

# UPSC PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

## GENERAL STUDIES - 2011

1. Regular intake of fresh fruits and vegetables is recommended in the diet since they are a good source of antioxidants. How do antioxidants help a person maintain health and promote longevity?
- They activate the enzymes necessary for vitamin synthesis in the body and help prevent vitamin deficiency
  - They prevent excessive oxidation of carbohydrates, fats and proteins in the body and help avoid unnecessary wastage of energy.
  - They neutralize the free radicals produced in the body during metabolism
  - They active certain genes in the cells of the body and help delay the aging process

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

Free radicals must be neutralized as they are likely disturb hormonal and enzyme balance related to body. Also they project calls from the damage caused by unstable Molecules, known as freedom radicals.

2. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements.
- It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
  - During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

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)**

**Explanation:**

IVC dependent on crops and Animals husbandry - chief crops was wheat, rice, dates, melon, green vegetables. Indus Valley Civilization was a secular civilization with no trace of theocratic or organized religion been followed. Cotton textiles were produced during the Harappan period as shown by artefact evidences, Jawaharlal Nehru writes in Discovery of India that the IVC was highly developed, took thousands of years to reach the stage.

3. The lower Gangetic plain is characterized by humid climate with temperature throughout the year. Which one among the following pairs of crops is most suitable for this region?
- (a) Paddy and Cotton                      (b) Wheat and Jute  
(c) Paddy and Jute                      (d) Wheat and Cotton

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

Lower Gangetic plain provides humid climatic conditions with high temperature which is suitable for production of the paddy crop characterised by swamps and sunderbens. In fact, West Bengal is the largest producer of paddy, overtaking Andhra Pradesh. Jute too requires similar climatic conditions and here too West Bengal tops in Jute production. Temperature of Jutes, from 20°C to 40°C and humidity 70% to 80%.

4. What could be the main reason/reasons for the formation of African and Eurasian desert belt?
- It is located in the sub-tropical high pressure cells.
  - It is under the influence of warm ocean currents.

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. (a)**

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### Explanation:

The sub-tropical high pressure belts are a biotic in nature hence they bring little rainfall to the African and Eurasian desert region a for instance the Gobi cold desert doesn't come under the influence of any warm currents.

5. The jet aircrafts fly very easily and smoothly in the lower stratosphere. What could be the appropriate explanation?
1. There are no clouds or water-vapour in the lower stratosphere.
  2. There are no vertical winds in the lower stratosphere.

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)**

### Explanation:

The stratosphere is very dry land air contains little water vapour. Clouds and thunderstorms are dangerous to aircraft and water-vapours and other weather phenomena causes changes in air density, which too is not optimal for flight. Most importantly a jet aircraft achieves most efficient flight in low density air. Vertical winds or convection currents due to weather activity causes turbulence which too is dangerous to flight. In normal circumstances, a jet aircraft will fly around a thunderstorm.

6. Consider the following statements
1. Biodiversity is normally greater in the lower latitudes as compared to the higher latitudes.
  2. Along the mountain gradients, biodiversity is normally greater in the lower latitudes as compared to the higher latitude.

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)**

### Explanation:

Biodiversity high in tropic region, and low in polar region. So more species found in low latitude comparing to higher latitudes, known as latitudinal gradient in species diversity.

7. The Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy and Mekong rivers originate in Tibet and flow through narrow and parallel mountain ranges in their upper reaches. Of these rivers, Brahmaputra makes a 'U' turn in its course to flow into India. This 'U' turn is due to
- (a) Uplift of folded Himalayan series
  - (b) Syntaxial bending of geologically young Himalayas
  - (c) Geo-tectonic disturbance in the tertiary folded mountain chains
  - (d) Both 'a' and 'b' above

**Ans. (b)**

### Explanation:

Syntaxial bending is the primary cause for sudden 'U' turn of rivers. Indus and Brahmaputra rivers do a 'U' turn because of the bending of the Himalayan Mountains. However, even uplift of folded mountains too is a cause for such sudden 'U' turn and some analysts favour this option too. But uplift of folded mountains occurs throughout the Himalayan range. If this would have been the major cause, then rivers like Mahakali, Teesta too should have shown such 'U' turn. Thus, I believe that option (b) alone is the right option. The Brahmaputra forms the deepest canyons of the world Grand Canyon, Brahmaputra (OR) Yarlang Tsangpo is place where it takes great bend.

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8. A State in India has the following characteristics

1. Its Northern part is arid and semi-arid.
2. Its central part produces cotton.
3. Cultivation of cash crops is predominant over food crops.

Which one of the following States has all of the above characteristics?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh      (b) Gujarat      (c) Karnataka      (d) Tamil Nadu

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

The states Gujarat Karnataka have similar geographical features in their Northern territories. But, Karnataka doesn't cultivate more cash crops than food crops in its Northern region. The states Gujarat and Karnataka have similar geographic features.

9. What is 'Virtual Private Network'?

- (a) It is a private computer network of an organization where the remote users can transmit encrypted information through the server of the organization
- (b) It is computer network across a public internet that provides users access to their organization's network while maintaining the security of the information transmitted.
- (c) It is computer network in which users can access a shared pool of computing resources through a service provider
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is a correct description of 'Virtual Private Network'

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

'Virtual Private Network' are popular amongst bigwig corporate who wish to have secured communications through public Internet Service Providers but have an arrangement with the ISPs to make the data transfer safe and confidential. VPN is a method of computer networking typically using the public internet, that allows users to privately share information.

10. The 'dharma' and 'rita' depict a central idea of ancient Vedic civilization of India. In this context, consider the following statements

1. 'Dharma' was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others.
2. 'Rita' was the fundamental moral law governing the functioning of the universe and all it contained.

