

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

25th to 31st May,
2020

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

History

Q.1) The “**Treaty of Sugauli**” is signed between British East India Company and which of the following?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Assam
- c) Myanmar
- d) Nepal

ANS) D

Explanation: The **Treaty of Sugauli** that established the boundary line of Nepal and colonial India was signed on 2 December 1815 and ratified by 4 March 1816 between the East India Company and King of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16. The signatory for Nepal was Raj Guru Gajraj Mishra aided by Chandra Sekhar Upadhaya the signatory for the Company was Lieutenant Colonel Paris Bradshaw.

Q.2) Which of the following “**Governor-General of India**” was responsible for suppression of thugs in India?

- a) Lord Warren Hastings
- b) Lord William Bentinck
- c) Lord Hastings
- d) Lord Dalhousie

ANS) B

Explanation: The name of **Lord William Bentinck** is still cherished in India for suppression of the Thugs. The thugs, i.e., cheats were a sect of hereditary assassins and robbers who lived by preying upon innocent and defenseless travelers.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the “**General Committee of Public Instruction**”?

- 1. It had the responsibility to grant one lakh of rupees for education.
- 2. All the members of the committee were Europeans.

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: General Committee of Public Instruction.

Statement 1 is correct: In 1823, the Governor-General-in Council appointed a “General Committee of Public Instruction”, which **had the responsibility to grant one lakh of rupees for education**.

Statement 2 is correct: The **committee consisted of 10(ten) European members**, of which Lord Macaulay was the president. The committee decided to spend major portions from the grant for the improvement of oriental literature.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Indigo Riots**”?

- 1. Riots were started in Bengal and spread throughout the country.

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2. "Neel Darpan" play vividly portrays the oppression by planters upon indigo farmers. 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) B

Explanation: Indigo Riots.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Indigo was a commercial crop forced upon the peasantry by the Zamindars and British planters in the Zamindari areas of eastern India. At one point indigo cultivation was considered to be a symbol of India's slavery. Finally, in 1860 the terribly oppressed indigo peasants launched "Non-Cultivation of indigo" movements. Beginning with the ryots of Govindpur village in Nadia district of Bengal, the indigo strikes rapidly spread to other areas of Bengal. By the spring of 1860, **it totally covered all the indigo districts of Bengal.**

Statement 2 is correct: The indigo peasants got tremendous support from the intelligentsia and the press, as well as from the missionaries of Bengal. Outstanding in this respect was the role of Harish Chandra Mukherjee editor of Hindu Patriot. **Dina Bandhu Mitra's play 'Neel Darpan' was to gain great fame for vividly portraying the oppression by planters upon indigo farmers.**

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about "Mahalwari system"?

- 1. Mahal or village is a fiscal unit to collect rent.
- 2. Mahalwari system prevailed in North-western, Central and Bombay provinces.

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) A

Explanation: Mahalwari system.

Statement 1 is correct: The settlement was **directly made with the village or Mahal by the Settlement Officers**, who fixed the rent with the consultation of Lambardar and the rent to be paid by the cultivating tenants. The system was known as Mauzawari in United Provinces, Malguzari in the Central Provinces, and village or mahali settlement in pre-independent Punjab. **Mahal simply defined as a fiscal unit** was a local area coincides with a large or forms a part of village or includes several parts of villages.

Statement 2 is incorrect: **Mahalwari system covered the most fertile tract of British India including Ganga-Jamuna Doab, major areas of Agra and Awadh Provinces, North Western Provinces, old Banares, the Ceded and Conquered districts and Later on it was extended to Central Provinces and the British Punjab.** The **Ryotwari system of land revenue** was instituted in the late 18th century by Sir Thomas Munro, Governor of Madras in 1820. This **was practiced in the Madras and Bombay areas, as well as Assam and Coorg provinces.** In this system, the peasants or cultivators were regarded as the owners of the land. They had ownership rights, could sell, mortgage or gift the land.

Q.6) "The Indian War of Independence -1857" book is written by which of the following?

- a) Lala Hardayal
- b) Subhash Chandra Bose

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- c) Madama Cama
- d) V.D. Savarkar

ANS) D

Explanation: Savarkar attempted to look at the incidents of 1857 from the Indian point of view. A leading revolutionary himself, he was attracted and inspired by the burning zeal, the heroism, bravery, suffering and tragic fate of the leaders of 1857, and he decided to re-interpret the story and to relate it in full with the help of all the material available to him at the time. He spent days and months at the India Office Library studying the period. Savarkar wrote this book originally in Marathi and completed writing it in 1908. As it was impossible to get this book published in India, the manuscript was returned back to Savarkar. Attempts to get this book published in Germany also failed. Some Indian students staying in India House translated this book into English. Finally, **this work was published in Holland in 1909, under the title “The Indian War of Independence – 1857”.**

Q.7) The term “**India Office**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Court-of-Directors
- b) Board-of-Directors
- c) Secretary of State-in-Council
- d) Viceroy Executive Council

ANS) C

Explanation: Under the Act of 1858, the Secretary of State became the Constitutional advisor of the crown in all matters relating to India. **The establishment of the Secretary of State-in-Council was commonly known as the India office.**

Q.8) Which of the following **crops** is/are introduced by Britishers in India?

- 1. Beet root
- 2. Tomato
- 3. Guava

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Crops introduced by **Britishers:**

- **Pseudo cereals:** oat.
- **Grain legumes:** black bean, pea.
- **Fiber crops:** cotton.
- **Vegetables:** leek, satawar, **beet root**, cauliflower, celery, sweet pepper, chicory, squash, carrot, orange type, lettuce, **tomato**, sweet pea.

Q.9) Which of the following Acts is/are passed during the tenure of Viceroy “**Lord Lytton**”?

- 1. The Royal Titles Act
- 2. The Vernacular Press Act
- 3. The Arms Act
- 4. The Factory Act

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Lord Lytton during his tenure, a **Royal Titles Act** conferring on the queen Victoria the title of the Empress of India was passed and a magnificent Delhi Darbar was organized in 1877 in which Queen Victoria was adorned with title Qaiser-i-Hind. Aligarh College was founded in 1877 and the **Vernacular Press act, Arms act were passed in 1878.**

Q.10) "Northcote- Trevelyan Reforms" is related to which of the following?

