

UPSC PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

GENERAL STUDIES – 2014

1. In medieval India, the designations 'Mahattara' and 'Pattakila' were used for

- military officers
- village headmen**
- specialists in Vedic rituals
- chiefs of craft guilds

2. Lichens, which are capable of initiating ecological succession even on a bare rock, are actually a symbiotic association of

- algae and bacteria
- algae and fungi**
- bacteria and fungi
- fungi and mosses

3. If you travel through the Himalayas, you are likely to see which of the following plants naturally growing there?

- Oak
- Rhododendron
- Sandalwood

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans(A)

Explanation

In Nepal, the Sacred Himalayan Landscape harbors numbers important flora such as oaks (Castanopsis and Quercus), Rhododendron (Rhododendron).

4. Which of the following are some important pollutants released by steel industry in India?

- Oxides of sulphur
- Oxides of nitrogen
- Carbon monoxide
- Carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans(D)

Explanation :

Steel manufacturing involves burning of coke which will lead to release of oxides of sulphur, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

5. Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha?

- Avanti
- Gandhara
- Kosala
- Magadha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3
- 2 and 4
- 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4

Ans(C)

Explanation

Magadha is main rival to the north-west was Kosala with its capital at Sāvatti and during the Buddha's life both countries went to war. Bhudda never went to gandhara and avanti.

6. Every year, a month long ecologically important campaign/ festival is held during which certain communities/ tribes plant saplings of fruit-bearing trees. Which of the following are such communities/ tribes?

- Bhutia and Lepcha
- Gond and korku
- Irula and Toda
- Sahariya and Agariya

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Ans(B)

Explanation:

Korku is a scheduled tribe (ST) community predominantly found in the East Nimar ... Whilst they share the love of the forests with the Gonds

7. The sales tax you pay while purchasing a toothpaste is a

- tax imposed by the Central Government
- tax imposed by the Central Government but collected by the State Government
- tax imposed by the State Government but collected by the Central Government
- tax imposed and collected by the State Government

Ans(D)

Explanation:

Central Sales Tax (CST) is a tax on sales of goods levied by the Central Government of India. CST is applicable only in the case of inter-state sales and not on sales made within the state or import/export of sales. Accordingly, consignments to agents or transfers of goods to branch or other offices is not a sale as per the CST Act CST is payable in the state where the goods are sold and movement commences. The tax collected is retained by the state in which the tax is collected. CST is administered by Sales Tax authorities of each state. Thus, the State Government Sales Tax officer who assesses and collects local (state) sales tax also assesses and collects CST. Sales Tax is a tax, levied on the sale or purchase of goods. There are two kinds of Sales Tax i.e. Central Sales Tax, imposed by the Centre and Sales Tax, imposed by each state. The sales tax paid while purchasing a toothpaste may fall in either categories.

The sales tax on sale and purchase of goods except news paper falls in the state list of seventh schedule of constitution. Refer page number 46 of Indian Economy Key Concepts, Second revised edition.

8. What does venture capital mean?

- A short-term capital provided to industries
- A long-term start-up capital provided to new entrepreneurs
- Funds provided to industries at times of incurring losses
- Funds provided for replacement and renovation of industries

Ans(B)

Explanation :

Capital provided by investors to start up firms with perceived long-term growth potential. This is a very important source of funding for start ups that do not have access to capital markets. It typically entails high risk for the investor, but it has the potential for above-average returns.

9. The main objective of the 12th Five-Year Plan is

- inclusive growth and poverty reduction
- inclusive and sustainable growth
- sustainable and inclusive growth to reduce unemployment
- faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth

Ans(D)

Explanation

The aim of the 12th Five year plan is Faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth. Refer 12th Five year plan document.

10. With reference to Balance of Payments, which of the following constitutes/ constitute the Current Account?

- Balance of trade
- Foreign assets
- Balance of invisibles
- Special Drawing Rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 4

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Ans(C)

Explanation:

Under current account of the BOP, transactions are classified into merchandise balance of trade (exports and imports) and invisibles. Invisible transactions are further classified into three categories, namely (a) Services-travel, transportation, insurance, Government not included elsewhere (GNIE) and miscellaneous (such as, communication, construction, financial, software, news agency, royalties, management and business services); (b) Income; and (c) Transfers (grants, gifts, remittances, etc.) which do not have any quid pro quo.

- 11.** The terms 'Marginal Standing Facility Rate' and 'Net Demand and Time Liabilities', sometimes appearing in news, are used in relation to
- banking operations
 - communication networking
 - military strategies
 - supply and demand of agricultural products

Ans(A)

Explanation

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate is the rate at which banks borrow funds overnight from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) against approved government securities. This came into effect in may 2011. Under the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), currently banks avail funds from the RBI on overnight basis against their excess statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) holdings. Additionally, they can also avail funds on overnight basis below the stipulated SLR up to 2.5% of their respective Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) outstanding at the end of second preceding fortnight. Demand liabilities are those liabilities which are to be repaid at demand (examples: current deposits, savings deposits as per formula, other deposits, inter-bank deposits, etc.). Time liabilities are those liabilities which are to be repaid on expiry of a fixed period (examples: fixed deposits, recurring deposits, etc.).

NDTL (Net Demand & Time Liabilities) = DTL - a bank's deposits with other banks.

12. What is/are the facility/ facilities the beneficiaries can get from the services of Business Correspondent (Bank Saathi) in branchless areas?

- It enables the beneficiaries to draw their subsidies and social security benefits in their villages.
- It enables the beneficiaries in the rural areas to make deposits and withdrawals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans(C)

Explanation

Business Correspondent model is an innovative, technology-based banking model is giving people in remote areas of India access to formal financial institutions. The scope of activities to be undertaken by the Business Correspondents will include (i) disbursement of small value credit, (ii) recovery of principal / collection of interest (iii) collection of small value deposits (iv) sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/ pension products/ other third party products and (v) receipt and delivery of small value remittances/ other payment instruments. The main objectives of the project were (1) to increase the outreach of financial services to the poorest of the poor by using technology-based solutions, (2) to minimize the occurrence of fraudulent payments, and (3) ultimately, to achieve total financial inclusion through the use of smartcards.