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)**

**Explanation:** Dharma means law (OR) natural law, and is a concept of central importance in Indian Philosophy and religion. In the context of Hinduism, its refer's to one's personal obligations, calling and duties and Hindu Dharma is affected by the person's age, caste, class, occupation gender. Rita is the physical order of Universe, the order of sacrifice, moral law of the world. Because of rita, sun and the moon. Moon pursue their daily journeys, across the sky and seasons proceed in regular movement. Vedic religion for belief that rita was assisted by Mitra. In Indian religion and philosophy, the cosmic order mentioned in Vedas, the ancient sacred scriptures of India.

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11. In the context of global oil prices, 'Brent crude oil' is frequently referred to in the news. What does this term imply?

1. It is a major classification of crude oil.
  2. It is sources from North Sea.
  3. It does not contain sulphur.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

'Brent crude oil' is actually a major classification of crude oil which is sources mainly from the North Sea. The BP company is famous for producing Brent crude oil.

12. The function of heavy water in a nuclear reactor is to

- (a) Slow down the speed of neutrons
- (b) Increase the speed of neutrons
- (c) Cool down the reactor
- (d) Stop the nuclear reaction

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

Though the function of heavy water is both to slow down the speed of reactors and of cooling down the reactor through heat transfer, the correct option is (a) only as heavy water is largely used for the former's purpose.

13. In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to?

1. It can establish and administer exclusive education institutions.
2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.
3. It can drive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Points Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

No special representation for minorities is given under the Constitution. Article 30(1) in the constitution of India, 1949, all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their chose, Hence I is a correct statement.

According to prime Minister's 15 point programme scheme, the minorities can get equitable share in rural housing schemes as a obtain percentage of the physical and financial targets under Indira was a Yojana will be earmarked for poor beneficiaries from minority communities living in rural areas. President appoints only two Anglo Indian's in Lok Sabha.

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14. India is home to Lakhs of persons with disabilities. What are the benefits available to them under the law?

1. Free schooling till the age of 18 years in government – run schools.
2. Preferential allotment of land for setting up business.
3. Ramps in public buildings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

The recently enacted policy on welfare of persons with disability envisages all the three provisions as given in the statements.

15. With what purpose is the Government of India promoting the concept of ‘Mega Food Parks’?

1. To provide good infrastructure facilities for the food processing industry.
2. To increase the processing of perishable items and reduce wastage.
3. To provide emerging and eco-friendly food processing technologies to entrepreneurs.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

‘Mega Food Parks’ are intended to promote entrepreneurship through diffusion of technology. The other statements are correct.

16. The authorization for the withdrawal of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India must consolidated Fund of India must come from

- (a) The President of India
- (b) The Parliament of India
- (c) The Prime Minister of India
- (d) The Union Finance Minister

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

Any withdrawal of amount from the Consolidated Fund of India must be approved from the Parliament as given in Article 266.

17. All revenues received by the Union Government by way of taxes and other receipts for the conduct of Government business are credited to the

- (a) Contingency Fund of India
- (b) Public Account
- (c) Consolidated Fund of India
- (d) Deposits and Advances Fund

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

Article 266 in The constitution of India 1949, consolidated funds and public accounts of India and of 10 states (1), subject to the provisions of Article 267 and to the provision of this chapter with respect to the assignment of the whole (OR) part of the net proceeds of certain taxes and duties to states, All revenues received is by the Government of India.

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18. Micro-finance of the provision of financial services to people to low-income groups. This includes both the consumers and the self-employed. The service/services rendered under micro-finance is/are

1. Credit facilities
2. Savings facilities
3. Insurance facilities
4. Fund Transfer facilities

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

Micro-finances has credit and fund transfer facilities. Saving are not accepted by MFIs. But some analysts think that micro-finance also involves savings as done by Self Help Groups. The Economic Survey 2009-10 points that MFIs are non-deposit taking institutions. Thus option (b) is the correct answer.

19. South-East Asia has captivated the attention of global community over space and time as a geo strategically significant region. Which among the following is the most convincing explanation for this global perspective?

- a) It was ho theatre during the Second World War
- b) Its location between the Asian powers of China and India
- c) Its was the arena of superpower confrontation during the cold war period
- d) Its location between the Pacific and Indian Oceans and its per - eminent maritime character

**Ans. (d)**

20. A Company marketing food advertises that its items do not contain trans- fats. What does this campaign signify to the customers?

1. The food products are not made out of hydrogenated oils.
2. The food products are not made out of animals fats / oils
3. The oils used are not likely to damage the cardiovascular health of the consumers

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Trans - fats are a by - product of hydrogenation not made of animal fat and not likely to damage cardiovascular health.

21. Among the following who are eligible to benefit from the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act'?

- (a) Adult members of only the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households
- (b) Adult members of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households
- (c) Adult members of households of all backward communities
- (d) Adult members of any household

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Any adult member of rural household can seek work under MGNREGA.

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22. With reference to 'Look East Policy' of India, consider the following statements.

1. India wants to establish itself as an important regional player in the East Asian affairs.
2. India wants to plug the vacuum created by the termination of Cold War.
3. India wants to restore the historical and cultural ties with its neighbours in South-East and East Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

India cannot seek to fill vacuum created by the termination Cold War which contradicts our non-alignment stance.

23. When the annual Union Budget is not passed by the Lok Sabha?

- (a) The Budget is modified and presented again
- (b) The Budget is referred to the Rajya Sabha for suggestions
- (c) The Union Finance minister is asked to resign
- (d) The Prime minister submits the resignation of Council of Ministers

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

This is perhaps the most contentious question given this time. Option (d), though favoured by many, is not tenable as the only single way for the resignation of Prime Minister and Union Council of Ministers is a defeat in the Lok Sabha through the No Confidence Motion. Unless that is passed, it is deemed that the Council of Ministers enjoy the confidence of the House.

Referring to Rajya Sabha may seem correct but the significance of Rajya Sabha is very low in financial matters.

The correct answer is option (a). The logic behind this is that if the Budget has not been passed owing to some policy disagreement by legislators over taxation or expenditure and the Government intends to modify them and bring in a modified budget acceptable to all, it is completely valid for the Government to withdraw the budget and pass a modified one.