- a) British Army reforms
- b) Primary Health reforms
- c) Tribal forest regulations
- d) Civil service reforms

ANS) D

Explanation: The second half of the 19th century saw the reform of the civil service and establishment of the fundamental pattern. The last century the main trend in the history and development of the civil service has been the movement towards integration into a single service, with common conditions of employment common traditions and standards the modern civil service may be said to be built up as a result of the suggestions made in the **Northcote - Trevelyan report on the organization of the permanent civil service** which was presented to parliament in 1854.

Economy

Q.1) With reference to the “**Tax-to-GDP**” ratio of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A higher Tax-to-GDP ratio generally leads to reduced government borrowing.
2. India’s Tax-to-GDP ratio is less than the average OECD Tax-to-GDP ratio.

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: Tax-to-GDP.

Statement 1 is correct: Tax-to-GDP ratio represents the size of a country's tax kitty relative to its GDP. It is a representation of the size of the government's tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. **Higher the tax to GDP ratio the better financial position the country** will be in. The ratio represents that the government is able to finance its expenditure. A **higher tax to GDP ratio means that the government is able to cast its fiscal net wide. It reduces a government's dependence on borrowings.**

Statement 2 is correct: Although **India has improved its tax-to-GDP ratio in the last six years, it is still far lower than the average OECD ratio which is 34 per cent.** India's tax-to-GDP ratio is lower than some of its peers in the developing world. Developed countries tend to have higher tax-to-GDP ratio.

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework**” in India?

1. It was based on the recommendation of Urjit patel committee.
2. It was given statutory basis by amending the RBI ACT, 1934.

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: Inflation Targeting Framework.

Statement 1 is correct: In his first speech as RBI Governor, Raghuram Rajan (Reserve Bank of India, 2013) emphasized on the importance of inflation targeting and set up an Expert Committee under **Deputy Governor Urjit Patel** to assess the current monetary policy and give recommendations to strengthen it.

Statement 2 is correct: The RBI Act was amended on May 14, 2016 to give the key provisions in the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (MPFA) a **statutory basis.**

Q.3) Which of the following “**Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers**” is/are released by Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour?

1. CPI for Industrial Workers (IW).
2. CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL).

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3. CPI for Rural Labourers (RL).
 4. CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME).
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: At the national level, **there are four Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers.**

These are:

- CPI for Industrial Workers (IW),
- CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL),
- CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and
- CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME).

The base years of the current series of CPI (IW), CPI (AL) and CPI (RL), and CPI (UNME) are 1982, 1986-87 and 1984-85, respectively. While **the first three are compiled and released by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour, the fourth one is released by the Central Statistical Organisation** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Note - CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME) has been discontinued since Dec 2010.

Q.4) “Internal Debt” of India consists of which of the following?

1. Dated securities
2. Treasury bills
3. Securities issued to International Financial Institutions
4. Securities against small savings

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Internal debt of India consists of:

- Dated government securities or G-secs.
- Treasury Bills or T-bills
- External Assistance
- Short term borrowings
- Public Debt definition by Union Government

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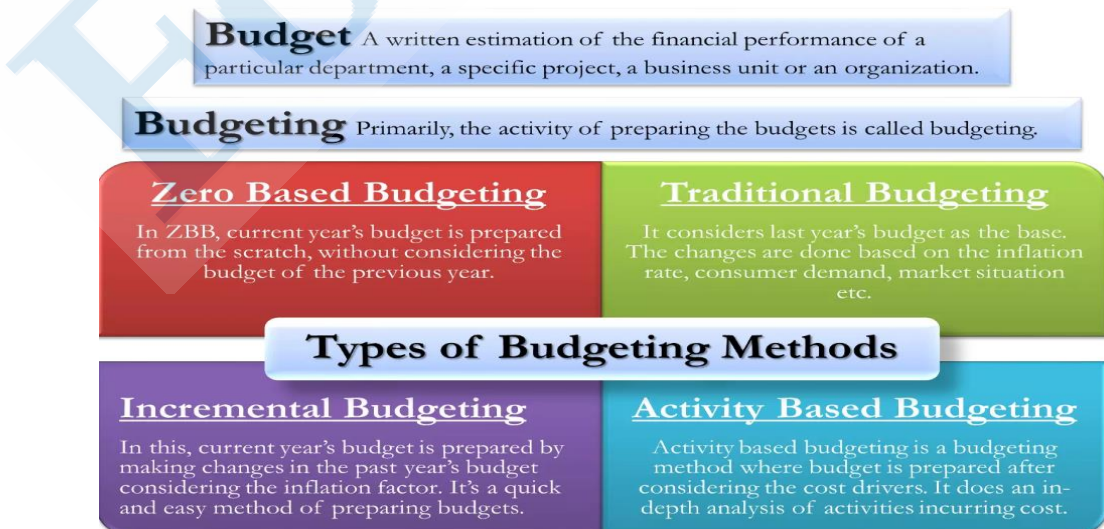
| COMPONENTS OF DEBT | ACTUALS | | | | | Provisional | Estimates | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | RE | BE |
| | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | | | | | | |
| A. PUBLIC DEBT (B+C) | 1484001.33 | 1647690.71 | 1911682.10 | 2142886.77 | 2462422.05 | 2824753.92 | 2860191.25 | 3281464.94 |
| B. INTERNAL DEBT (i+ii) | 1389758.29 | 1544975.17 | 1799651.18 | 2019841.17 | 2328338.90 | 2667114.82 | 2703844.28 | 3110617.97 |
| (i) Under MSS | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Dated Securities | 11000.00 | 22000.00 | 128317.00 | 79772.78 | 2737.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20000.00 |
| (b) Treasury Bills | 18062.17 | 40973.95 | 42236.77 | 9000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total (a+b) | 29062.17 | 62973.95 | 170553.77 | 88772.78 | 2737.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20000.00 |
| (ii) Market Loans | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Dated Securities | 967676.32 | 1074604.07 | 1197371.61 | 1426501.59 | 1824925.95 | 2150340.42 | 2181152.24 | 2524152.24 |
| (b) Treasury Bills | 91489.15 | 112901.40 | 140382.23 | 239978.53 | 230209.76 | 237968.93 | 240209.76 | 255209.76 |
| (c) Compensation & Other Bonds | 72761.37 | 62095.74 | 71325.13 | 47506.38 | 38731.52 | 31005.37 | 39986.86 | 35869.38 |
| (d) Securities issued to International Financial Institutions | 25151.61 | 25798.49 | 24719.41 | 23085.34 | 24482.60 | 29314.81 | 17462.69 | 26171.40 |
| (e) Securities against small savings | 203617.67 | 206601.52 | 195299.03 | 193996.55 | 207252.07 | 218485.29 | 225032.73 | 249215.19 |
| Total (a+b+c+d+e) | 1360696.12 | 1482001.22 | 1629097.41 | 1931068.39 | 2325601.9 | 2667114.82 | 2703844.28 | 3090617.97 |

Q.5) "It is a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period". The above statement describes which of the following?

