 'debt creating' flow in balance of payments account. Hence options 4 is not correct.

42. Consider the following statements:

The effect of the devaluation of a currency is that it necessarily

1. Improves the competitiveness of the domestic exports in the foreign markets
2. Increase the foreign value of the domestic currency
3. Improves the trade balance

Which of the above statements is/are

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2  
(c) 3 only (d) 2 and 3

Ans: A

Devaluation of currency improves the competitiveness of the domestic exports (India) in the foreign markets. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Devaluation means official lowering of the value of a country's currency within a fixed exchange rate system. Devaluation of a currency happens in countries with a fixed exchange rate. The value of domestic currency is decreased in terms of value of foreign currency. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

With the devaluation of currency competitiveness of the export improves, but trade balance depends upon both export as well as imports. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

43. Which one of the following effects of creation of black money in India has been the main cause of worry to the Government of India?

- (a) Diversion of resources to the purchase of real estate and investment in luxury housing
- (b) Investment in unproductive activities and purchase of precious stones, jewellery, gold etc.
- (c) Large donations to political parties and growth of regionalism
- (d) Loss of revenue to the State Exchequer due to tax evasion

Ans: D

The simplest definition of black money could possibly be money that is hidden from tax authorities.

44. Which one of the following is likely to be one of the most inflationary in its effects?

- (a) Repayment of public debt
- (b) Borrowing from the public to finance a budget deficit
- (c) Borrowing from the banks to finance a budget deficit
- (d) Creation of new money to finance a budget deficit

Ans: D

Borrowing from public and banks will lead to a decrease in the money supply in market as in both the options money in hand is reduced for public and money to lend is reduced for banks.

Creation of new money to finance a budget deficit will have more inflationary effect than repayment of debt, as it will lead to an increase in total money supply in the market.(as new money is being created). Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

45. In the context of India's preparation for Climate-smart Agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Climate-Smart village' approach in India is a part of a project led by climate change, Agriculture and food security (CCAFS), an international research programme.
2. The project of CCAFS is carried out under Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.
3. The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR'S research centers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) is an international programme to address the increasing challenge of global warming and declining food security on agricultural practices, policies and measures through a strategic collaboration between CGIAR and Future Earth.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

CGIAR is a global partnership that unites international organizations engaged in research about food security headquartered in France. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

ICRISAT, a CGIAR Research Center, is a non-profit, non-political public international research organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

46. Consider the following kinds of organisms:

1. Copepods
2. Cyanobacteria
3. Diatoms
4. Foraminifera

Which of the above are primary producers in the food chains of oceans?

- (a) 1 and 2      (b) 2 and 3      (c) 3 and 4      (d) 1 and 4

Ans: B

Copepods are a group of small crustaceans found in nearly every freshwater and saltwater habitat. Copepods are major secondary producers in the World Ocean. Hence, option 1 is not correct.

Cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, are microscopic organisms found naturally in all types of water. Cyanobacteria are important primary producers and form a part of the phytoplankton. They may also form biofilms and mats (benthic cyanobacteria). Hence option 2 is correct.

Diatoms are photosynthesising algae, they have a siliceous skeleton (frustule) and are found in almost every aquatic environment including fresh and marine waters. Diatoms are one of the major primary producers in the ocean, responsible annually for ~20% of photosynthetically fixed CO<sub>2</sub> on Earth. Hence option 3 is correct.

Foraminifera are single-celled organisms, members of a phylum or class of amoeboid protists characterized by streaming granular ectoplasm for catching food and other uses. Hence, option 4 is not correct.

47. Consider the following animals

1. Hedgehog
2. Marmot
3. Pangolin

To reduce the chance of being captured by predators, which of the above organisms rolls up/roll up and protects/protect its/their vulnerable parts?

- (a) 1 and 2            (b) 2 only            (c) 3 only            (d) 1 and 3

Ans: D

Hedgehogs are a small mammal with short limbs and a body low to the ground. When they are frightened, or annoyed, hedgehogs will roll into a ball so that an predator will feel the full brunt of its sharp spines. Hence option 1 is correct.

Marmots are relatively large ground squirrels They do not roll up when threatened. Hence, option 2 is not correct.

Pangolins are uniquely covered in tough, overlapping scales. These mammals eat ants and termites using an extraordinarily long, sticky tongue, and are able to quickly roll themselves up into a tight ball when they feel threatened. Hence option 3 is correct.