24. Under the Constitution of India, which one of the following is not a fundamental duty?

- (a) To vote in public elections
- (b) To develop the scientific temper
- (c) To safeguard public property
- (d) To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

Fundamental Duties prescribed by the constitution of India under part (IV-A) to its every citizen, and TO vote in the public election is not included in the fundamental duties.

25. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It encourages the inflow of foreign capital for infrastructure development
- (b) It facilitates the proper distribution of finances among the Public Sector Undertakings
- (c) It ensures transparency in financial administration
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context.

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:** Article 280 has provisions with regard to Finance Commission.

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26. The 2004 Tsunami made people realize that mangroves can serve as a reliable safety hedge against coastal calamities. How do mangroves function as a safety hedge?
- (a) The mangrove swamps separate the human settlements from the sea by a wide zone in which people neither live nor venture out
  - (b) The mangrove provide both food and medicines which people are in need of after any natural disaster
  - (c) The mangrove trees are tall with dense canopies and serve as an excellent shelter during a cyclone or Tsunami
  - (d) The mangrove trees do not get uprooted by storms and tides because of their extensive roots

**Ans. (d)**

27. The Jain philosophy holds that the world is created and maintained by
- (a) Universal Law (b) Universal Truth
  - (c) Universal Faith (d) Universal Soul

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Jain philosophy emphasizes over liberation of souls and its transmigration. It believes in a universal soul and seeks reunification of mortal soul with the immortal. However, it also emphasizes over Universal Truth through which it seeks to understand the reality. Hence, option (d) is more suitable in this case.

28. Salinization occurs when the irrigation water accumulated in the soil evaporates, leaving behind salts and minerals. What are the effects of Salinizing on the irrigated land?
- (a) It greatly increases the crop production
  - (b) It makes some soils impermeable
  - (c) It raises the water table
  - (d) It fills the air spaces in the soil with water

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation**

Salinization leads to intense water logging which means filling air spaces in the soil with water. Making soil impermeable though happens is one of long term change.

29. The 'Red Data Books' published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) contain lists of
1. Endemic plant and animal species present in the biodiversity hotspots.
  2. Threatened plant and animal species.
  3. Protected sites for conservation of nature and natural resources in various countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

The IVUN, Red Data Book of threatened species is the state document established for documenting rare and endangered species of animals, plants and fungi and local sub species. That exist within the territory of the state (or) country. This book provides central information for studies and monitoring programmes on rare endangered species and their habits.

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30. Why is the offering of 'teaser loans' by commercial banks a cause of economic concern?
1. The 'teaser loans' are considered to be an aspect of sub-prime lending and banks may be exposed to the risk of defaulters in future.
  2. In India, the 'teaser loans' are mostly given to inexperienced entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing or export units.

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. (a)**

**Explanation:**

'Teaser loans', which has a feature of lending at lesser premium interest rates in the beginning and later incrementing them heftily after a certain period, are at present given to credit worthy home buyers.

31. An artificial satellite orbiting around the Earth does not fall down. This is so because the attraction of Earth
- (a) does not exist at such distance
  - (b) is neutralized by the attraction of the Moon
  - (c) provides the necessary speed for its steady motion
  - (d) provides the necessary acceleration for its motion

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Artificial satellites are human built objects ordinary in the earth and other planets in the solar system. Artificial satellites does not fell down because the earths attraction produces the necessary acceleration for its motion in a curved path.

32. In the context of Indian economy, consider the following statements.
1. The growth rate of GDP has steadily increased in the last five years.
  2. The growth rate in per capita income has steadily increased in the last five years.

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. (a)**

**Explanation:**

Except for the slowdown in the year 2008-09, the Indian economy has consistently grown and an incrementing rate.

33. In India, which of the following have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities?
- (a) Commercial Banks
  - (b) Cooperative Banks
  - (c) Regional Rural Banks
  - (d) Micro-finance Institutions

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

The largest credit disbursement to agriculture and allied sector comes from the schedules commercial banks, as a part of their commitment to priority sector lending. Cooperatives come second while regional rural banks stand third.

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34. Which of the following can aid in furthering the Government's objective of inclusive growth?

1. Promoting Self-Help Groups.
2. Promoting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
3. Implementing the Right to Education Act.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

All the three are essential for inclusive growth as the inclusive growth concept itself is based both economic and social empowerment of ordinary and underprivileged individuals.

35. Why is the Government of India disinvesting its equity in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)?

1. The Government intends to use the revenue earned from the disinvestment mainly to pay back the external debt.
2. The Government no longer intends to retain the management control of the CPSEs.

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)**

**Explanation:**

The year 1991-02 was the beginning of (Government equity of) central public sector enterprises in Disinvestment. 1999-2000 it was then changed from the sole of minority shares in small slots to strategic sale viz, large block of shares along with the transfer of Management. Control to a strategic partner identified through a process of competitive bidding.

**Objective of Disinvestment :-**

1. To improve performance of units.
  2. To reduce budgetary deficits.
  3. To overcome the problem of political investment in PSUs.
- Enable the Government to concentrate on social development.

36. What is the difference between asteroids and comets?

1. Asteroids are small rocky planetoids, while comets are formed of frozen gases held together by rocky and metallic material.
2. Asteroids are found mostly between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars, while comets are found mostly between Venus and Mercury
3. Comets show a perceptible glowing tail, while asteroids do not.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

Comets are well spread over the entire solar system. Asteroids are a class of small solar system bodies in orbit around the sun. They are called planet oids, especially the larger ones. Asteroids formed as small

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rocky key and metallic bodies of the inner system out to the orbit of Jupiter. They are grouped with the erector body centaurs, Neptune Trojans, trans Neptunian objects as minor planets. A large majority of known asteroids orbit in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter (OR) co-orbital with Jupiter.

Comets are small, fragile, irregularly shaped bodies composed of a mixture of non-volatile grains and frozen gases. High elliptical orbit bring them very close to the sun and Suring them deeply into the space, often beyond the orbit of Pluto, Is Kupier Belt. Comets shows little perceptible motion from night to night, and visible in naked eye, whereas asteroids do not show any such tail.