- a) Traditional budgeting
- b) Zero-based budgeting
- c) Incremental budgeting
- d) Activity based budgeting

ANS) B

Explanation: Zero-based budgeting (ZBB) is a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. The process of zero-based budgeting starts from a "zero base," and every function within an organization is analyzed for its needs and costs. Budgets are then built around what is needed for the upcoming period, regardless of whether each budget is higher or lower than the previous one.



Q.6) The term “**Crowding out Effect**”, often seen news, is related to which of the following?

- Rise in individual borrowings
- Rise in foreign investment
- Rise in borrowing of government
- Rise in high powered money

ANS) C

Explanation: Crowding out Effect

In some situations, such as high budget deficit etc, there is rise in government borrowing from the market. Due to the excessive borrowing by the government from the market, there is little credit left for private sector to borrow. As a result, interest rate rises, making borrowings by private sector costly and leading to decline in private investment. This is known as crowding out effect. The private borrowing and subsequent private investment is discouraged.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are “**determinants of Supply**”?

- The number of sellers in a market.
- The amount of government regulation, subsidies or taxes in a market.
- The prices of inputs used to produce a good.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The law of supply states that there is a positive relationship between price and quantity supplied, leading to an upward-sloping supply curve. The determinants of supply: changes in non-price factors that will cause an entire supply curve to shift (increasing or decreasing market supply); these include

- the number of sellers in a market,
- the level of technology used in a good’s production,
- the prices of inputs used to produce a good,
- the amount of government regulation, subsidies or taxes in a market,
- the price of other goods sellers could produce, and
- the expectations among producers of future prices.

Q.8) Which of the following is an example of “**Stealth Tax**”?

- Personal Income Tax
- Corporate Tax
- Sales Tax
- All of the above

ANS) C

Explanation: **Stealth taxes are sometimes built into the prices of products so that consumers do not see how much tax they are paying.** In comparison to income taxes and property taxes, stealth taxes are smaller and less visible. Because of their lower visibility they attract significantly less attention than income or property taxes. Governments find stealth taxes easier to collect than other types of taxes because the government collects them at the point of sale and they do not depend on a taxpayer’s income level. **The most common stealth tax is the sales tax.**

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Q.9) The term “**Walrus Law**” is related to which of the following?

- a) International Trade
- b) Demand of goods equal to Supply of goods
- c) Carrying Capacity
- d) None

ANS) B

Explanation: As per the Walrus law, ‘**the total value of goods demanded in an economy is always identically equal to the total value of goods supplied**’. For this to happen, the economy should be in equilibrium. It also means that if there is an excess supply of certain things in one market there must be excess demand for it in another market. Here ‘another market’ does not mean the market of another economy—it is taken as, apple’s market, grape’s market (as ‘separate’ markets). This could be only correct in a barter economy (it does not work in an economy with currency as its mode of exchange). The idea was part of the ‘general equilibrium theory’ developed by the French mathematical economist Marie-Espirit-Leon Walras (1834-1910), after whom it is named.

Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct about “**Tobin tax**”?

- 1. It is a tax imposes on all foreign exchange transactions.
- 2. At present only USA, Japan and Germany implement Tobin tax.

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) B

Explanation: Tobin tax.

Statement 1 is correct: It is a **proposal of imposing small tax on all foreign exchange transactions** with the objective to discourage destabilizing speculation and volatility in the foreign exchange markets.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Proposed by the Nobel prize-winning economist James Tobin (1918– 2002), the **tax has never been implemented anywhere in the world so far.**

Polity

Q.1) With reference to the “**Constituent Assembly**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was recommended by Cabinet Mission for the purpose of framing a new Constitution.
2. With the passing of the Indian Independence Act of 1947, the Constituent Assembly became a sovereign body.

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: The Constituent Assembly.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Cabinet Mission of 1946** consisting of three British Cabinet Ministers – Lord Pethic Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Alexander, **recommended the setting up of a Constituent Assembly** for the purpose of framing a new Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct: Initially, as the Constituent Assembly was brought about by the British Government it could not be called a sovereign body and its powers were limited. However, with the **passing of the Indian Independence Act of 1947, the Constituent Assembly became a sovereign body** and it was free to frame a Constitution as it pleased. The Indian Independence Act of 1947 also empowered the Constituent Assembly to frame laws for India until the new Constitution came in to force.

Q.2) The Indian National Congress called it a “**slave constitution that attempted to strengthen and perpetuate the economic bondage of India**”. The above statement describes which of the following Act?

- a) Act of 1909 (Morley-Minto reforms).
- b) The Government of India Act of 1919.
- c) The Government of India Act of 1935.
- d) The Indian Independence Act of 1947.

ANS) C

Explanation: The **Government of Indian Act was passed by the British parliament in 1935 and came into effect in 1937**. It was based on a report by a Joint Select Committee, led by Lord Linlithgow, set up by the two houses of the British parliament. The report, in turn, was the result of the Joint Committee’s scrutiny of the ‘White Paper’ – a **scheme of constitutional proposals** - prepared by the British government close on the heels of the Round Table conferences. Except for the National Liberal Federation, most political parties in India took a negative view of the Act. The Indian National Congress called it a ‘**slave constitution that attempted to strengthen and perpetuate the economic bondage of India**’.

Q.3) “Constituent Assembly appointed a number of committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making”. Which of the following **committees were headed by Jawaharlal Nehru**?

1. Union Powers Committee.
2. Union Constitution Committee.

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3. States Committee.
 4. Provincial Constitution Committee.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: The Constituent Assembly appointed a number of committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making. Out of these, eight were major committees and the others were minor committees. The names of these committees and their chairmen are given below:

- **Union Powers Committee** – Jawaharlal Nehru
- **Union Constitution Committee** – Jawaharlal Nehru
- Provincial Constitution Committee – Sardar Patel
- Drafting Committee – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas – Sardar Patel
- Rules of Procedure Committee – Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- **States Committee** (Committee for Negotiating with States) – Jawaharlal Nehru
- Steering Committee – Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Q.4) Which of the following features in Indian Constitution has/have been borrowed from the “**Canada’s Constitution**”?

1. Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
2. Office of Governor.
3. Appointment of state governors by the Centre.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The **Indian Constitution is known as a bag of borrowings** and draws its features from the Constitutions of many countries. Dr BR Ambedkar rightly said that it was created after ransacking the known Constitutions across the world. The features borrowed from Canada’s Constitution are:

- Federation with a strong Centre
- Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre
- **Appointment of state governors by the Centre**
- **Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court**

The **Office of Governor** is borrowed from the Government of India Act of 1935.

Q.5) Which of the following right/rights is/are covered under **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution**?

1. Right to travel abroad.
2. Right to move freely throughout the territory of India.
3. Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: The Right to move freely throughout the territory of India and Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India comes under Protection of six rights regarding freedom (Article 19). **Right to travel abroad is comes under Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21).**

Q.6) With reference to the “**right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice**”, which of the following rights is/are correct?

- 1. To choose its governing body.
- 2. To appoint teaching and non-teaching staff.
- 3. To set up its own fee structure.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: In a Judgement delivered in the Secretary of Malankara Syrian Catholic College case (2007), the Supreme Court has summarized the general principles relating to establishment and administration of minority educational institutions in the following way: The right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice comprises the following rights:

- To choose its governing body in whom the founders of the institution have faith and confidence to conduct and manage the affairs of the institution;
- To appoint teaching staff (teachers/lecturers and headmasters/ principals) as also non-teaching staff; and to take action if there is dereliction of duty on the part of any of its employees;
- To admit eligible students of their choice and to set up a reasonable fee structure; and
- To use its properties and assets for the benefit of the institution.

Q.7) Which of the following is **NOT** a fundamental duty?

- a) To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- b) To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood.
- c) To promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order.
- d) To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.

ANS) C

Explanation: According to Article 51 A, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India:

- to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
- to **uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;**

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- to **promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood** amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;
- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;
- to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- to **safeguard public property and to abjure violence**;

To **promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order** permeated by justice—social, economic and political—and to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities is a **Directive Principles of State Policy**.

Q.8) Which of the following Act/Acts has/have been “**passed by Parliament on the request of the states**”?

1. The Prize Competition Act, 1955.
2. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: When the legislatures of two or more states pass resolutions requesting the Parliament to enact laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament can make laws for regulating that matter. A law so enacted applies only to those states which have passed the resolutions. However, any other state may adopt it afterwards by passing a resolution to that effect in its legislature. Such a law can be amended or repealed only by the Parliament and not by the legislatures of the concerned states. **Some examples of laws passed under the above provision are Prize Competition Act, 1955; Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976; and Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.**

Q.9) Consider the following pairs:

- | List | : | Subject |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Union List | : | Public health |
| 2. State List | : | Regulation of mines and mineral development |
| 3. Concurrent List | : | Electricity |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Public health and sanitation, Regulation of mines and mineral development comes under State list. Electricity is in Concurrent list.

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Q.10) With reference to the “**Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
2. The Constitution authorizes the Parliament to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

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) A

Explanation: Union Public Service Commission.

Statement 1 is correct: The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India. The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition. Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Constitution also **authorizes the president** to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

Science and technology

Q.1) Which of the following event/event produces the “**Gravitational Waves**”?

1. Colliding black holes.
2. Massive stars exploding at the end of their lifetimes.
3. Colliding neutron stars.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: The **strongest gravitational waves are produced by cataclysmic events such as colliding black holes, supernovae (massive stars exploding at the end of their lifetimes), and colliding neutron stars.** Other waves are predicted to be caused by the rotation of neutron stars that are not perfect spheres, and possibly even the remnants of gravitational radiation created by the Big Bang.

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Sublimation**”?

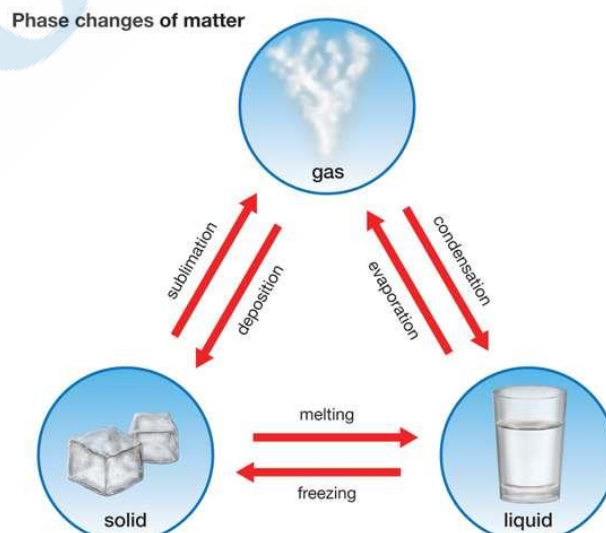
1. It is a process in which solids directly change to gases.
2. Camphor is an example of solids that undergo sublimation.

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: The **process in which solids directly change to gases is known as sublimation.** This occurs when solids absorb enough energy to completely overcome the forces of attraction between them. **Dry ice and Camphor are examples of solids that undergo sublimation.**



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Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Oxides of Nitrogen**”?

1. Nitrous oxide is a white colour gas with a mild, pleasant odour and a sweet taste is used as an anesthetic for minor operations.
2. Nitric oxide is one of the environmental pollutants generated by internal-combustion engines.

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) B

Explanation: Oxides of Nitrogen.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Nitrogen (N) forms oxides in which nitrogen exhibits each of its positive oxidation numbers from +1 to +5. Nitrous oxide (dinitrogen oxide), N_2O , is formed when ammonium nitrate, NH_4NO_3 , is heated. **This oxide, which is a colourless gas with a mild, pleasant odour and a sweet taste**, is used as an anesthetic for minor operations, especially in dentistry. It is called laughing gas because of its intoxicating effect. It is also widely used as a propellant in aerosol cans of whipped cream.

Statement 2 is correct: Gaseous nitric oxide is the most thermally stable oxide of nitrogen and is also the simplest known thermally stable paramagnetic molecule—i.e., a molecule with an unpaired electron. It is **one of the environmental pollutants generated by internal-combustion engines, resulting from the reaction of nitrogen and oxygen in the air during the combustion process.**

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Styrene**”?