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13. In the context of Indian economy, which of the following is/are the purpose/purposes of 'Statutory Reserve Requirements'?

1. To enable the Central Bank to control the amount of advances the banks can create
2. To make the people's deposits with banks safe and liquid
3. To prevent the commercial banks from making excessive profits
4. To force the banks to have sufficient vault cash to meet their day-to-day requirements

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans(B)

Explanation

The ratio of liquid assets to demand and time liabilities is known as Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). In simple words, it is the percentage of total deposits banks have to invest in government bonds and other approved securities. A SLR bond also qualifies for the portfolio maintained by banks to meet the liquidity requirement. The main objectives for maintaining the Statutory Liquidity Ratio are the following: (i) Statutory Liquidity Ratio is maintained in order to control the expansion of Bank Credit. By changing the level of Statutory Liquidity Ratio, Reserve bank of India can increase or decrease bank credit expansion. (ii) Statutory Liquidity Ratio in a way ensures the solvency of commercial banks. (iii) By determining Statutory Liquidity Ratio, Reserve Bank of India, in a way, compels the commercial banks to invest in government securities like government bonds. If any Indian Bank fails to maintain the required level of Statutory Liquidity Ratio, then it becomes liable to pay penalty to Reserve Bank of India. The defaulter bank pays penal interest at the rate of 3% per annum above the Bank Rate, on the shortfall amount for that particular day. The RBI can increase the Statutory Liquidity

Ratio to contain inflation, suck liquidity in the market, to tighten the measure to safeguard the customers money. In a growing economy banks would like to invest in stock market, not in Government Securities or Gold as the latter would yield less returns. One more reason is long term Government Securities (or any bond) are sensitive to interest rate changes. But in an emerging economy interest rate change is a common activity.

14. Recently, a series of uprisings of people referred to as 'Arab Spring' originally started from

- a) Egypt
- b) Lebanon
- c) Syria
- d) Tunisia

Ans(D)

Explanation

Tunisia :- Following the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi in Sidi Bouzid, a series of increasingly violent street demonstrations through December 2010 ultimately led to the ousting of longtime President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on 14 January 2011. Egypt : - Protests in Egypt began on 25 January 2011 and ran for 18 days. Lebanon :- The 2011 Lebanese protests were seen as influenced by the Arab Spring.[1] The main protests focused on calls for political reform especially against confessionalism in Lebanon.

15. Consider the following countries:

1. Denmark
2. Japan
3. Russian Federation
4. United Kingdom
5. United States of America

Which of the above are the members of the 'Arctic Council'?

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

Ans(D)

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Explanation

Only states with territory in the Arctic can be members of the Council. All eight countries are members making the Arctic Council a circumpolar forum. The Council also has permanent and ad hoc observer countries and "permanent participants".[7] Canada; Denmark; representing also the dependencies of Greenland Faroe Islands Finland Iceland Norway Russia Sweden United States

16. Consider the following pairs:

Region often	Country in news
1. Chechnya :	Russian Federation
2. Darfur :	Mali
3. Swat Valley :	Iraq

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans(D)

Explanation

Chechnya in Russian Federation. Darfur in Sudan Swat valley in Pakistan

17. With reference to Agni-IV Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is a surface-to-surface missile
- It is fuelled by liquid propellant only
- It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 7500 km away.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans (A)

Explanation

India's nuclear deterrence programme received a boost on Monday when its Agni-IV, a

surface-to-surface missile with a range of about 4,000 km, was successfully test-fired from the Wheeler Island, off the Odisha coast. The sophisticated missile is lighter in weight and has two stages of solid propulsion. (Source :- The Hindu, 20 January 2014)

18. With reference to two non-conventional energy sources called 'coalbed methane' and 'shale gas', consider the following statements:

- Coalbed methane is the pure methane gas extracted from coal seams, while
- shale gas is a mixture of propane and butane only that can be extracted from fine-grained sedimentary rocks.
- In India, abundant coalbed methane sources exist, but so far no shale gas sources have been found.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans (A)

Explanation

The gas composition must be considered, because natural gas appliances are designed for gas with a heating value of about 1000 BTU (British thermal units) per cubic foot, or nearly pure methane. Unlike much natural gas from conventional reservoirs, coalbed methane contains very little heavier hydrocarbons such as propane or butane, and no natural-gas condensate.

19. With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statements:

- They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand.
- They rear the Pashmina goats that yield a fine wool.
- They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (B)

Explanation

The Changpa (or sometimes pronounced Champa) are a semi-nomadic Tibetan ethnic group found mainly in Zaskar region of Jammu and Kashmir. (Source - Wikipedia) Pashmina wool is produced by Changra (Pashmina) goat in Ladakh and Chegu breed of goat in the eastern parts of Himalayas. The goats are reared in Ladakh by the Changpa tribe inhabiting Changthang region. Pashmina bearing goats are also found to a minor extent in other areas of Leh district, Zaskar (Kargil district) and adjoining Lahoul- Spiti valley of Himachal Pradesh. (Source :- woolboard.nic.in) As of 2001, the Changpa were classified as a Scheduled Tribe under the Indian government's reservation program of affirmative action.

20. In India, cluster bean (Guar) is traditionally used as a vegetable or animal feed, but recently the cultivation of this has assumed significance. Which one of the following statements is correct in this context?

- a) The oil extracted from seeds is used in the manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- b) The gum made from its seeds is used in the extraction of shale gas
- c) The leaf extract of this plant has the properties of anti-histamines
- d) It is a source of high quality biodiesel

Ans (B)

Explanation

Through the use of guar gum in the extraction of oil and shale gas, the demand has increased a lot. Only 10% of the Indian production

stays within the country and another 90% of the exports are used for shale gas and oil industries.

21. The Partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905 lasted until

- a) the First World War when Indian troops were needed by the British and the partition was ended
- b) King George V abrogated Curzon's Act at the Royal Durbar in Delhi in 1911
- c) Gandhiji launched his Civil Disobedience Movement
- d) the Partition of India in 1947 when East Bengal became East Pakistan

Ans (B)

Explanation

On the occasion of the visiting His Majesty George V to Indo-Pakistan and holding of Darbar at Delhi on 12th December 1911 the partition of Bengal was cancelled.