37. Economic growth is usually coupled with
- (a) Deflation (b) Inflation  
(c) Stagflation (d) Hyper-inflation

**Ans.(b)**

**Explanation:**

Inflation means increase in price's of all goods and services. Which gives economic growth at overtime. The connection between the level of production and the level of prices also holds for the rate of change of production (that is, the rate of economic growth) and the rate of change of prices, that is inflation rate.

38. The lowering of Bank Rate by the Reserve Bank of India leads to
- (a) more liquidity in the market  
(b) less liquidity in the market  
(c) no change in the liquidity in the market  
(d) mobilization of more deposits by Commercial Banks

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

Bank rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to the Commercial Banks. So, when the rate is reduced, banks borrow more and lend more to retail loan seekers thus infusing more liquidity, meaning higher off take of currency supply, in the system.

39. Westerlies in Southern hemisphere are stronger and persistent than in 'Northern hemisphere. Why?
1. Southern hemisphere has less landmass as compared to Northern hemisphere.
  2. Coriolis force is higher in Southern hemisphere as compared to Northern hemisphere.

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. (a)**

**Explanation:**

Coriolis force is dependent only on the rotation of the Earth. So, it is nearly constant from similar latitudinal distance from either side of the equator.

40. Between India and East Asia, the navigation time and distance can be greatly reduced by which of the following?

1. Deeping the Malacca straits between Malaysia and Indonesia
2. Opening a new canal across the Kra Isthmums between the Gulf of Siam and Andaman Sea.

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

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**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

Malacca straits is very narrow and a canal across Kra Isthmums links South Asia to China. In fact, China has already made agreements with Myanmar to undertake this project.

**41.** Biodiversity forms the basis for human existence in the following ways

1. Soil formation
2. Prevention of soil erosion
3. Recycling of waste
4. Pollination of crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

While the first three statements are well known, the fourth one of pollination of crops is explicitly mentioned in the many programmes related to biodiversity.

**42.** Aspartame is an artificial sweetener sold in the market. It consists of amino acids and provides calories like other amino acids. Yet, it is used as a low-calorie sweetening agent in food items. What is the basis of this use?

- (a) Aspartame is as sweet as table sugar but unlike table sugar, it is not readily oxidized in human body due to lack of requisite enzymes
- (b) When aspartame is used in food processing, the sweet taste remains but it becomes resistant to oxidation
- (c) Aspartame is as sweet as table sugar but after ingestion into the body, it is converted into metabolites that yield no calories
- (d) Aspartame is several times sweeter than table sugar, hence food items made with small quantities of aspartame yield fewer calories on oxidation

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:** Aspartame is several times sweeter. Aspartame used as a sugar substitute in some foods and beverages, it is an artificial non-Saccharide sweetener used as a sugar. It is approximately 200 times sweeter than sucrose, (OR) table sugar. By this property, though aspartame produces four kilocalories of energy per gram when metabolized, the quantity of aspartame needed to produce a sweet taste is so small that its caloric contribution is negligible.

**43.** What was the purpose with which Sir William Wedderburn and WS Caine had set up the Indian Parliamentary Committee in 1893?

- (a) To agitate for Indian political reforms in the House of Commons
- (b) To campaign for the entry of Indians into the Imperial Judiciary
- (c) To facilitate a discussion on India's Independence in the British Parliament
- (d) To agitate for the entry of eminent Indians into the British Parliament

**Ans. (a)**



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dominant over O-gene. Which results into B+ blood group in other child. So the blood group of the adopted son would be O positive.

47. Mahatma Gandhi said that some of his deepest convictions were reflected in a book titled, "Unto This Last" and the book transformed his life. What was the message from the book that transformed Mahatma Gandhi?
- Uplifting the oppressed and poor is the moral responsibility of an educated man
  - The good of individual is contained in the good of all
  - The Life of celibacy and spiritual pursuit are essential for a noble life
  - All the statements (a), (b) and (c) are correct in this context

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

Only this aspect of Leo Tolstoy thought was borrowed by Gandhi

48. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, Usha Mehta is well known for
- Running the secret Congress Radio in the wake of Quit India Movement
  - Participating in the Second Round Table Conference
  - Leading a contingent of Indian National Army
  - Assisting in the formation of Interim Government under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

**Ans (a)**

49. A new optical disc format known as the Blu-ray Disc (BD) is becoming popular. In what way is it different from the traditional DVD?
- DVD supports Standard Definition video while BD supports High Definition video.
  - Compared to a DVD, the BD format has several times more storage capacity.
  - Thickness of BD is 2.4 mm while that of DVD is 1.2 mm.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

The thickness of Blue Ray disc is actually small than the DVD.

50. With reference to the period of Indian freedom struggle, which of the following was/were recommended by the 'Nehru Report'?
- Complete Independence for India
  - Joint electorates for reservation of seats for minorities.
  - Provision of fundamental rights for the people of India in the Constitution

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Nehru Report recommended that a declaration of Rights should be inserted in the constitution assuring the fullest liberty of conscience and religion.

The following were the recommendations advanced by the Nehru Report

- India should be given the status of a dominion.
- There should be federal form of Government with residuary powers rested in the confer.

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3. India should have a pastiventry from of government headed by a Prime Minister and six Ministers appointed by the Governor General.
4. There should be bi-cameral legislature.
5. There should be no separate electorate for any community.
6. System of weightage for minorities was a bad as that of separate electorates.
7. Reservation of Muslim Seaks could be possible in the province where Muslim population was at (least) ten percent, but this was to be in strict proportion to the size of community.
8. Muslim's should enjoy one-fourth representation in central legislature.
9. Sindh should be separated from Bombay only if the committee certified that it was financially self sufficient.
10. The N.W.F.P should be given fall provincial status.
11. A new Kanarese - speaking province Karnatic should be established in South India.
12. Hindi should be mode the official language of India.

Complete independence was not recommended by the Nehru Report - In December 1929, the congress held its annual session of Lahore. Jawaharlal Nehru was the president at this session. In this session, the congress debarred 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence as its ultimate goal.