1. It is primarily a synthetic material and easily dissolves in water.
2. It is used in making plastics, paints, automobile parts, food containers and disposal cups.
3. Low levels of styrene also occur naturally in a variety of foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, beverages, and meats.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: **Styrene is primarily a synthetic chemical.** It is also known as vinyl benzene, ethenyl benzene, cinnamene, or phenyl ethylene. It's a colorless liquid that evaporates easily and has a sweet smell. It often contains other chemicals that give it a sharp, unpleasant smell. **It dissolves in some liquids but doesn't dissolve easily in water.** Billions of pounds are produced each year to make products such as rubber, plastic, insulation, fiberglass, pipes, automobile parts, food containers, and carpet backing. Most of these products contain styrene linked together in a long chain (polystyrene) as well as unlinked styrene. **Low levels of styrene also occur naturally in a variety of foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, beverages, and meats.**

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Lithium**”?

1. Lithium along with Hydrogen and Helium are the only elements created at the birth of the Universe.

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2. Lithium salts were the first drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat mania and depression.

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: Lithium.

Statement 1 is correct: The **only chemical elements created at the beginning of our universe were hydrogen, helium and lithium**, the three lightest atoms in the periodic table. These elements were formed throughout the universe as a hot gas.

Statement 2 is correct: Lithium makes up a mere 0.0007 percent of the Earth's crust, according to the Jefferson Lab of USA, and it's only found locked up in minerals and salts.

Those salts have the power to change the brain: Lithium salts were the first drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat mania and depression, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Arthropod**”?

- 1. They are the smallest animal phylum-about 0.5% of all known animals in the world is part of this class.
- 2. Arthropods are warm blooded 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) D

Explanation: Arthropod.

Statement 1 is incorrect: **Arthropods are everywhere and are the largest animal phylum -- about 85% of all known animals in the world are part of this class.** There are far more species of arthropods than there are species in all the other phylum's (phyla) combined. They are spiders, insects, centipedes, mites, ticks, lobsters, crabs, shrimp, crayfish, krill, barnacles, scorpions and many, many others.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Arthropods are **cold blooded** -- which means, their body temperature depends on the temperature of the environment surrounding them.

Q.7) Which of the following disease/diseases is/are primarily spread through “**air**”?

- 1. SARS-CoV-2
- 2. Chicken Pox
- 3. Diphtheria

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

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Explanation: Airborne diseases are those caused by pathogens and transmitted through the air as very small or aerosolized particles. Disease-causing pathogens are organisms that spread from an infected person to another through coughing, talking, and sneezing - even breathing and laughing! According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, flu droplets can travel up to six feet away! There are three main types of organisms that can cause airborne diseases, including viruses, bacteria, and fungi. **Some examples of airborne diseases include the flu, tuberculosis, and valley fever. SARS-CoV-2, Chickenpox, Diphtheria and the measles can also be caused by airborne pathogens.**

Q.8) Which of the following micro-organism/s is/are “unicellular”?

1. Bacteria
2. Fungi
3. Protozoa

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: Unicellular Organisms.

- **Bacteria are tiny, single-celled organisms** that get nutrients from their environments.
- **Fungi live as either single-celled organisms or multi-cellular organisms.** Single-celled fungi are referred to as yeasts. The vast majority of fungi are multi-cellular. A fungus gets nutrition from plants, food, and animals in damp, warm environments.
- **Protozoa are one-celled organisms**, like bacteria. But they are bigger than bacteria and contain a nucleus and other cell structures, making them more like plant and animal cells.

Q.9) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about “Leishmaniasis”?

- a) There are 3 main forms of leishmaniases – visceral (also known as kala-azar), cutaneous (the most common), and mucocutaneous.
- b) Leishmaniasis is caused by the bacterium Leishmania which are transmitted by the bite of infected female phlebotomine sandflies.
- c) The disease affects some of the poorest people on earth, and is associated with malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and lack of financial resources.
- d) Leishmaniasis is linked to environmental changes such as deforestation, building of dams, irrigation schemes, and urbanization.

ANS) B

Explanation: Leishmaniasis.

- There are **3 main forms of leishmaniases** – visceral (also known as kala-azar, which is and the most serious form of the disease), cutaneous (the most common), and mucocutaneous.
- Leishmaniasis is caused by the **protozoan Leishmania parasites** which are transmitted by the bite of infected female phlebotomine sandflies.
- The **disease affects some of the poorest people** on earth, and is associated with malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and lack of financial resources.

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- **Leishmaniasis is linked to environmental changes** such as deforestation, building of dams, irrigation schemes, and urbanization.
- An estimated 700 000 to 1 million new cases occur annually.
- Only a small fraction of those infected by Leishmania parasites will eventually develop the disease.

Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Campylobacter species**”?

1. It is considered to be the most common bacterial cause of human gastroenteritis in the world.
2. Campylobacter species can be killed by heat and thoroughly cooking food.

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: Campylobacter species.

Statement 1 is correct: The burden of food-borne diseases, including Campylobacteriosis, is substantial: every year almost 1 in 10 people fall ill and 33 million of healthy life years are lost. Food-borne diseases can be severe, especially for young children. Diarrhoeal diseases are the most common illnesses resulting from unsafe food, with 550 million people falling ill yearly (including 220 million children under the age of 5 years). Campylobacter is 1 of the 4 key global causes of diarrhoeal diseases. **It is considered to be the most common bacterial cause of human gastroenteritis in the world.**

Statement 2 is correct: Campylobacter species can be killed by heat and thoroughly cooking food. To prevent Campylobacter infections, make sure to follow basic food hygiene practices when preparing food.

Geography

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the “**Solar System**”?

1. All planets rotate around their axis in counter-clockwise motion.
2. Mars is often considered as Earth’s twin because of their close proximity in size, mass and density

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) D

Explanation: The Solar System.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Prograde rotation indicates that the motion is in the same direction as the Sun’s rotation. Retrograde rotation is in the opposite direction.

Most planets in our solar system, including Earth, rotate counter-clockwise or prograde direction, but Venus and Uranus are said to have a retrograde or clockwise rotation around their axis. The tilt angle of a planet is measured relative to the orbital plane of the planet, and most planets’ axes form an almost perpendicular angle to the orbital plane.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Venus, twice the distance away from the sun, is the next closest planet after Mercury. It is often **considered as Earth’s twin** because of their close proximity in size, mass and density.

Q.2) The term “**Oort Cloud**” is related to which of the following?