22. The 1929 Session of Indian National Congress is of significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the

- a) attainment of Self-Government was declared as the objective of the Congress
- b) attainment of Poorna Swaraj was adopted as the goal of the Congress
- c) Non-Cooperation Movement was launched
- d) decision to participate in the Round Table Conference in London was taken

Ans (B)

The Purna Swaraj declaration, or Declaration of the Independence of India was promulgated by the Santosh Prabu on 26 January 1930, resolving the Congress and Indian nationalists to fight for Purna Swaraj, or complete self-rule independent of the British Empire.

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23. With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements:

1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavities of Assam.
3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (B)

Explanation:

It is combination of Music, Dance and Drama. This dance form has remained a living tradition in Assam's Vaishnava monasteries, known as sattras, for over 500 years now. It was originally practised by celibate monks in the form of mythological dance-dramas. The core of Sattriya Nritya has usually been mythological stories. This was an artistic way of presenting mythological teachings to the people in an accessible, immediate, and enjoyable manner.

24. Chaitra 1 of the national calendar based on the Saka era corresponds to which one of the following dates of the Gregorian calendar in a normal year of 365 days?

- a) 22nd March (or 21st March)
- b) 15th May (or 16th May)
- c) 31st March (or 30th March)
- d) 21st April (or 20th April)

Ans (A)

Explanation

A uniform National Calendar based on the Saka Era with Chaitra ... with the dates of the Gregorian calendar: Chaitra 1 falling on March 22

normally and on March 21 in a leap year. Chitra 1 of Saka Era is the New Year Day.

25. Consider the following pairs:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Famous work of Site | sculpture |
| 1. A grand image of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana with numerous Celestial musicians above and the sorrowful figures of his followers below | : Ajanta |
| 2. A huge image of Varaha Avatar (boar incarnation) of Vishnu, as he rescues Goddess Earth from the deep and chaotic waters, sculpted on rock | : Mount Abu |
| 3. "Arjuna's Penance" | : Mamallapuram |
| "Descent of Ganga" sculpted on the surface of huge boulders | |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation: 1st Pair: The Parinirvana of the Buddha in Cave 17, with numerous celestial musicians above and the sorrowful figures of his followers below, is one of the grandest and yet most delicately expressive scenes ever made in stone. The grieving figure of Ananda near his feet is an exceptionally fine and thoughtful representation in Ajanta. 2nd pair : Is wrong because Rock-cut sculpture of Varaha at the Udayagiri Caves, near Vidisha, 3rd Pair is correct.

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26. The Ghadr (Ghadar) was a
- revolutionary association of Indians with headquarters at San Francisco
 - nationalist organization operating from Singapore
 - militant organization with headquarters at Berlin
 - communist movement for India's freedom with head-quarters at Tashkent

Ans (A)

The Ghadar Party was an revolutionary association founded by Punjabi Indians at San Francisco in the United States. Its aim to gaining India's independence from British rule. Key members included lala Har Dayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Kartar Singh Sarabha, and Rashbehari Bose.

27. With reference to India's culture and tradition, what is 'Kalaripayattu'?
- It is an ancient Bhakti cult of Shaivism still prevalent in some parts of South India
 - It is an ancient style bronze and brasswork still found in southern part of Coromandel area
 - It is an ancient form of dance-drama and a living tradition in the northern part of Malabar
 - It is an ancient martial art and a living tradition in some parts of South India

Ans (D)

Explanation

Kalaripayattu is an Indian martial art. One of the oldest fighting systems in existence,[1] it is now practiced in Kerala, in contiguous parts of Tamil Nadu and among the Malayali community of Malaysia. It was originally practiced in northern and central parts of Kerala and the Tulunadu region of Karnataka.

28. Consider the following pairs:

- Garba : Gujarat
- Mohiniattam : Odisha
- Yakshagana : Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation

Garba is a form of dance that originated in the state of Gujarat in India. The name is derived from the Sanskrit term Garbha ("womb") and Deep ("a small earthenware lamp"). Many traditional garbas are performed around a centrally lit lamp or a picture or statue of the Goddess Shakti. Mohiniyattam is a classical dance form from Kerala, India. Believed to have originated in 16th century CE,[1] it is one of the eight Indian classical dance forms recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. It is considered a very graceful form of dance meant to be performed as solo recitals by women.

Yakshagana is a theater form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form. This theater style, resembling Western opera, is mainly found in the coastal districts and the Malenadu region (Karnataka) of India.

29. With reference to Buddhist history, tradition and culture in India, consider the following pairs:

- | Famous shrine | Location |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Tabo monastery and temple complex | : Spiti Valley |
| 2. Lhotsava Lhakhang temple, Nako | : Zaskar Valley |
| 3. Alchi temple complex | : Ladakh |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans (C)

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Explanation

Tabo Monastery (or Tabo Chos-Khor Monastery) is located in the Tago village. The monastery is situated in the Spiti valley.

30. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Bijak' is a composition of the teaching of Saint Dadu Dayal.
2. The Philosophy of Pushti Marg was propounded by Madhvacharya.

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

Pushti marg ("the Path of Grace") is a Vaishnav sect of the Hinduism, founded by Vallabhacharya (also known as Mahaprabhu) around 1500 AD. Bijak is the best known of the compilations of the compositions of Kabir, and as such is the holy scripture for followers of the Kabirpanthi religion.

31. A community of people called Manganiyars is well-known for their

- a) martial arts in North-East India
- b) musical tradition in North-West India
- c) classical vocal music in South India
- d) pietra dura tradition in Central India

Ans (B)

Explanation

The Manganiar and related Langha caste are Muslim communities in the desert of Rajasthan, India in the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer, along the border with Pakistan. Significant numbers are also found in the districts of Tharparkar and Sanghar in the province of Sindh in Pakistan. They are famous for their classical folk music.

32. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)?

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian State
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown
3. To regulate East India Company's trade with India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans (A)

Explanation :

The Queen Victoria proclamation- 1858 consists Of To disclaim any Intension to annex Indian States.To place Indian administration under the British Crown.

33. Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri was

- a) the mosque for the use of Royal Family
- b) Akbar's private prayer chamber
- c) the hall in which Akbar held discussions with scholars of various religions
- d) the room in which the nobles belonging to different religions gathered to discuss religious affairs

Ans (C)

Explanation :

The Ibadat Khana literally means "House of Worship" built by Akbar at his palace in Fatehpur Sikri

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34. In the context of food and nutritional security of India, enhancing the 'Seed Replacement Rates' of various crops helps in achieving the food production targets of the future. But what is/are the constraint/ constraints in its wider/greater implementation?

1. There is no National Seeds Policy in place.
2. There is no participation of private sector seed companies in the supply of quality seeds of vegetables and planting materials of horticultural crops.
3. there is a demand-supply gap regarding quality seeds in case of low value and high volume crops.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) None

Ans (B)

Explanation

We have a national seed policy and private sector seed companies like Kaveri Seed company Ltd. But there is demand and supply mismatch.

35. With reference to 'Eco-Sensitive Zones', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Eco-Sensitive Zones are the areas that are declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The purpose of the declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones is to prohibit all kinds of human activities in those zones except agriculture.

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 (D)

Explanation:

The eco sensitive zones need to be declared in order to provide better sanctity to protected areas; as an additional tool to strengthen the buffers and corridors around the Protected Area network; and to check the negative impact of industrialization and unplanned development in and around Protected Areas. In this background the Indian Board for Wildlife in its XXI meeting held on 21st January 2002 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister had adopted a 'Wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002' in which one of the action point envisaged to notify lands falling within 10 km. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries as Eco-fragile zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Purpose of declaring Eco-Sensitive Zone : To create shock-absorber for protected areas. The activities in ESZ will be regulative rather than prohibitive.

36. Consider the following statements:

- 1) Animal Welfare Board of India is established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 2) National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body.
- 3) National Ganga River Basin Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (B)

Explanation

The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country. Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian. From ensuring that

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animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act. NGRBA- The Prime Minister the chair of the Authority. Other members include the cabinet ministers who include the Ganges among their direct concerns and the chief ministers of states through which the Ganges River flows.

37. Consider the following pairs:

Vitamin	Deficiency disease
1. Vitamin C	: Scurvy
2. Vitamin D	: Rickets
3. Vitamin E	: Night blindness

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None

Ans (A)

Explanation

Night Blindness caused by Vitamin A deficiency and not Vitamin E deficiency

38. There is some concern regarding the nano particles of some chemical elements that are used by the industry in the manufacture of various products. Why?

- They can accumulate in the environment, and contaminate water and soil.
- They can enter the food chains.
- They can trigger the production of free radicals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans (D)

Explanation

1st Statement :- Consumer technologies utilizing nano particles such as sun lotion and anti-bacterial clothing currently leach nano particles into the environment during regular use[11] and further contamination is sure to occur as a result of the manufacture and disposal of nano particle-containing goods. 2nd Statement :- The main concern will be if any of the nano particles entering the environment are toxic or could become toxic to living species in the environment. For example, there is the possibility of nanoparticles being toxic to microorganisms in the soil and groundwater. Following on from this would be possible hazards from the nanoparticles or from consuming the microorganisms affected by the nanoparticles for fish, insects or mammals. There is also a risk to plants from nanoparticles which again could have a follow-on effect on the food chain. For example the deposition of atmospheric particles on crops could provide another route for toxic or reactive nanoparticles into the food chain. 3rd Statement :- some types of particles, the smaller they are, the greater their surface area to volume ratio and the higher their chemical reactivity and biological activity. The greater chemical reactivity of nanomaterials can result in increased production of reactive oxygen species(ROS), including free radicals. ROS production has been found in a diverse range of nanomaterials including carbon fullerenes, carbon nano tubes and nanoparticle metal oxides. ROS and free radical production is one of the primary mechanisms of nano particle toxicity; it may result in oxidative stress, inflammation, and consequent damage to proteins, membranes and DNA.

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39. Which of the following organizations brings out the publication known as 'World Economic Outlook'?

- The International Monetary
- The United Nations Development Programme
- The World Economic Forum
- The World Bank

Ans (A)

40. With reference to Union Budget, which of the following is/are covered under Non-Plan Expenditure?

- Defence expenditure
- Interest payments
- Salaries and pensions
- Subsidies

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4
- None

Ans (C)

Explanation

All these expenditures are classified as non-plan expenditures as they are incurred on a regular basis and do not form part of plan documents. Refer page number 37 of Indian Economy Key Concepts, Second revised edition.

41. If the interest rate is decreased in an economy, it will

- decrease the consumption expenditure in the economy
- increase the tax collection of the Government
- increase the investment expenditure in the economy
- increase the total savings in the economy

Ans (C)

Explanation

With fall in the interest rate there will be increase in consumption as well as investment. But most suitable answer is increase in investment. Refer page number 53-59 of Indian Economy Key Concepts, Second revised edition.

42. Consider the following statements:

- The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.
- All executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans (B)

Explanation Article 77 (1) and Article 77 (3)

43. Consider the following statements regarding a No-Confidence Motion in India:

- There is no mention of a No-Confidence Motion in the Constitution of India.
- A Motion of No-Confidence can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans (C)

Explanation :

There is no direct mention of the No-Confidence motion in Constitution of India. It is a motion as per rules of business of Lok Sabha. No-Confidence motion can be introduced only in Lok Sabha and not in Rajya Sabha.

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44. With reference to Neem tree, consider the following statements:

1. Neem oil can be used as a pesticide to control the proliferation of some species of insects and mites.
2. Neem seeds are used in the manufacture of biofuels and hospital detergents.
3. Neem oil has applications in pharmaceutical industry.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (D)

Explanation :

Neem oil is a vegetable oil pressed from fruits and seeds of neem. It has insect repellent and insecticidal properties. Neem oil is used for the production of bio fuel and used in the preparations of neem based phenyl.

45. Which one of the following is the process involved in photosynthesis?

- a) Potential energy is released to form free energy
- b) Free energy is converted into potential energy and stored.
- c) Food is oxidized to release carbon dioxide and water.
- d) Oxygen is taken, and carbon dioxide and water vapour are given out.