51. Among the following states, which one has the most suitable climate conditions for the cultivation of a large variety of orchids with minimum cost of production and can develop an export oriented industry in this field?
- (a) Andhra Pradesh
  - (b) Arunachal Pradesh
  - (c) Madhya Pradesh
  - (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:** Orchids require cold temperature and moist environment to grow.

52. Which one of the following is not a site for in-situ method of conservation of flora?
- (a) Biosphere Reserve
  - (b) Botanical Garden
  - (c) National Park
  - (d) Wildlife Sanctuary

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:** Botanical garden is an ex-situ conservation site.

53. Consider the following statements

In India, a Metropolitan Planning Committee

1. Is constitutted under the provisions of the Constitution of India
2. Prepares the draft development plans for metropolitan area.
3. Has the sole responsibility for implementing Government sponsored schemes in the metropolitan area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Metropolitan Planning Committee plays an advisor role rather than an executive role.

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54. What is the difference between 'vote-on-account' and 'interim budget'?

1. The provision of a 'vote-on-account' is used by a regular Government, while 'interim budget' is a provision used by caretaker Government.
2. A 'vote-on-account' only deals with the expenditure in Government's budget while an 'interim budget' includes both expenditure and receipts.

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)**

**Explanation:**

- Last working day of February Government presents the annual budget for next financial year.
- No ruling (or) new government after elections to propose or debate on budget.
- Outgoing Government announce an interim budget (or) vote on account in February. Which will be followed by full budget by New Government.
- Vote-on-account:- No money can be spent by the government without parliament approving it. So when Government presents the account of expenditure and income, the parliament approves it. Only after this Government get to spend the money.
- A Vote-on-account deals only with the expenditure side of the government's budget, on interim budget is a complete set of accounts. Including both expenditure and receipts.

55. Regarding the International Monetary Fund, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It can grant loans to any country
- (b) It can grant loans to only developed countries
- (c) It grants loans to only member countries
- (d) It can grant loans to the Central Bank of a country

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

IMF is an Intergovernmental organisation handling Macro economic policies of its established members in particular those with an impact on exchange rate, and balance of payments, it provides loans only to member countries.

56. Consider the following

1. Right to Education
2. Right to Equal Access to Public Service
3. Right to Food

Which of the above is/are Human Right/Human Rights under 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights'?

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

All three are mentioned in the UN Declaration on Human Rights. Indeed, the right to food becomes the basis for World Food Programme of the UN. So, it is the right to education for UNICEF.

57. There is a concern over the increase in harmful algal blooms in the sea-waters of India. What could be the causative factors for this phenomenon?

1. Discharge of nutrients from the estuaries.
2. Run-off from the land during the monsoon.

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3. Upwelling in the seas.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

All the processes help in bringing nutrients to the sea surface which promotes algal growth.

58. Consider the following

1. Photosynthesis
2. Respiration
3. Decay of organic matter
4. Volcanic action

Which of the above add carbon dioxide to the carbon cycle on Earth?

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:** Photosynthesis does not add to carbon cycle.

59. Recently, the USA decided to support India's membership in multi-lateral export control regimes called the 'Australia Group' and the 'Wassenaar Arrangement'. What is the difference between them?

1. The 'Australia Group' is an informal arrangement which aims to allow exporting countries to minimize the risk of assisting chemical and biological weapons proliferation, whereas the 'Wassenaar Arrangement' is a formal group under the OECD holding identical objectives.
2. The 'Australia Group' comprises predominantly of Asian, African and North American countries whereas the member countries of 'Wassenaar Arrangement' are pre-dominantly from the European Union and American continents.

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)**

**Explanation:**

The Australia Group (AG) is an informal forum of countries which, through the harmonisation of export controls, seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons. AG consists all UNEP-FI members - AG has no member from Africa.

The Wassenaar arrangement has established to contribute to regional and International security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfer of conventional arms and dual use goods and technologies. Participating of Wassenaar are Argentina, Australia, Africa, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech, Germany, Hungary, Greece, USA etc.

60. The surface of a lake is frozen in severe winter, but the water at its bottom is still liquid. What is the reason?

- (a) Ice is a bad conductor of heat
- (b) Since, the surface of the lake is at the same temperature as the air, no heat is lost
- (c) The density of water is maximum at 4°C.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct

**Ans. (a)**

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### Explanation:

Ice is of course a bad conductor of heat but one is not sure whether that is the actual cause for freezing of surface of lake while leaving the bottom in liquid state. Density of water being maximum at 4°C may also be a correct option as that is the cause for anomalous expansion of water.

- 61.** A sandy and saline area is the natural habitat of an Indian animal species. The animal has no predators in that area but its existence is threatened due to the destruction of its habitat. Which one of the following could be that animal?
- Indian wild buffalo
  - Indian wild ass
  - Indian wild boar
  - Indian gazelle

**Ans. (b)**

### Explanation:

Indian Wild Ass is actually a threatened species available in the Rann of Kutch which is saline and sandy.

- 62.** La Nina is suspected to have caused recent floods in Australia. How is La Nina Different from El Nino?
- La Nina is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperature in equatorial Indian Ocean whereas El Nino is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperature in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
  - El Nino has adverse effect on South-West monsoon of India, but La Nina has an effect on monsoon climate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (a)**

### Explanation:

La Nina technically operates over Pacific Ocean but since it is found hovering over Port Darwin and South-East Asian region which is adjacent to Indian Ocean, it remains to be seen how the UPSC considers this point. The second statement is false as La Nina is favourable to monsoon.

- 63.** The tendency for increased litigation was visible after the introduction of the land settlement system of Lord Cornwallis in 1763. The reason for this is normally traced to which of the following provisions?
- Making Zamindar's position stronger vis-a-vis the ryot
  - Making East India Company an overlord of Zamindars
  - Making judicial system more efficient
  - None of the (a), (b) and (c) above

**Ans.(b)**

### Explanation:

The Permanent Settlement gave formal land ownership titles to zamindars which could be transferred to others if he failed to return revenue to the Company. This formalization of land titles and the consequent overlordship of the British made a flurry of legal petitions.