Organizations

48. Magnetite particles, suspected to cause neurodegenerative problems are generated as environmental pollutants from which of the following?

1. Brakes of motor vehicles
2. Engines of motor vehicles
3. Microwave stoves within homes
4. Power plants
5. Telephone lines

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only            (b) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(c) 3, 4 and 5 only            (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: D

Magnetite can have potentially large impacts on the brain due to its unique combination of redox activity, surface charge and strongly magnetic behaviour.

These tiny particles, each less than a thousandth the width of a human hair, are generated by a wide variety of processes, both natural and fabricated, including forest fires and wood-burning stoves, road traffic pollution, and many high-temperature industrial processes.

In addition to occupational settings (exposure to printer toner powders), higher concentrations of magnetite pollution nanoparticles may arise in the indoor environment from open fires or poorly-sealed stoves used for cooking and/or heating, and in the outdoor environment from vehicle and industrial PM sources.

49. Which one of the following is a filter feeder?

- (a) Catfish            (b) Octopus            (c) Oyster            (d) Pelican

Ans: C

Filter Feeder is an animal that obtains its food by filtering organic matter or minute organisms from a current of water that passes through some part of its system.

Oysters are natural filter feeders. This means they feed by pumping water through their gills, trapping particles of food as well as nutrients, suspended sediments and chemical contaminants. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

50. In the case of which of the following biogeochemical cycles, the weathering of rocks is the main source of release of nutrients to enter the cycle?

- (a) Carbon cycle (b) Nitrogen cycle  
(c) Phosphorus cycle (d) Sulphur cycle

Ans: C

Much of the phosphorus on Earth is tied up in rock and sedimentary deposits, from which it is released by weathering, leaching, and mining.

Phosphorus moves in a cycle through rocks, water, soil and sediments and organisms. Over time, rain and weathering cause rocks to release phosphate ions and other minerals. This inorganic phosphate is then distributed in soils and water. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

51. Which of the following are detritivores?

1. Earthworms 2. Jellyfish 3. Millipedes 4. Seahorse  
5. Woodlice

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 2, 3, 4 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 3 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: C

Detritivores are heterotrophs that obtain nutrients by consuming detritus.

Examples of detritivores are earthworms, blowflies, millipedes, maggots, and woodlice. Seahorse is considered a secondary consumer.

Seahorse is considered a secondary consumer. Primarily, seahorses feed on plankton, small fish and small crustaceans.

52. The "Common Carbon Metric" supported by UNEP, has been developed for

- (a) Assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world  
(b) Enabling commercial farming entities around the world to enter carbon emission trading  
(c) Enabling governments to assess the overall carbon footprint caused by their countries  
(d) Assessing the overall carbon foot-print caused by the use of fossil fuels by the world in a unit time

Ans: A

The Common Carbon Metric is the calculation used to define measurement, reporting, and verification for GHG emissions associated with the operation of buildings types of particular climate regions. It does not include value-based interpretation of the measurements such as weightings or benchmarking Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

53. Which of the following have species that can establish a symbiotic relationship with other organisms?

1. Cnidarians

2. Fungi

3. Protozoa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

Cnidarian, also called coelenterate are mostly marine animals. They include the corals, hydras, jellyfish, Portuguese men-of-war, sea anemones, sea pens, sea whips, and sea fans. The relationship between cnidarians and dinoflagellate algae is termed as "symbiotic", because both the animal host and the algae are benefiting from the association. It is a mutualistic interaction.

Fungi have several mutualistic relationships with other organisms. In mutualism, both organisms benefit from the relationship. Two common mutualistic relationships involving fungi are mycorrhiza and lichen.

Termites have a mutualistic relationship with protozoa that live in the insect's gut. The termite benefits from the ability of bacterial symbionts within the protozoa to digest cellulose.

Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

54. Why is there a concern about copper smelting plants copper smelting plants?

1. They may release lethal quantities of carbon monoxide into the environment

2. The copper slag can cause the leaching of some heavy metals into the environment

3. They may release sulphur dioxide as a pollutant

Select the correct answer using the code given below

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: B

Some facilities that carry out metal and smelting processes are known to emit high quantities of air pollutants such as hydrogen fluoride, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen,



Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 4 only (b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1, 3 and 4

Ans: C

Ferns prefer potting soil with good drainage and high organic content. Hence, option 1 is not correct.