- a) The Clouds over Antarctica
- b) Clouds form in Stratosphere
- c) Clouds form in Venus
- d) None

ANS) D

Explanation: The Oort cloud is the most distant region of our solar system. Even the nearest objects in the Oort cloud are thought to be many times farther from the Sun than the outer reaches of the Kuiper Belt. Unlike the orbits of the planets and the Kuiper Belt, which lie mostly in the same flat disk around the Sun, the **Oort cloud is believed to be a giant spherical shell surrounding the rest of the solar system.** It is like a big, thick-walled bubble made of icy pieces of space debris the sizes of mountains and sometimes larger. The Oort cloud might contain billions, or even trillions, of objects.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Great and Small Circles**”?

1. A Great Circle is any circle that circumnavigates the Earth and passes through the center of the Earth.
2. Equator and all longitudes are great circles.
3. Circles which do not pass through the centre of the earth are the small circles.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS) D

Explanation: A Great Circle is any circle that circumnavigates the Earth and passes through the center of the Earth. A great circle always divides the Earth in half, thus the **Equator is a great circle (but no other latitudes) and all lines of longitude are great circles.** The shortest distance between any two points on the Earth lies along a great circle. **Circles which do not pass through the centre of the earth are the small circles.**

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Lithosphere or Crust**”?

1. Crust is only 10% of the Earth’s mass and contains all known life in the universe.
2. Continental lithosphere is slightly denser than Oceanic lithosphere.

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) D

Explanation: Lithosphere or Crust.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The crust is called Lithosphere because it is a sphere of solid rocks (LITHOS meaning stones or rocks). **Crust is only 1% of earths mass and contains all known life in the universe.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: There are two types of lithosphere: oceanic lithosphere and continental lithosphere. **Oceanic lithosphere is associated with oceanic crust, and is slightly denser than continental lithosphere.**

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct about “**Block Mountains**”?

1. The orogenic forces lead to the formation of Block Mountains.
2. Examples of Block Mountains are the Atlas, Zagros and Elburg mountains.

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: Block Mountains.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The forces of faulting, also known as **epeirogenic forces**, lead to the formation of Block Mountains.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Examples of **Block Mountains are the Vosges (France) and the Black Forest Mountains** in Europe. Salt Range of Pakistan and Sierra Nevada mountains of California, USA.

Atlas, Zagros and Elburg mountains are examples of Fold Mountains.

Q.6) Which of the following are the causes of “**Ocean Currents**”?

1. Level of salinity
2. Temperature
3. The Earth’s rotation
4. Earthquakes or storms

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Surface currents in the ocean are driven by global wind systems that are fueled by energy from the sun. Patterns of surface currents are determined by **wind direction, Coriolis forces from the Earth's rotation**, and the **position of landforms** that interact with the currents. Surface wind-driven currents generate upwelling currents in conjunction with landforms, creating deepwater currents. Currents may also be caused by **density differences in water masses due to temperature (thermo) and salinity (haline) variations** via a process known as thermohaline circulation. These currents move water masses through the deep ocean—taking nutrients, oxygen, and heat with them. **Occasional events such as huge storms and underwater earthquakes can also trigger serious ocean currents**, moving masses of water inland when they reach shallow water and coastlines. Earthquakes may also trigger rapid downslope movement of water-saturated sediments, creating strong turbidity currents.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are NOT “**Warm Ocean Current**”?

- 1. The Gulf Stream
- 2. The North Atlantic Drift
- 3. The Labrador Current
- 4. The Oyashio Current

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Cold currents flow toward the equator on the eastern side of ocean basins. Examples of cold ocean currents include the **Canary Current in the North Atlantic, the California Current in the North Pacific, and the Benguela Current** in the South Atlantic. Cold currents can also flow out of far northern regions. **The Labrador Current flows out of Baffin Bay and past Labrador, the coastal part of the Canadian province of Newfoundland.** The current carries icebergs from Baffin Bay, creating a hazard for ships in the North Atlantic. The Labrador Current meets the Gulf Stream off the coast of Newfoundland. When warm, moist air from the Gulf Stream blows over the cold Labrador Current, water vapor condenses. This results in some of the thickest fogs in the world. Two other important cold currents originate in northern regions. The East Greenland Current flows into the North Atlantic through the Strait of Denmark. The **Oyashio Current flows through the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska and into the North Pacific.**

Q.8) Arrange the following gases in the ascending order of their composition in the atmosphere?

- 1. Oxygen
- 2. Carbon Dioxide
- 3. Argon
- 4. Neon

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

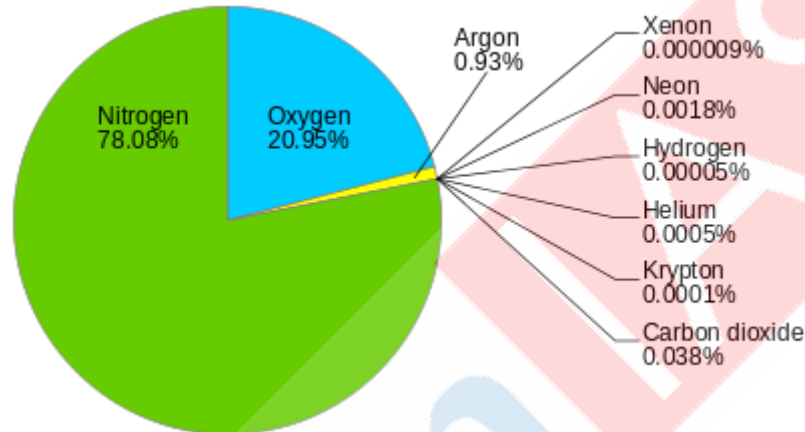
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- a) 3-4-2-1
- b) 4-2-3-1
- c) 4-3-2-1
- d) 3-2-4-1

ANS: B

Explanation: Atmospheric composition (by volume, dry air):

- Major : 78.08% Nitrogen (N₂), 20.95% Oxygen (O₂),
- Minor (ppm): Argon (Ar) - 9340; Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) - 410, Neon (Ne) - 18.18; Helium (He) - 5.24; CH₄ - 1.7; Krypton (Kr) - 1.14; Hydrogen (H₂) - 0.55.



Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Mesosphere**”?

1. The Aurora Borealis in the Northern Hemisphere and Aurora Australis in the Southern Hemisphere forms in Mesosphere.
2. “Noctilucent clouds” sometime form in the mesosphere near the poles.

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) B

Explanation: Mesosphere.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Aurora Borealis in the Northern Hemisphere and Aurora Australis in the Southern Hemisphere forms in **Ionosphere**.

Statement 2 is correct: Very strange, high altitude clouds called “**noctilucent clouds**” or “polar mesospheric clouds” sometime form in the mesosphere near the poles. These peculiar clouds form much, much higher up than other types of clouds.