- 64.** Which one of the following observations is not true about the Quit India Movement of 1942?
- It was a non-violent movement
  - It was led by Mahatma Gandhi
  - It was a spontaneous movement
  - It did not attract the labour class in general

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Indeed a majority of the Quit India Movement was carried by the labour class as they agitated through bandhs and hartals.

**65.** Which amongst the following provided a common factor for tribal insurrection in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

- (a) Introduction of a new system of land revenue and taxation of tribal products
- (b) Influence of foreign religious missionaries in tribal areas
- (c) Rise of a large number of money lenders, traders and revenue farmers as middlemen in tribal areas
- (d) The complete disruption of the old agrarian order of the tribal communities.

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

The tribals of India participated in the anti-social movements like other social groups. Anti colonial movements were two types, 1<sup>st</sup> the movements against their oppressors ie. landlords, Money-leaders, traders, the Kedars (Contractors), government officials and Christian Missionaries.

2<sup>nd</sup> - they were linked to merge with Indian National movements. the first types called Anti colonial movement.

**66.** India maintained its early cultural contacts and trade links with South-East Asia across the Bay of Bengal. For this pre-eminence of early maritime history of Bay of Bengal, which of the following could be the most convincing explanation/explanations?

- (a) As compared to other countries, India had a better ship building technology in ancient and medieval times
- (b) The rulers of Southern India always patronized traders, brahmin priests and buddhist monks in this context
- (c) Monsoon winds across the Bay of Bengal facilitated sea voyages.
- (d) Both (a) and (b) are convincing explanations in this context.

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Indian shipping industry was well established both in the ancient and medieval times. The priests and monks who flew to South-East Asia to preach and latter settled there helped in bridging contacts between the hosts and Indian rulers who patronized them.

**67.** What is the difference between Bluetooth and Wi-Fi devices?

- (a) Bluetooth uses 2.4 GHz radio frequency band whereas Wi-Fi can use 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz frequency band.
- (b) Bluetooth is used for Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) only, whereas Wi-Fi is used for Wireless Wide Area Networks (WWAN) only
- (c) When information is transmitted between two devices using Bluetooth technology, the devices have to be in the line of sight of each other, but when Wi-Fi technology is used the devices need not be in the line of sight of each other
- (d) The statements (a) and (b) given above are correct in this context

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

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Bluetooth is a proprietary open wireless technology standard for exchanging data over short distance using shortwave length radio transmissions in the ISM band form 2400 - 2800 MHz., from fixed and mobile devices, creating personal area networks (PAN) with high levels of security. Wifi can transmit frequencies of 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz, This frequency is much higher than the frequencies used for cellular phones, Walki-Talkies and televisions.

68. With reference to micro-irrigation, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Fertilizer/nutrient loss can be reduced.
2. It is the only means of irrigation in dry land farming.
3. In some areas of farming, receding of ground water table can be checked.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (d)**

69. With reference to the period of colonial rule in India, 'Home Charges' formed an important part of drain of wealth from India. Which of the following funds constituted 'Home Charges'?

1. Funds used to support the India office in London.
2. Funds used to pay salaries and pensions of British personnel engaged in India.
3. Funds used for waging wars outside India by the British.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

All wars waged in defence of India was put under Home Charges. In fact, the suppression of the 1857 Revolt itself was put under the 'Home Charges'. Salaries and expenses regarding to Indian officers were of course put under 'Home Charges' to be paid by Indians.

70. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organize a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda?

1. The Administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought.
2. The Administration proposed to introduce Permanent Settlement in Gujarat.

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. (a)**

**Explanation:**

Famine had struck the district, large part of the Gujarat and virtually destroyed the agrarian economy. The poor peasants had barely enough to feed themselves, But British Government insisted to pay taxes to farmers but - also increased 23%. It was became the main reason for the Kheda Satyagraha.

71. Which one of the following is not a feature of 'Value Added Tax'?

- (a) It is a multi-point destination based system of taxation
- (b) It is tax levied on value addition at each stage of transaction in the production-distribution chain
- (c) It is a tax on the final consumption of goods or services and must ultimately be borne by the consumer
- (d) It is basically a subject of the Central Government and the State Governments are only a facilitator for its successful implementation.

**Ans. (d)**

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### Explanation:

Option (a) may seem correct as VAT is value based and not destination based. But one has to carefully read the statement. It says VAT is multi-point destination based system of taxation which is understood as multiple chains of consumers paying their respective tax portions according to value addition. VAT is a subject of legislation for the States and the States Sales Tax is actually a VAT which is major source of revenue for the State Governments.

72. A 'closed economy' is an economy in which

- (a) The money supply is fully controlled
- (b) Deficit financing takes place
- (c) Only exports take place
- (d) Neither exports nor imports take place

**Ans. (d)**

### Explanation:

Closed economy involves no export nor import as the country is deemed to be self-sufficient. Some say North Korea is an example of closed economy, although the Government over there do purchase arms from other countries clandestinely.

73. When the bark of a tree is removed in a circular fashion all around near its base, it gradually dries up and dies because

- (a) Water from soil cannot rise to aerial parts
- (b) aerial parts
- (c) roots are starved of energy
- (d) tree is infected by the soil microbes
- (e) roots do not receive oxygen for respiration

**Ans. (a)**

### Explanation:

Removal of bark of the tree means to unprotect the xylem tissue bundles which carry water from roots to all the parts.

74. The 'New START' treaty was in the news. What is this treaty?

- (a) It is a bilateral strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the USA and the Russian Federation
- (b) It is a multilateral energy security cooperation treaty among the members of the East Asia Summit
- (c) It is a treaty between the Russian Federation and the European union for the energy security cooperation
- (d) It is a multilateral corporation treaty among the BRICS countries for the promotion of trade

**Ans. (a)**

### Explanation:

The new strategic arms reduction Treaty is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States of America and Russian Federation. It was signed on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

75. Three of the following criteria have contributed to the recognition of Western Ghats, Sri Lanka and Indo-Burma regions as hotspots of biodiversity

1. Species richness
2. Vegetation density



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79. The Himalayan Range is very rich in species diversity. Which one among the following is the most appropriate reason for this phenomenon?