Lichens grow on any undisturbed surface--bark, wood, mosses, rock, soil, peat, glass, metal, plastic, and even cloth. Hence option 2 is correct.

Mosses are non-flowering plants which produce spores and have stems and leaves, but don't have true roots. Moss is very low maintenance and needs virtually nothing except shade and moisture to thrive. Hence option 3 is correct

Mushroom or toadstool is the fleshy, spore-bearing fruiting body of a fungus, typically produced above ground, on soil, or on its food source. Hence option 4 is not correct.

58. Water can dissolve more substances than any other liquid because.

- (a) It is dipolar in nature.  
(b) It is a good conductor of heat  
(c) It has high value of specific heat  
(d) It is an oxide of hydrogen

Ans: A

Water is called the universal solvent since it is capable of dissolving a variety of different substances more than any other liquid. Water can dissolve more substances than any other compound because of its polar nature. The water molecules because of their composition – hydrogen with a positive charge on one side and oxygen with a negative charge on another, are able to attract other molecules easily.

59. With reference to street lighting, how do sodium lamps differ from LED lamps?

1. Sodium lamps produce light at 360 degrees but it is not so in the case of LED lamps.
2. As street lights, sodium lamps have a longer life span than LED lamps.
3. The spectrum of visible light from sodium lamps is almost monochromatic while LED lamps offer significant colour advantages in street lighting.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 3 only (b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: C

Sodium vapor lights are omnidirectional. Omnidirectional lights produce light in 360 degrees. This is a large system inefficiency because at least half of the light needs to be reflected and redirected to the desired area being illuminated.

Whereas, LEDs are extremely energy efficient relative to every other commercially available lighting technology. There are several reasons for this to include the fact they waste very little energy in the form of infrared radiation and they emit light directionally (over 180 degrees). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

In some areas (e.g. lifespan) sodium lamps are drastically inferior to LEDs. The extremely low maintenance and replacement costs with LEDs is actually a major cost benefit over the long term. LED lifespan can be greater than 100,000 hours, more than 4 times than sodium lamps. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Sodium-based lamps produce visible light directly but also in a very narrow frequency range (yellow-orange) so that objects of other colors appear as shades of grey. Such light is referred to as monochromatic. Whereas a very broad spectrum of color rendering index (CRI) is available with LEDs ranging generally from 65-95. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

60. The term "ACE2" is talked about in the context of
- (a) genes introduced in the genetically modified plants
  - (b) development of India's own satellite navigation system
  - (c) radio collars for wildlife tracking
  - (d) spread of viral diseases

Ans: D

On the surface of human cells is an enzyme called ACE2, which acts as the receptor that enables SARS-CoV2 to launch its attack. The virus's spike protein binds to the receptor, then fuses with the cell surface, and releases its genetic material (RNA in the case of SARS-CoV2) into the cell. The coronavirus that causes SARS, called SARS-CoV, uses the same ACE2 receptor to invade a cell.

61. Bisphenol A (BPA), a cause of concern, is a structural/key component in the manufacture of which of the following kinds of plastics?
- (a) Low-density polyethylene
  - (b) Polycarbonate
  - (c) Polyethylene terephthalate
  - (d) Polyvinyl Chloride

Ans: B

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an industrial chemical used to make polycarbonate, a hard, clear plastic, which is used in many consumer products. BPA is also found in epoxy resins, which act as a protective lining on the inside of some metal-based food and beverage cans.

Bisphenol A can leach into food from the protective internal epoxy resin coatings of canned foods and from consumer products such as polycarbonate tableware, food storage containers, water bottles, and baby bottles.

Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

62. "Triclosan" considered harmful when exposed to high levels for a long time, is most likely present in which of the following?

- (a) Food preservatives
- (b) Fruit ripening substances
- (c) reused plastic containers
- (d) Toiletries

Ans: D

Triclosan is used as antimicrobial chemicals to increase the shelf life of consumer products. In a recent study it is found that triclosan can cause neurotoxic effects and damage the neurons. It is added to personal care products, such as hand soaps and cosmetics, and materials ranging from athletic clothing to food packaging. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

63. Which one of the following is a reason why astronomical distances are measured in light-years?

- (a) Distance among stellar bodies do not change
- (b) Gravity of stellar bodies does not change
- (c) Light always travels in straight line
- (d) Speed of light is always same

Ans: D

The only thing absolute in this universe according to Einstein is the speed of light, rest everything is relative. Light travels at the speed of about 300,000 km per second and it is always same throughout the universe. A light-year is the distance light travels in one Earth year.