Q.10) Which of the following is/are **hot local winds**?

1. Chinook
2. Fohn
3. Santa Ana
4. Mistral

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

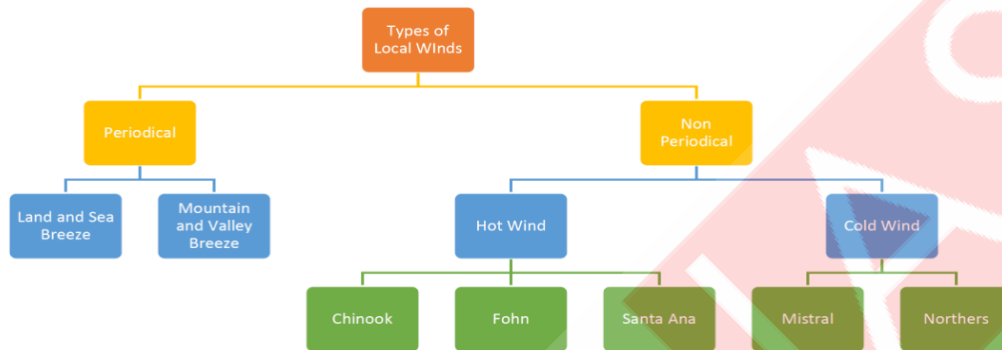
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d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANS) A

Explanation: Local Winds are produced due to local variability in temperature and pressure conditions. Thus, they are more localized in their extent and cover limited horizontal and vertical dimensions and confined to the lower levels of the troposphere.

Types of Local Winds



Environment

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**National Parks**” in India?

1. National Park is defined by state government via notification.
2. The state government can fix and alter boundaries of the National Parks with prior consultation and approval from Environmental Ministry.
3. No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: National Parks in India.

Statement 1 is correct: National Park is **defined by state government via notification**.

There is no need to pass legislation (act) by the state assembly to declare a National Park.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The state government can fix and alter boundaries of the National Parks with prior consultation **and approval with National Board of Wildlife**.

Statement 3 is correct: **No human activity is permitted inside** the national park except for the ones permitted by the **Chief Wildlife Warden of the state** under the conditions given in CHAPTER IV, WPA 1972.

Q.2) Which of the following state/states have “**Community Reserves**” in India?

1. Punjab
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Meghalaya

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Conservation reserves and community reserves in India are terms denoting protected areas of India which typically act as buffer zones to or connectors and migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests of India. Such areas are designated as conservation areas if they are uninhabited and completely owned by the Government of India but used for subsistence by communities and community areas if parts of the lands are privately owned. These protected area categories were first introduced in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002 – the amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

There are 163 existing Community Reserves in India covering an area of 833.34 km², which is 0.03% of the geographical area of the country (National Wildlife Database, March, 2020).

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State-wise break up of Community Reserves:

| Name of State & Union Territory | State Area (km ²) | No. of Community Reserve | Area (km ²) | % of State Area |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Karnataka | 1,91,791 | 1 | 3.12 | 0.002 |
| Kerala | 3,88,63 | 1 | 1.50 | 0.004 |
| Meghalaya | 22,429 | 65 | 136.97 | 0.610 |
| Nagaland | 16,579 | 93 | 662.73 | 3.997 |
| Punjab | 50,362 | 3 | 29.02 | 0.058 |
| | TOTAL | 163 | 833.34 | 0.03 |

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**SoiLEX**”?

1. It is a global database on different types of soils.
2. It is a joint initiative of FAO and UNEP.

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) D

Explanation: The **Global Soil Partnership (FAO)** is currently developing a new tool, **SoiLEX**, a **global database on national legislation on soil protection, conservation and restoration to facilitate access to information on the existing legal instruments in force and bridge the gap between the various soil stakeholders**. The online platform will facilitate the search for national soil legal instruments, the understanding of the different legal areas relevant to soil management and protection, as well as the exchange of experiences in soil governance between countries and regions.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)**”?

1. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are 'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
2. The Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN 2016) sets out globally agreed criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide.

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: **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)** are 'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. **The Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN 2016) sets out globally agreed criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide**. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into **five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability**. The KBA criteria can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments. Although not all KBA criteria may be relevant to all elements of biodiversity, the thresholds associated with each

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of the criteria may be applied across all taxonomic groups (other than micro-organisms) and ecosystems.

Q.5) Which of the following specie/Species is/are covered under “**Schedule 1 of Indian Wildlife (Protection Act), 1972**”?

1. Great Indian Bustard
2. Lesser Florican
3. Falcons

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Over the last 50 years the population of the Great Indian Bustard has recorded a decline of over 82 per cent, falling from an estimated 1260 in 1969, to 100-150 in 2018. Similarly, the population of the Lesser Florican has also witnessed a sharp decline of 80 per cent over the past few decades, from 3530 individuals recorded in 1999, to less than 700 individuals in 2018. Both these **birds are facing the threat of imminent extinction in spite of the highest level of protection under the Schedule one (I) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Falcons covered under Schedule (IV) Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Q.6) Which of the following plant/plants is/are “**Predator plants**”?

1. Sundews
2. Sarracenia
3. Butterworts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Carnivorous plants are usually categorized based on the way they catch the insects. There are wide varieties of common predator plants — **pitcher plants, sundews, sarracenia, Venus fly trap and butterworts.**

Q.7) The term “**Drypetes kalamii**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Bio-fuel plant
- b) Insectivorous plant
- c) Flowering plant
- d) None

ANS) C

Explanation: A team of botanists has discovered a new species of a **flowering plant** in the northern hilly forests of West Bengal. This new species belongs to a **genus called Drypetes that globally comprises about 220 species, and is distributed chiefly in the tropical and subtropical regions of Asia and Africa.** “Named **Drypetes kalamii** after the late Indian president APJ Abdul Kalam, it is a herb, having separate

male and female plants". In India, about 20 species of Drypetes are found. However, this newly found species of Drypetes is unique among them because of its shrubby nature, scrambling life-form and prominent modified leaf structures. The plant produces clusters of greenish and pale-yellow flowers with orange-red and red fruits. Such red fruits easily attract birds, which disperse the seeds far and wide. The new plant belongs to the same group of plants that include *Putranjiva roxburghii*. Since the new plant is a close relative of such medicinal plants, it might also possess some medicinal properties.

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct about "**Gahirmatha Sanctuary**"?

1. It is the lone mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha.
2. It is the world's largest nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.