- (a) It has a high rainfall that supports luxuriant vegetative growth
- (b) It is a confluence of different bio geographical zones
- (c) Exotic and invasive species have not been introduced
- (d) It has less human interference

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Himalayan ecosystem consists of tropical deciduous, temperature forests regions as well as montane forests and alpine vegetation. This is due to their geological evolution and uplifting of mountains.

80. With reference to India, consider the following Central Acts

- 1. Impact and Export (Control) Act, 1947
- 2. Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957
- 3. Customs Act, 1962
- 4. Indian Forest Act, 1927

Which of the above Acts have relevance to/bearing on the biodiversity conservation in the country?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) None of these

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

All four Acts are related to biodiversity import and export of GMOs or exotic species is prohibited whereas certain medicinal plants are subjected to high custom duties or regulate their trade. Mines regulation and forest conservation anyway involve provisions related to biodiversity conservation.

81. Kari Marx explained the process of class struggle with the help of which one of the following theories?

- (a) Empirical liberalism
- (b) Existentialism
- (c) Darwin's theory of evolution
- (d) Dialectical materialism

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

Dialectical materialism is the major theme of Marxism.

82. A layer in the Earth's atmosphere called Ionosphere facilitates radio communications. Why?

- 1. The presence of ozone causes the reflection of radio waves to Earth.
- 2. Radio waves have a very long wavelength.

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)**

**Explanation:**

Long wavelength of radio waves help in long distance communications and they get reflected in ionic atmosphere.

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**83.** Both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) are related to investment in a country. Which one of the following statements best represents an important difference between the two?

- (a) FII helps bring better management skills and technology, while FDI only brings in capital
- (b) FII helps in increasing capital availability in general, while FDI only targets specific sectors
- (c) FDI flows only into the secondary market, while FII targets primary market
- (d) FII is considered to be more stable than FDI

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

FII is an investment made by an investor in the markets of a foreign nation. FDI is more preferred to the FII as they are considered to be the most beneficial kind of foreign investment for the whole economy. Hence FDI is more stable than FII. FDI targets only specific purpose.

**84.** A genetically engineered form of brinjal, known as the Bt-brinjal has been developed. The objective of this is

- (a) to make it pest-resistant
- (b) to improve its taste and nutritive qualities
- (c) to make it drought-resistant
- (d) to make its shelf-life longer

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Bt-brinjal has genetically modified strains to resist the pest bollworm and other pests.

**85.** With reference to 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana', consider the following statements

- 1. The member insured under the scheme must be the head of the family or an earning member of the family in a rural landless household.
- 2. The member insured must be in the age group of 30 to 65 years.
- 3. There is a provision for free scholarship for up to two children of the insured who are studying between classes 9 and 12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

Statement 2 is incorrect as the 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana' covers landless labourers above the age of 18 years.

**86.** In the Union Budget 2011-12, a full exemption from the basic customs duty was extended to the bio-based asphalt (bio-asphalt). What is the importance of this material?

- 1. Unlike traditional asphalt, bio-asphalt is not based on fossil fuels.
- 2. Bio-asphalt can be made from non-renewable resources.
- 3. Bio-asphalt can be made from non-organic waste materials.
- 4. It is eco-friendly to use bio-asphalt for surfacing of the roads.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (b)**

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### Explanation:

Bio-asphalt is bio-version of asphalt which is used for laying tar on roads. The statement 2 contradicts the other affirmative statements. Hence, the correct option is (b).

87. Consider the following

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Oxides of Nitrogen
3. Oxides of Sulphur

Which of the above is/are the emission/emissions from coal combustion at thermal power plants?

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

**Ans. (d)**

### Explanation:

Combustion of coal or for that matter any fossil fuel releases carbon dioxide and oxides of nitrogen and sulphur

88. Satellites used for telecommunication relay are kept in a geostationary orbit. A satellite is said to be in such an orbit when

1. the orbit is geosynchronous
2. the orbit is circular
3. the orbit lies in the plane of Earth's equator
4. the orbit is at an altitude of 22236 km.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (a)**

### Explanation:

Geostationary satellites are placed at an altitude of 36000 km which is the precise distance that is required to make them geosynchronous with Earth.

89. India has experienced persistent and high food inflation in the recent past. What could be the reason?

1. Due to a gradual switch over to the cultivation of commercial crops, the area under the cultivation of food grains has steadily decreased in the last five years by about 30%.
2. As a consequence of increasing incomes, the consumption patterns of the people have undergone a significant change.
3. The food supply chain has structural constraints.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Ans. (b)**

### Explanation:

Statement 1 is partially correct as there is in fact a decline in the area of cultivation of food crops but is not as drastic as 30%. Indeed, the acreage of pulses and other coarse cereals have marginally increased whereas that of rice and wheat have decline. In any case, the decline 30% is incorrect.

90. At present, scientists can determine the arrangement or relative positions of genes or DNA sequences on a chromosome. How does this knowledge benefit us?

1. It is possible to know the pedigree of livestock.
2. It is possible to understand the causes of all human diseases.
3. It is possible to develop disease resistant animal breeds.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

DNA sequencing includes several methods and technologies that are used for determining the order of the nucleotide bases - adenine, guanine, valtosino, thymine. In a nuocleule of DNA. The modern sequencing technology has been instrumented. In the sequencing of the human Gerome.

Application of Genomes Research:-

- DNA forensics to determine pedigree for seed or livestock breads.
- Agriculture, livestock breeding and bio processing. Healthier, more productive, disease resistant form animal breads.

Understanding plant and animals genomes will allow us to create stronger, more disease - resistant plants and animals -n reducing the cost of agriculture and providing consumer with more nutrition's pesticide free foods.