Ans (B)

46. In addition to fingerprint scanning, which of the following can be used in the biometric identification of a person?

1. Iris scanning
2. Retinal scanning
3. Voice recognition

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (D)

Explanation

Biometric identifiers are the distinctive, measurable characteristics used to label and describe individuals.[2] Biometric identifiers are often categorized as physiological versus behavioral characteristics. Physiological characteristics are related to the shape of the body. Examples include, but are not limited to fingerprint, palm veins, face recognition, DNA, palm print, hand geometry, iris recognition, retina and odour/scent. Behavioral characteristics are related to the pattern of behavior of a person, including but not limited to typing rhythm, gait, and voice.[note 2] Some researchers have coined the term behaviorometrics to describe the latter class of biometrics.

47. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding vegetative propagation of plants?

1. Vegetative propagation produces clonal population.
2. Vegetative propagation helps in eliminating the virus.
3. Vegetative propagation can be practiced most of the year.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (D)

Explanation :

Vegetative propagation is a asexual reproduction of plants Only one plant is involved and the offspring is the result of one parent and thus the

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offspring are clones (genetically identical) of the parent. Only seed and micro propagation can eliminate virus and vegetative propagation cannot eliminate the virus. Vegetative propagation can be practiced throughout the year.

48. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- | | Spacecraft | | Purpose |
|----|-----------------|---|---|
| 1. | Cassini-Huygens | : | Orbiting the Venus and transmitting data to the Earth |
| 2. | Messenger | : | Mapping and investigating the Mercury |
| 3. | Voyager 1 and 2 | : | Exploring the outer solar system |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (B)

Explanation :

Cassini–Huygens is a mission to Saturn.(NASA, ESA, ASI) Messenger is a mission to mercury.(NASA) Voyager 1 and 2 is a mission to explore outer space (NASA).

49. Consider the following pairs:

- | | Region | | Well-known for the production of |
|----|------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Kinnaur | : | Areca nut |
| 2. | Mewat | : | Mango |
| 3. | Coromandel | : | Soya bean |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None

Ans (A)

Explanation

Soya bean largely in Madhyapradesh not in Coromandel

50. Which of the following is/are the example/examples of chemical change?

- Crystallization of sodium chloride
- Melting of ice
- Souring of milk

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None

Ans (B)

Explanation : Souring of milk is a chemical change, whereas crystallization of sodium chloride and melting of ice is a physical change.

51. The power of the Supreme Court of India to decide disputes between the Centre and the States falls under its

- advisory jurisdiction
- appellate jurisdiction
- original jurisdiction
- writ jurisdiction

Ans (C)

Explanation: Article 131 (a)

52. Consider the following techniques/ phenomena:

- Budding and grafting in fruit plants
- Cytoplasmic male sterility
- Gene silencing

Which of the above is/are used to create transgenic crops?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 3
- None

Ans (D)

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Explanation :

Transgenic crops include transfer of DNA between two unrelated species. All the above methods does not involve transfer DNA.

53. Consider the following statements:

1. Maize can be used for the production of starch.
2. Oil extracted from maize can be a feedstock for biodiesel.
3. Alcoholic beverages can be produced by using maize.

Which of the given above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans (D)

Explanation :

Maize starch is used for thickening of sauces or soups. Maize oil is used for production of biodiesel. Biodiesel made from maize oil has a better cloud point (CP) than yellow grease (YG) or used cooking oil (UCO)biodiesel.

54. Among the following organisms, which one does not belong to the class of other three?

- (a) Crab
- (b) Mite
- (c) Scorpion
- (d) Spider

Ans (A)

Explanation

Scorpions are closely related to other organisms in the phylum Arthropoda such as spiders like Salticus scenicus, ticks, and mites.

55. The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India is vested in

- a) the President of India
- b) the Parliament
- c) the Chief Justice of India
- d) the Law Commission

Ans (C)

Explanation: Article 124(1)

56. Consider the following towns of India:

1. Bhadrachalam
2. Chanderi
3. Kancheepuram
4. Karnal

Which of the above are famous for the production of traditional sarees/fabric?

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

Ans (B)

Explanation:

Chandery :-This is a variety of tissue silk that gives rise to see-through sarees. Madhya Pradesh is famous for producing these elegant pieces of masterful art.

57. Consider the following pairs:

National Highway	Cities connected
1. NH 4	Chennai and Hyderabad
2. NH 6	Mumbai and Kolkata
3. NH 15	Ahmedabad and Jodhpur

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Ans (D)

Explanation:

National Highway 15 (NH 15) is a major National Highway in Western and Northwestern India. NH 15 connects Samakhiali in Gujarat with Pathankot in Punjab. This 1,526 km (948 mi)-long highway passes through Pathankot, Amritsar, Tarn Taran Sahib, Zira, Kotkapura, Bhatinda, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer. At Bikaner the National Highway 11 terminates on this

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Highway. Of its total length of 1,526 km (948 mi), the National Highway 15 traverses 350 km (220 mi) in Punjab, 906 km (563 mi) in Rajasthan, and 270 km (170 mi) in Gujarat.[1]

National Highway 4 (NH 4) is a major National Highway in Western and Southern India. NH 4 links four of the 10 most populous Indian cities - Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, and Chennai. NH 4 is 1,235 km (767 mi) in length and passes through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

National Highway 6, commonly referred to as NH 6, is a busy National Highway in India that runs through Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal state in India. The highway passes through the cities of Surat, Dhule, Amravati, Nagpur, Bhandara, Durg, Raipur, Mahasamund, Sambalpur, Kolkata. The road is the part of National Highway network of India, and it is officially listed as running over 1,949 km (1,211 mi) from Mumbai to Kolkata. It is also known as Mumbai Road.

58. Consider the following international agreements:

1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
3. The World Heritage Convention

Which of the above has/have a bearing on the biodiversity?

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

Ans (D)

Explanation:

International Conventions / Agreements India has participated in major international events on environment and biodiversity conservation since 1972. India is party to the following international agreements which have bearing

on biodiversity: • Bonn Convention on Migratory Species. • Convention on Biological Diversity, • Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species, • FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture • Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, • World Heritage Convention, • World Trade Organization, • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, • UN Convention to Combating Desertification, • UN Commission on Sustainable Development

59. Consider the following statements regarding 'Earth Hour':

1. It is an initiative of UNEP and UNESCO.
2. It is a movement in which the participants switch off the lights for one hour on a certain day every year.
3. It is a movement to raise the awareness about the climate change and the need to save the planet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement for the planet organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The event is held worldwide annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the last Saturday in March, as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.

60. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of a food chain?

- a) Diatoms/Crustaceans-Herrings
- b) Crustaceans-Diatoms-Herrings
- c) Diatoms-Herrings-Crustaceans
- d) Crustaceans-Herrings-Diatoms

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Ans (A)

Explanation:

Diatoms or auto trophs meaning living beings which prepare their own food like plant. Crustaceans are herbivorous animals. Herrings are carnivorous animals. Thus one eats the other and completes the food chain.

61. What are the significances of the practical approach to sugarcane production known as ‘Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative’?

1. Seed cost is very low in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.
2. Drip irrigation can be practiced very effectively in this.
3. There is no application of chemical/inorganic fertilizers at all in this.
4. The scope for intercropping is more in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans (C)

Explanation :

As per TN Agro university webpage : NPK(fertilizers) can be applied at the rate of 112 kg, 25 kg, 48 kg per acre, respectively through inorganic or organic methods. There fore statement 3 is wrong. So 1,2,4 is right answers.

62. If a wetland of international importance is brought under the ‘Montreux Record’, what does it imply?

- a) Changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in the wetland as a result of human interference.
- b) The country in which the wetland is located should enact a law to prohibit any human

activity within five Kilio metres from the edge of the wetland.

- c) The survival of the wetland depends on the cultural practices and traditions of certain communities living in its vicinity and therefore the cultural diversity therein should not be destroyed.
- d) It is given the status of ‘World Heritage Site’

Ans (A)

Explanation

The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

63. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the ‘Ten Degree Channel’?

- a) Andaman and Nicobar
- b) Nicobar and Sumatra
- c) Maldives and Lakshadweep
- d) Sumatra and Java

Ans (A)

Explanation : Andaman and Nicobar is right pair of islands is separated from each other by 10 degree channel

64. Consider the following pairs:

- | Programme / Project | Ministry |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Drought Prone Area Programme | : Ministry of Agriculture |
| 2. Desert Development Programme | : Ministry of Environment and Forests |
| 3. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas | : Ministry of Rural Development |

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Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None

Ans (B)

Explanation

All the three programme are by Rural Development Ministry

65.With reference to Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), consider the following statements:

- It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- It strives to conserve nature through action-based research, education and public awareness.
- It organizes and conducts nature trails and camps for the general public.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) – a membership-driven organization - has been promoting the cause of a natural India for the past 130 years since 1883. It was started by 8 Mumbai citizens, of which two were Indians. The Society's guiding principle has always been that conservation must be based on scientific research - a tradition exemplified by its former president, late Dr Sálím Ali. Designated as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

66.With reference to 'Global Environment Facility', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It serves as financial mechanism for 'Convention on Biological Diversity' and 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'
- It undertakes scientific research on environmental issues at global level
- It is an agency under OECD to facilitate the transfer of technology and funds to underdeveloped countries with specific aim to protect their environment.
- Both (a) and (b)

Ans (D)

Explanation :

Global Environment Facility (GEF) the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. The GEF serves as financial mechanism for the following conventions:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury

67.With reference to technologies for solar power production, consider the following statements:

- 'Photovoltaics' is a technology that generates electricity by direct conversion of light into electricity, while 'Solar Thermal' is a technology that utilizes the Sun's rays to generate heat which is further used in electricity generation process.
- Photovoltaics generates Alternating Current (AC), while Solar Thermal generates Direct Current (DC).
- India has manufacturing base for Solar Thermal technology, but not for Photovoltaics.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None

Ans (A)

Explanation : Photovoltaic generates direct current. India has manufacturing base for both solar thermal technology and photo voltaics.

68. Consider the following languages:

- Gujarati
- Kannada
- Telugu

Which of the above has/have been declared as 'Classical Language/ Languages' by the Government?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation

In 2004, the Government of India declared that languages that met certain requirements could be accorded the status of a "Classical Language in India".[29] (These are not classical languages in the usual sense.) Languages thus far declared to be Classical are Tamil (in 2004),[30] Sanskrit (in 2005),[31] Telugu (in 2008), Kannada (in 2008),[32] Malayalam (in 2013)[33] and Oriya (in 2014).[34][35]

69. Consider the following pairs:

- Dampa Tiger Reserve : Mizoram
- Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary : Sikkim
- Saramati Peak : Nagaland

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation

Dampa Tiger Reserve, the largest wildlife sanctuary in Mizoram, Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary is famous wildlife reserve in Tripura. Saramati is a peak rising above the surrounding peaks at the mountainous border of Nagaland state (India)

70. With reference to a conservation organization called 'Wetlands International', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the countries which are signatories to Ramsar Convention.
- It works at the field level to develop and mobilize knowledge, and use the practical experience to advocate for better policies.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans (B)

Explanation

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. We are deeply concerned about the loss and deterioration of wetlands such as lakes, marshes and rivers. Our vision is a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide. Wetlands International work at the field level to develop and mobilise knowledge, and use this practical experience to advocate for better policies.

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71. With reference to a grouping of countries known as BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. The First Summit of BRICS was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2009.
2. South Africa was the last to join the BRICS grouping.

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

The inaugural BRIC summit took place in Yekaterinburg, Russia on June 16, 2009

72. Consider the following diseases:

1. Diphtheria
2. Chickenpox
3. Smallpox

Which of the above diseases has/have been eradicated in India?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Ans (B)

Explanation :

WHO certified the eradication of smallpox in 1979.

73. Which of the following phenomena might have influenced the evolution of organisms?

1. Continental drift
2. Glacial cycles

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (C)

Explanation : Both will effect the location and temperature of the continent respectively which are very important factor for evolution of organisms.

74. Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Ganges River Dolphins?

1. Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
2. Increase in the population of crocodiles in rivers
3. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
4. Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop-fields in the vicinity of rivers

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (C)

Explanation :

Indian Gangetic Dolphins are obligate river water dolphin. Increase in the population of crocodile does not affect Gangetic Dolphins.