64. With reference to recent developments regarding 'Recombinant vector Vaccines', consider the following statements:

1. Genetic engineering is applied in the development of these vaccines.
2. Bacteria and viruses are used as vectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

The recombinant subunit vaccine causes the immune response of the human body by directly injecting the subunit of the pathogen into the body. This method is generally of low immunogenicity and can only induce the humoral immune response of the human body.

Recombinant vector vaccines are live replicating viruses that are engineered to carry extra genes derived from a pathogen—and these extra genes produce proteins against which we want to generate immunity. Hence statement 1 is correct.

It exposes the body to proteins made by a virus or bacteria, are often made by using weakened or inactive versions of that virus or bacteria. Hence statement 2 is correct.

65. In the context of hereditary diseases, consider the following statements:

1. Passing on mitochondrial diseases from parent to child can be prevented by mitochondrial replacement therapy either before or after in vitro fertilization of the egg.
2. A child inherits mitochondrial diseases entirely from the mother and not from the father.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

Mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT) is a new form of reproductive invitro fertilization (IVF) which works on the principle of replacing a women's abnormal mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA) with the donor's healthy one.

In nearly all mammals, this mitochondrial genome is inherited exclusively from the mother, and transmission of paternal mitochondria or mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has not been convincingly demonstrated in humans.

Hence both statements 1 and 2 are correct.

66. Bollgard I and Bollgard II technologies are mentioned in the context of

- (a) Clonal propagation of crop plants
- (b) Developing genetically modified crop plants
- (c) Production of plant growth substances
- (d) Production of biofertilizers

Ans: B

Bollgard I Bt cotton (single-gene technology) is India's first biotech crop technology approved for commercialization in India in 2002, followed by Bollgard II – double-gene technology in mid-2006, by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), the Indian regulatory body for biotech crops.



Ans: B

Adenoviruses are medium-sized (90–100 nm), non-enveloped, icosahedral viruses composed of a nucleocapsid and a linear, double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) genome. Viruses of the family Adenoviridae infect vertebrates, including humans. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

Adenoviruses are common viruses that cause a range of illness. They can cause cold-like symptoms, fever, sore throat, bronchitis, pneumonia, diarrhea, and pink eye (conjunctivitis).

HIV is called a retrovirus because it works in a back-to-front way. Unlike other viruses, retroviruses store their genetic information using RNA instead of DNA, meaning they need to 'make' DNA when they enter a human cell in order to make new copies of themselves. Hence statement 2 is correct.

70. Which one of the following is used in preparing a natural mosquito repellent?

- (a) Congress grass (b) Elephant grass  
(c) Lemon grass (d) Nut grass

Ans: C

Citronella the essential oil found in Lemongrass. It is the most widely used natural mosquito repellent found in candles, sprays, and lotions. To help deter mosquitoes with its strong fragrance, plant lemongrass along walkways and in locations close to seating areas. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

71. In the first quarter of the seventeenth century, in which of the following was/were the factory/factories of the English East India Company located?

1. Broach            2. Chicacole            3. Trichinopoly

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only            (b) 1 and 2            (c) 3 only            (d) 2 and 3

Ans: A

The English established factories at Agra, Ahmadabad, Baroda and Broach by 1619, all of which were placed under the control of the president and council of the Surat factory. The company acquired Bombay from Charles II on lease at an annual rental of ten pounds in 1668.

South-eastern Coast: Factories were established at Masulipatam (1611) and Armagon near Pulicat (1626).

Eastern India: Factories were set up at Hariharpur and Balasore in Orissa (1633), at Hugli in 1651, followed by those at Patna, Dacca, Kasimbazar in Bengal and Bihar. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

72. With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Pingali Venkayya designed the tricolour Indian National Flag here.
- (b) Pattabhi Sitaramaiah led the Quit India Movement of Andhra region from here.
- (c) Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem from Bengali to English here.
- (d) Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott set up headquarters of Theosophical Society first here.