**91.** In terms of economy, the visit by foreign nationals to witness the XIX Common Wealth Games in India amounted to.

- (a) Export      (b) Import      (c) Production      (d) Consumption

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

The visits of foreign nationals to witness sports events like CWG mean Indians are exporting services to them. In fact, tourism itself is considered as an export sector.

Some analysts points to consumption as the correct answer, but they are mistaken. Just visiting to witness games like CWG need not involve much consumption as they might think. Hence correct option is (a).

**92.** Microbial fuel cells are considered a source of sustainable energy. Why?

1. They use living organisms as catalyts to generate electricity from certain substrates.
2. They use a variety of inorganic materials as substrates.
3. They can be installed in waste water treatment plants to cleanse water and produce electricity

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:**

A microbial Fuel cell is a device the converts chemical energy to electrical energy by the catalytic reaction of Micro organisms, have number of potential uses. Harvesting electricity produced for the use of power source. Virtually any organic material could be used to feed to fuel cell, including creeping cells to waste water treatment plants.

**93.** Which one of the following statements appropriate describes the 'fiscal stimulus'?

- (a) It is massive investment by the Government in manufacturing sector to ensure the supply of goods to meet the demand surge caused by rapid economic growth
- (b) It is an intense affirmative action of the Government to boost economic activity in the country
- (c) It is Government's intensive action of financial institutions to ensure disbursement of loans to agriculture and allied sectors to promote greater food production and contain food inflation
- (d) It is an extreme affirmative action by the Government to pursue its policy of financial inclusion

**Ans. (b)**

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### Explanation:

Fiscal stimulus involves affirmative action like tax breaks, boosting public investments etc to overcome the downward effect of business contraction.

94. The formation of ozone hole in the Antarctic region has been a cause of concern. What could be the reason for the formation of this hole?
- Presence of prominent tropospheric turbulence and inflow of chlorofluorocarbons
  - Presence of prominent polar front and stratospheric clouds and inflow of chlorofluorocarbons
  - Absence of polar front and stratospheric clouds and inflow of methane and chlorofluorocarbons
  - Increased temperature at polar region due to global warming

**Ans. (b)**

### Explanation:

Ozone depletion : The nitric acid in polar stratospheric clouds reacts with CFC: to form chlorine. Which Cataly Zes the photochemical destruction of zone.

The primary cause of chlorine containing gases (primarily CFC and related halocarbons). In the presence of UV light these gases clissaciate, releasing chbrine atoms. Which they go on to catalyze ozone destruction. The C1-catalyzed ozone depletion can take place in gas phase, but is dramatically enhanced in the presence of polar stratospheric clouds (Psc's).

95. Consider the following actions which the Government can take.
- Devaluing the domestic currency.
  - Reduction in the export subsidy.
  - Adopting suitable policies which attract greater FDI and more funds from FIIS.
- Which is the above action/actions can help in reducing the current account deficit?
- 1 and 2
  - 2 and 3
  - 3 only
  - 1 and 3

**Ans. (d)**

### Explanation:

All options are seemingly correct. Devaluation of currency helps to overcome large current account deficits as they help boost exports. Reduction in export subsidy may not necessarily mean that exports are not performing well and may also means by withdrawing the subsidies fiscal deficit is being reined and consequently improving the economic outlook.

FDI and FII strictly come under capital account but their promotion do bridge the current account deficit not directly but through make up for balance of payments.

Since, there are differing views over the context of the question, it remains to be seen how the UPSC evaluates the question. Hence, the correct option might be (d).

96. The constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992, which aims at promoting the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country, provides for which of the following?
- Constitution of District Planning Committees.
  - State Election Commissions to conduct all Panchayat elections.
  - Establishment of State Finance Commissions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Ans. (c)**

### Explanation:

# UPSC PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

## GENERAL STUDIES - 2011

District Planning Committees come under provision of Article 243ZD which is enacted through the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.

97. Two important rivers - one with its source in Jharkhand (and known by a different name in Odisha) and another, with its source in Odisha-merge at a place only a short distance from the coast of Bay of Bengal before flowing into the sea. This is an important site of wildlife and biodiversity and a protected area. Which one of the following could be this?
- (a) Bhitarkanika                      (b) Chandipur-on-sea  
(c) Gopalpur-on-sea                (d) Simlipal

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation:**

Simlipal is quite interior to the hinterland of Odisha, though many might have wrongly guessed this option. The correct one is Bhitarkanika, option (a)

98. A rapid increase in the rate of inflation is sometimes attributed to the 'base effect'. What is 'base effect'?
- (a) It is the impact of drastic deficiency in supply due to failure of crops  
(b) It is the impact of the surge in demand due to rapid economic growth  
(c) It is the impact of the price levels of previous year on the calculation of inflation rate  
(d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context

**Ans. (c)**

**Explanation:**

'Base effect' refers to a kind of statistical anomaly that causes steep hike or decline in the rate of price rise or fall because the current prices are compared relative to the previous period. If last year's price of certain articles is low and this year it has returned to its normal price, yet the rate of increase, which is relative to the last year's price, is shown high.

99. India is regarded as a country with 'Demographic Dividend.' This is due to
- (a) its high population in the age group below 15 years  
(b) its high population in the age group of 15-64 years  
(c) its high population in the age group above 65 years  
(d) its high total population

**Ans. (b)**

**Explanation:**

India has a majority population in the age bracket 15-64 years and hence benefits from demographic dividend.

100. Regarding 'carbon credits', which one of the following statements is not correct?
- statements is not correct?
- (a) The carbon credit system was ratified in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol  
(b) Carbon credits are awarded to countries of groups that have reduced greenhouse gases below their emission quota  
(c) The goal of the carbon credit system is to limit the increase of carbon dioxide emission  
(d) Carbon credits are traded at a price fixed from time to time by the United Nations Environment Programme

**Ans. (d)**

**Explanation:** Carbon credits are not traded at fixed prices under the aegis of the UN Environment Programme.