75. The Radcliffe Committee was appointed to

- a) solve the problem of minorities in India
- b) give effect to the Independence Bill
- c) delimit the boundaries between India and Pakistan
- d) enquire into the riots in East Bengal

Ans (C)

Explanation :

The Radcliffe Line was published on 17 August 1947 as a boundary demarcation line between India and Pakistan upon the Partition of India. The Radcliffe Line was named after its architect, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who as chairman of the Border Commissions.

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76. Brominated flame retardants are used in many household products like mattresses and upholstery. Why is there some concern about their use?

1. They are highly resistant to degradation in the environment.
2. They are able to accumulate in humans and animals.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (C)

Explanation :

There are five main classes of Brominated flameretardants, listed here with their common uses:

- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)
- Plastics, textiles, electronic castings, circuitry
- Hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDDs) – thermal insulation in the building industry
- Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) and other phenols – printed circuit boards, thermoplastics (mainly in TVs)
- Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) – consumer appliances, textiles, plastic foams
- Other brominated flame retardants. They are persistence in environment and hazardous to both humans and animals.

77. Consider the following:

1. Bats
2. Bears
3. Rodents

The phenomenon of hibernation can be observed in which of the above kinds of animals?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) Hibernation cannot be observed in any of the above

Ans (C)

Explanation : Hibernation is also known as winter sleep. Animals that undergo hibernation are Bat, Hedgehog, Bear, frog, Rodents etc.

78. Which one of the following is the largest Committee of the Parliament?

- a) The Committee on Public Accounts
 - b) The Committee on Estimates
 - c) The Committee on Public Undertakings
 - d) The Committee on Petitions
- Explanation:** Committee on Estimates has 30 M.Ps
Committee on Public

Ans (C)

Explanation

Accounts has 22 M.Ps
Committee on Petitions has 25 M.Ps
Committee on Public Undertakings has 22 M.Ps

79. Which of the following adds/add carbon dioxide to the carbon cycle on the planet Earth?

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (C)

Explanation :

Photosynthesis involves uptake of carbon dioxide and release of oxygen. Through this mechanism only forest acts as carbon sink.

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80. If you walk through countryside, you are likely to see some birds stalking alongside the cattle to seize the insects disturbed by their movement through grasses. Which of the following is/are such bird/birds?

1. Painted Stork
2. Common Myna
3. Black-necked Crane

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)

Explanation : Common myna is insect eaters and found mostly alongside of cattle during grazing.

81. Which of the following have coral reefs?

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Gulf of Kachchh
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Sunderbans

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Explanation

Gulf Of KUTCH Exclusively Consist Of Fringing Reefs. The Reefs are relatively Less Developed Due to large range of temperature and high salinity . Harbours with less Biodiversity . The Entire Gulf Of Kutch is also known as Marine national park . Lakshadweep Exclusively Coral Atoll with 36 island of which 10 are inhabited . The islands range from less than a kilometer to about 9 km in length & does not exceed 2km across . Gulf Of Mannar Fringing reefs with a chain of 20 islands from Rameshwaram in North to Tuticorin In South. This part of the gulf forms part of Gulf of mannar biosphere reserve . Andaman & Nicobar Island Situated in Bay Of

Bengal, Exclusively Fringing Reefs of about 500 Islands , most of this island are with healthy biodiversity .

82. In India, the problem of soil erosion is associated with which of the following?

1. Terrace cultivation
2. Deforestation
3. Tropical climate

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (B)

Explanation :

Deforestation will increase the runoff. Tropical Climates alone cannot create soil erosion. terrace cultivation also not possible.

83. The seasonal reversal of winds is the typical characteristic of

- a) Equatorial climate
- b) Mediterranean climate
- c) Monsoon climate
- d) All of the above climates

Ans (C)

Explanation :

Monsoon connotes the climate associated with seasonal reversal in the direction of winds.

84. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to

- (a) an assembly of village elders
- (b) a religious sect
- (c) a style of temple construction
- (d) an administrative functionary

Ans (C)

Explanation

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Panchayantan means a group of five temples on one platform with main temple at the center

85. Consider the following rivers:

1. Barak
2. Lohit
3. Subansiri

Which of the above flows/flow through Arunachal Pradesh?

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

Ans (B)

Explanation

The Barak River is one of the major rivers of South Assam and is a part of the Surma-Meghna River System. Lohit River is a river in Arunachal Pradesh in India. It is a tributary to the Brahmaputra River. The Subansiri River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River in the Indian states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

86. Consider the following pairs:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Wetlands | Confluence of rivers |
| 1. Harike Wetlands | : Confluence of Beas and Satluj/Sutlej |
| 2. Keoladeo Ghana National Park and | : Confluence of Banas and Chambal |
| 3. Kolleru Lake and Krishna | : Confluence of Musi |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans (A)

Explanation

Harike Wetland also known as "Hari-ke-Pattan". It is the largest wetland in northern India. It is located in the Tarn Taran Sahib district of the Punjab state. The headworks is located downstream of the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej rivers. This wetland was declared a bird sanctuary in 1982 and named as Harike Pattan Bird Sanctuary. Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in state of Andhra Pradesh. Kolleru is located between Krishna and Godavari delta. The Musi River which flows through the city of Hyderabad

87. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy?

- a) Mimamsa and Vedanta
- b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika
- c) Lokayata and Kapalika
- d) Sankhya and Yoka

Ans (C)

Explanation : The Six Systems of Indian Philosophy are

1. Samkya
2. Yoga
3. Naya
4. Mimamsa
5. Vedanta
6. Vaiseshika.

Lokayata & kapalika are the hetrodoxal sects respectively.

88. Consider the following pairs:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Hills | Region |
| 1. Cardamom Hills | : Coromandel Coast |
| 2. Kaimur Hills | : Konkan Coast |
| 3. Mahadeo Hills | : Central India |
| 4. Mikir Hills | : North-East India |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

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Ans (C)

Explanation

Cardamom Hills, mountainous area in southeastern Kerala state, southern India, forming part of the Western Ghats range Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Kaimur District of Bihar and is near Bhabhua. It is the largest sanctuary in the state and occupies an area of about 1342 km². The Mahadeo Hills are a range of hills in Madhya Pradesh state of central India. The hills form the central part of the Satpura Range. The Karbis, mentioned as the Mikir in the Constitution Order of the Government of India, are one of the major ethnic groups in North-east India and especially in the hill areas of Assam.

89. Which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution of India contains provisions regarding anti-defection?