Ans: C

It was at Madanapalle (Chittoor), in February 1919, that Tagore translated his Bengali poem 'Jana Gana Mana' into English as 'Morning Song of India'

73. Consider the following statements:

- 1. St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
- 2. St. Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
- 3. The feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: C

St. Francis Xavier, one of the founders of the Society of Jesus, arrived in Goa in 1542 and travelled as far as Thoothukudi and Punnakayal to baptize the converts. Xavier established a network of Jesuit mission centres. Hence statement 1 is correct.

He died of a fever on a Chinese island in 1552, at just 46 years old, and was brought back to Goa a few years later. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Each year, on 3rd December, marks the anniversary of St Francis Xavier's death, when thousands gather at the Basilica of Bom Jesus. This annual festival, known as the Feast of St Francis Xavier is the biggest of all the Christian festivals in Goa. Hence statement 3 is correct.

74. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all women above the age of 21.
- 2. The Government of India Act of 1935 gave women reserved seats in the legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: B

The Government of India Act, 1919 was enacted under Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, Women were given the right to vote. But there was no universal adult suffrage. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

The Government of India Act, 1935 extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labourers (workers). Hence statement 2 is correct.

75. With reference to 8th August 1942 in Indian history, which one of the following statements is correct?
- (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.
  - (b) The Viceroy's Executive Council was expanded to include more Indians.
  - (c) The Congress ministries resigned in seven provinces.
  - (d) Cripps proposed an Indian Union with full Dominion status once the Second World War was over.

Ans: A

The resolution generally referred to as the 'Quit India' resolution. Proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Sardar Patel, it was to be approved by the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay in August. The Quit India Resolution was ratified at the Congress meeting at Gowalia Tank, Bombay, on August 8, 1942. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

76. Who among the following is associated with 'Songs from Prison', a translation of ancient Indian religious lyrics in English?
- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
  - (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
  - (c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
  - (d) Sarojini Naidu

Ans: C

'Songs from Prison' is a book of translation from Sanskrit hymns and lyrics, from the Upanishads and other scriptures. Mahatma Gandhi made these translations during his incarceration in Yeravada Prison in 1930.

77. Who among the following was associated as Secretary with Hindu Female School which later came to be known as Bethune Female School?
- (a) Annie Besant
  - (b) Debendranath Tagore
  - (c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
  - (d) Sarojini Naidu

Ans: C

In 1856, the Government took charge of the Hindu Female School, later renamed as Bethune School. The Managing Committee of the school was then formed and Pandit

Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, the celebrated social reformer responsible for the eradication of the custom of Sati and a relentless supporter of women's emancipation was made the Secretary.

78. In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as

- (a) leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- (b) members of the Interim Government in 1946
- (c) members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly
- (d) officers of the Indian National Army

Ans: D

INA members - a Hindu, Prem Kumar Sehgal, a Muslim, Shah Nawaz Khan, and a Sikh, Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

79. Which one of the following ancient towns is well known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelising water into connected reservoirs?

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

Ans: A

Dholavira is located on Khadir bet island in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. The city had an impressive and unique water harvesting and management system. It can be noted that this area receives less than 160 cm of rain every year and is very prone to droughts. The site is flanked by two streams—the Manhar and Mandasar. Dams were built across these to channelize their water into reservoirs. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

80. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. The Paramaras of Malwa
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. The Yadavas of Devagiri
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 5
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 5 and 6

Ans: B

In the sixth century CE, the Huns occupied Malwa, Gujarat, Punjab and Gandhara. As the Hun invasion weakened the Gupta hold in the country, independent rulers emerged all over the north like Yasodharman of Malwa, the Maukharis of Uttar Pradesh, the Maitrakas in Saurashtra and others in Bengal.

Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

81. With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mitakshara was the civil law for upper castes and Dayabhaga was the civil law for lower castes.
2. In the Mitakshara system, the sons can claim the right to the property during the lifetime of the father, whereas in the Dayabhaga system, it is only after the death of the father that the sons can claim the right to the property.
3. The Mitakshara system deals with matters related to the property held by male members only of a family, whereas the Dayabhaga system deals with the matters related to the property held by both male and female members of a family.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2      (b) 2 only      (c) 1 and 3      (d) 3 only

Ans: B

Statement 1 is not correct: Both the Two systems of family/civil law, Dayabhaga and Mitakshara are the basic to the upper castes alone - Dayabhaga system prevailed in eastern India and Mitakshara in remaining parts of the country.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the Dayabhaga system, which came to prevail in eastern India, only on the death of the father could the sons claim rights to property and partition the property. In Mitakshara system, the sons could claim this right even during the lifetime of the father.