- a) Second Schedule
- b) Fifth Schedule
- c) Eighth Schedule
- d) Tenth Schedule

Ans (D)

Explanation 10th Schedule – Anti – deflection law.

90. The most important strategy for the conservation of biodiversity together with traditional human life is the establishment of

- a) biosphere reserves
- b) botanical gardens
- c) national parks
- d) wildlife sanctuaries

Ans (A)

Explanation : Biosphere reserves are established under UNESCO's Man And Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

91. Turkey is located between

- a) Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- b) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- c) Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea
- d) Gulf of Aqaba and Dead Sea

Ans (B)

Explanation

Turkey is situated in Anatolia and the Balkans, bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Georgia, and bordering the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Syria.

92. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities in South-East Asia as one proceeds from south to north?

- 1. Bangkok
- 2. Hanoi
- 3. Jakarta
- 4. Singapore

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (C)

93. The scientific view is that the increase in global temperature should not exceed 20C above pre-industrial level. If the global temperature increases beyond 30C above the pre-industrial level, what can be its possible impact/impacts on the world?

- 1. Terrestrial biosphere tends toward a net carbon source.
- 2. Widespread coral mortality will occur.
- 3. All the global wetlands will permanently disappear.
- 4. Cultivation of cereals will not be possible anywhere in the world.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Ans (B)

Explanation

At the current increasing rate of greenhouse gas emissions, a temperature rise of up to 4.0°C (7.2°F) this century is a distinct possibility. These changes have already had harmful impacts on coral reef ecosystems and will continue to affect coral reef ecosystems globally over the coming century. At the same time, the ocean absorbs approximately one-third of the additional CO₂ generated every year by human activities, making the ocean more acidic. The resulting change to ocean chemistry has important consequences for corals and other marine life, especially other important reef builders. Warming seas and ocean acidification are already affecting reefs by causing mass coral bleaching events and slowing the growth of coral skeletons. Bleaching and infectious disease outbreaks are likely to be more frequent and severe as temperatures rise, increasing coral mortality. At current anthropogenic emission rates, the ongoing positive trends in the terrestrial carbon sink will peak before mid-century, then begin diminishing, even without accounting for tropical deforestation trends and biosphere feedback, tending strongly towards a net carbon source before 2100, assuming continued greenhouse gas emissions and land-use change trends at or above current rates (high confidence), while the buffering capacity of the oceans will begin to saturate; The overall effects of climate-induced changes in land and crop suitability and yields are small compared with those stemming from economic and technological growth. By 2020 world cereal production might be only about 0.5 percent less than what it would have been in the absence of climate change (IPCC, 2001c; Parry et al., 1999), although this decline might be much greater by 2050 or later. The largest regional reduction would be in Africa where cereal production is projected to decline by 2-3 percent. This potential fall could be compensated by a relatively small increase in yields or imports. But this regional picture hides important subregional differences.

Parts of central and northern Africa may experience small increases in cereal yield

94. The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from

- Katha Upanishad
- Chandogya Upanishad
- Aitareya Upanishad
- Mundaka Upanishad

Ans (C)

Explanation

Satyameva Jayate: literal English: Truth Alone Triumphs) is a mantra from the ancient Indian scripture Mundaka Upanishad.[1] Upon independence of India, it was adopted as the national motto of India.[2] It is inscribed in Devanagari script at the base of the national emblem. The emblem and the words "Satyameva Jayate" are inscribed on one side of all Indian currency. The emblem is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka which was erected around 250 BC at Sarnath, near Varanasi in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

95. In the Constitution of India, promotion of international peace and security is included in the

- Preamble to the Constitution
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Fundamental Duties
- Ninth Schedule

Ans (A)

Explanation Art 51(a)

96. What are the benefits of implementing the 'Integrated Watershed Development Programme?

- Prevention of soil runoff
- Linking the country's perennial rivers with seasonal rivers
- Rainwater harvesting and recharge of groundwater table
- Regeneration of natural vegetation.

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Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans (C)

Explanation

Major activities of the Watershed project: • Soil & moisture conservation measures like terracing, bunding, trenching, vegetative barriers etc. • Rain water harvesting activities like farm ponds, percolation tanks, checkdams etc. • Planting & sowing of multi-purpose trees, shrubs, grasses, legumes and pasture land development • Encouraging natural regeneration • Promotion of agro-forestry and horticulture • Measures needed to disseminate technology • Training, extension and creation of a greater degree of awareness among the participants • Encouraging peoples' participation • Livelihood activities for assetless people • Production system and micro-enterprise Source

97. Which of the following are with 'Planning' in India?

- The Finance Commission
- The National Development Council
- The Union Ministry of Rural Development
- The Union Ministry of Urban Development
- The Parliament

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1, 2 and 5 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Explanation: The NDC and Parliament are approving authorities of planning.

98. Which of the following is/are the function/functions of the Cabinet Secretariat?

- Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
- Secretarial assistance to Cabinet Committees.
- Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Explanation:

The Cabinet Secretariat is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. In the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 "Cabinet Secretariat" finds a place in the First Schedule to the Rules. The subjects allotted to this Secretariat are:-

- Secretarial assistance to Cabinet and Cabinet Committees.
- Rules of Business.
- The secretarial assistance provided by Cabinet Secretariat to the Cabinet and Cabinet committees, includes
- Convening of the meetings of the Cabinet on the orders of the Prime Minister.
- Preparation and circulation of the agenda.
- Circulating papers related to the cases on the agenda.
- Preparing a record of discussions taken.
- Circulation of the record after obtaining the approval of the Prime Minister.
- Watching implementation of the decisions taken by the Cabinet.

99. Consider the following statements:

A Constitutional Government is one which

1. places effective restrictions on individual liberty in the interest of State Authority
2. places effective restrictions on the Authority of the State in the interest of individual liberty.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

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

Ans (C)

Explanation : A constitutional Government needs to balance between individual liberty viz a viz State Authority

100. Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State?

1. Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule
2. Appointing the Ministers
3. Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India.
4. Making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans (B)

Explanation : For appointing the Minister Governor has to abide by the advise of Chief Minister (Article 164 (1) of Constitution of India). For making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government the Chief Secretary will do on the instructions of the Council of Ministers- Article 166.