Statement 3 is not correct: Both the systems deal with the property rights of both of men and women - In Mitakshara school property rights of the women were restricted to a great extent; women were believed to never be able to become a coparcener. The widow of a deceased coparcener could not get his share and was not allowed to enforce a partition of his husband's share against his brothers, Dayabhaga school on the other hand was somewhat lenient, a widow has the right to inherit her deceased husband's share and could enforce a partition against his brothers.

82. With reference to the history of ancient India, Bhavabhuti, Hastimalla and Kshemeshvara were famous

- (a) Jain monks (b) playwrights  
(c) temple architects (d) philosophers

Ans: B

Bhavabhuti, a major dramatist of the later Sanskrit dramatic period, was the court poet of King Yashovarman of Kannauj, in north India in 8th CE.

He too wrote plays based on the Ramayana, such as the Mahaviracharita, which depicts the early life of Rama and Uttaramcharita, which shows the final years of Rama's life as written in the Uttara Kanda of the Ramayana.

Both the plays consist of seven acts written in the Nataka style. His third drama, Malatimadhava, is a Prakarana play centered on the love story of Malati, the daughter of a minister and Madhavya, her beloved. Hastimalla is a kannada poet and playwright during the reign of Hoysalas.

83. According to Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in the Vijayanagara empire were expert in which of the following areas?

1. Wrestling 2. Astrology  
3. Accounting 4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: D

Fernao Nuniz, Portuguese traveller, visited the empire during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya. According to Nuniz, a large number of women were employed in royal palaces as dancers, domestic servants and palanquin bearers. There were also wrestlers, astrologers and soothsayers among them. Some women were also appointed as accountants, judges, bailiffs, and watch women.

84. Consider the following statements:

1. It was during the reign of Iltumish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 1 and 2                      (c) 3 only                      (d) 2 and 3

Ans: A

Statement 1 is correct: The Khwarezm ruler Jalaluddin who was being pursued by Chengiz Khan fled to Delhi Sultanate. Iltutmish, who was ruling Delhi then, refused the request of Jalaluddin for asylum.

Statement 2 is not correct: Muhammad Tughluq time period is 1324 -1351 (He died in 1351) and Timur had started his career of conquest in 1370. He crossed Indus during the reign of Firuz Shah Tughluq (1351 -1388).

Statement 3 is not correct: Devaraya II died in 1446 and Vasco da Gama arrived in 1498.

85. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

- (a) Paragana - Sarkar - Suba  
(b) Sarkar - Paragana - Suba  
(c) Suba - Sarkar - Paragana  
(d) Paragana - Suba - Sarkar

Ans: A

Using the methods of Sher Shah, Akbar organised his empire into administrative units independently of existing local usage. Groups of villages formed parganas, then sarkars, and finally subahs. Hence the correct order is Paragana-Sarkar-Suba.

86. With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad state.
2. The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of the Vijayanagara empire.
3. Rohilkhand kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 2 and 3                      (d) 3 only

Ans: B

Nizamat of Arcot was established by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and was the legal dependency of the Nizam of Hyderabad, it did not emerge from the Hyderabad state. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

Mysore was a small feudatory kingdom under the Vijayanagar Empire. After Vijayanagar fell in 1565, the ruling dynasty of Wodeyars asserted their independence and the Raja Wodeyar ascended the throne in 1578. The capital moved from Mysore to Srirangapatnam in 1610. Hence statement 2 is correct.



Ans: D

Burzahom had a well-developed bone tool industry; artefacts such as points, harpoons, needles etc. The site is famous for pit dwelling and neolithic tool industry. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.

Chandraketugarh is located in the Ganga delta in West Bengal. In early historic times, Chandraketugarh was connected to the Ganga by the Vidyadhari river, and must have been an important centre of trade, and possibly also a political centre. Chandra-ketugarh was a major centre of terracotta craft.

The Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture was located in the north-eastern part of Rajasthan. Hundreds of copper objects found at this site suggest that it had emerged as a copper-working centre. Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.

89. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of the Waghora river.
- (b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of the Chambal river.
- (c) Pandu - lona cave shrines lie in the gorge of the Narmada river.
- (d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of the Godavari river.

Ans: A

The most prominent examples of the rock-cut architecture of this period are found at Ajanta and Bagh (Huntington, 1985: 239-74).

The spectacular Buddhist site of Ajanta consists of several caves nestled in a curving section of the Sahyadri hills, overlooking the Waghora river. There are 28 caves at Ajanta. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

90. Consider the following statements:

1. 21st February is declared to be International Mother Language Day by UNICEF.
2. The demand that Bangla has to be one of the national languages was raised in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: B

“The 21st” in Bangla, commemorates the day in 1952 when students of the University of Dhaka launched a nationwide protest against the imposition of Urdu on the people of what was then East Pakistan. In 1999, in recognition of the Bengali people’s struggle for their language and culture, UNESCO announced that February 21 would be observed worldwide as International Mother Language Day. Statement 1 is not correct.

During the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, on 23 February 1948, some of the government officials stated that only Urdu or English could be spoken at the Assembly,

excluding Bengali. Dhirendrana Datta, a representative from the East Pakistan Congress Party, requested a motion to include Bengali at the Assembly. The Chief Minister of East Pakistan, West Pakistani leaders, and the Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan opposed the motion. Statement 2 is correct.

91. With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to

- (a) dance forms of Northwest India
- (b) musical instruments
- (c) pre-historic cave paintings
- (d) tribal languages

Ans: D

Bhatri, Bhilli, Halbi, Ho, Kui etc. Halabi is spoken by over 5.25 Lakh people in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It belongs to the group of Indo Aryan Tribal languages. Important Dravidian Tribal languages are Kolami, Kui, Konda, Koya, Gondi, Oraon/Kurukh, Parji.

Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

92. "R2 Code of Practices" constitute a tool available for promoting the EE

- (a) Environmentally responsible practices in the electronics recycling industry
- (b) Ecological management of "Wetlands of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention
- (c) Sustainable practices in the cultivation of agricultural crops in degraded lands
- (d) "Environmental Impact Assessment" in the exploitation of natural resources

Ans: A

R2 stands for Responsible Recycling and is a standard specifically created for the electronics recycling industry by Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI). Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

93. Statement 1 : The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Arbor Day Foundation have recently recognized Hyderabad as 2020 Tree City of the World

Statement 2 : Hyderabad was selected for recognition for a year following its commitment to grow and maintain the Urban forests.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation for Statement 1
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation for Statement 1.







98. Consider the following statements in respect of the 32nd Summer Olympics:

1. The official motto for this Olympics is "A New World".
2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this Olympics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only            (b) 2 only            (c) Both 1 and 2            (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Motto was 'United by Emotions'. So, statement 1 is not correct.

All these sports were included in Olympics. So, statement 2 is correct.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

99. Consider the following statements in respect of the ICC World Test Championship:

1. The finalists were decided by the number of matches they won.
2. New Zealand was ranked ahead of England because it won more matches than England.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only            (b) 2 only            (c) Both 1 and 2            (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d) Explanation:

Point scoring was based on the matches played and their outcome. Each series was awarded a score and this was divided into number of matches played. So, the number of matches won by the team not the sole criteria. It was the total number of points scored in all the series played by an individual team that mattered. So, Statement 1 is not correct.

The ICC decided that the same number of points would be available from each series, regardless of series length, so that countries that played fewer Tests were not disadvantaged. It also decided that points would not be awarded for series results, but for match results only. These would be split equally between all the matches in the series, regardless of whether or not a match was a dead rubber, so that every match counted. In a five-match series, therefore, 20% of the points would be available each match, while in a two-match series, 50% of the points would be available each match.

Therefore, depending on whether the series is 2, 3, 4 or 5 matches long, the number of points awarded for a single match win would be a half, a third, a quarter, or a fifth of the maximum possible from the series. The ICC also decided that a tie should be worth half of a win and that a draw should be worth a third of a win. This all meant that after each match, a side could be awarded a half, a third, a quarter, a fifth, a sixth, an eighth, a ninth, a tenth, a twelfth or a fifteenth of the total points available from the series, depending on the result and how many matches the series happened to consist of.