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: Gahirmatha Sanctuary.

Statement 1 is correct: **Gahirmatha is the lone mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha.** The Olive Ridley turtles travel across the South Pacific to breed on the coast of Gahirmatha. Millions of Olive Ridley turtles visit the beach during mass nesting every year.

Statement 2 is correct: Olive Ridley turtles get their name from the coloring of their heart-shaped shell. It starts out gray but changes to olive green when the turtles turn adults. **It is an ideal destination because it is the world's largest nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.**

Q.9) The term "**Blue Carbon**" is related to which of the following?

- a) Soil organic matter
- b) Poly metallic nodules
- c) Carbon capture
- d) None

ANS) C

Explanation: **Blue carbon** is simply the term for **carbon captured** by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems. Sea grasses, mangroves, and salt marshes along our coast "capture and hold" carbon, acting as something called a carbon sink. These coastal systems, though much smaller in size than the planet's forests, sequester this carbon at a much faster rate, and can continue to do so for millions of years. Most of the carbon taken up by these ecosystems is stored below ground where we can't see it, but it is still there. The carbon found in coastal soil is often thousands of years old!

Q.10) The "**Clean Seas Campaign**" is launched by which of the following?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) Both A and B

ANS) A

Explanation: UN Environment launched Clean Seas (#CleanSeas on social media) in February 2017, with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution. Over the next five years, we will address the root-cause of marine litter by targeting the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastic. To do this effectively, we need citizens to be aware, engaged and active in addressing the problem in their daily lives and beyond.



Reports & commissions

Q.1) The “**Raleigh Commission**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Universities
- b) Primary health
- c) Army reforms
- d) Tribal uprisings

ANS) A

Explanation: The Viceroy filled with imperialistic design was not in favor of giving any power to the Indians. He concluded the Indian Universities and the colleges were slowly becoming cradle of Propaganda against the Government. So, with an **idea to bring the Universities under control, Lord Curzon appointed Raleigh Commission under Sir Thomas Raleigh**. The Raleigh Commission had only one Indian member, Syed Hussain Belgrami. But when the Hindus protested about this, Justice Guru Das Banerjee was called from the High Court of Calcutta and made a member. This commission submitted its report in 1902 and this followed introduction of a Bill called Raleigh Bill. The **Raleigh Bill when became an act, it was called Indian Universities Act 1904.**

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

| Name of the Commission | : | Subject of the Commission |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Campbell Commission | : | Education |
| 2. Fraser Commission | : | Currency |
| 3. Fowler Commission | : | Agriculture |

Which of the above given pair/pairs is/are correct?

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Campbell Commission: In 1865-66, a famine engulfed Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, and Madras and took a toll of nearly 20 lakhs of lives with Orissa alone losing 10 lakh lives, since the famine was most severe in Orissa; it is called the Orissa famine. The Government officers though forewarned took no steps to meet the calamity. The Government adhered to the principles of free trade and the law of demand and supply, the Government did provide employment to the table booked men leaving the work of charitable relief to voluntary agency. But the famine proved a turning point in the **history of Indian famines for it was followed by the appointment of a committee under the chairmanship of Sir George Campbell.**

Fraser Commission: Lord Curzon set up a **Police Commission** under Sir Andrew Frazer in 1902-03. On the basis of recommendation of this commission, a basic structure of Indian domestic intelligence developed and remained almost same till 1947. He attached Department of Criminal Intelligence (DCI) to the Government of India while set up the Criminal Investigation Departments (CIDs) in the provinces of British India. In 1903, the Thugi and Dakaiti Department was abolished.

Fowler commission: The **Indian Currency Committee** or Fowler Committee was a government committee appointed by the British-run Government of India on 29 April 1898 to examine the currency situation in India.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2020

Q.3) Which of the following committee/committees is/are related to “**Small Scale Industries**”?

1. S.S Kohli Committee
2. P L Tondon Committee
3. R N Malhotra Committee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Small Scale Industries.

S.S Kohli Committee: To tackle the problem of **rehabilitation of potentially viable sick SSI units**, the RBI constituted a working group on November 25, 2000 under the chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the then chairman of Indian Banks Association, to look into the issue. The Working Group submitted its report in May, 2001. All the major recommendations of the working group have been accepted by the RBI, including a change in the definition of Sick SSI units, norms for deciding on the viability of sick units, etc. The revised definition would enable banks to take action at an early stage for revival of the units.

P L Tondon Committee: In 1974, a study group under the chairmanship of Mr. P. L. Tandon was constituted for framing guidelines for commercial banks for follow-up & supervision of bank credit for ensuring proper end-use of funds. The group submitted its report in August 1975, which came to be popularly known as Tandon Committee Report on Working Capital. Its main recommendations related to norms for inventory and receivables, the approach to lending, style of credit, follow ups & information system.

R N Malhotra Committee: In 1993, the Govt. of India set up a committee under the chairmanship of Shri. R N Malhotra, **former Governor of RBI to propose recommendations for reforms in the insurance sector**. The objective was to complement the reforms initiated in the financial sector.

Q.4) Which of the following is/are major “**sub-group of Chief Ministers**” constituted by NITI aayog?

1. Sub-group on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes
2. Sub-group on Skill Development
3. Sub-group on Renewable energy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The first meeting of the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog was held on 8th February, 2015 where the Hon’ble Prime Minister urged all Chief Ministers to work with the Centre to forge a model of cooperative federalism, whereby the Centre and the States – Team India – can come together to resolve differences, and chart a common course to progress and prosperity. In the spirit of cooperative federalism, therefore, the **Governing Council had decided that the NITI Aayog would constitute three major Sub-Groups of Chief Ministers:**

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2020

- RATIONALISATION OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

In addition, it was also decided that the States will set up two Task Forces under the leadership of the NITI Aayog:

- Agriculture Development
- Poverty Elimination

Q.5) The “**Tarkunde Committee**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Primary Health
- c) Financial Inclusion
- d) Electoral reforms

ANS) D

Explanation: Jayprakash Narayan on behalf of the Citizens For Democracy had appointed a committee to study and report on scheme for **electoral reforms** in 1974. The members of the committee were V.M. Tarkunde, M.R. Masai, etc. and it is known as J.P. Committee or Tarkunde committee. The important recommendations of the **Tarkunde Committee** are as follows:

- The **election commission should be a three member body.**
- The **minimum age of voting should be 18 years.**
- The **TV and radio should be placed under the control of autonomous statutory corporation.**
- A **voter’s council should be formed in as many constituencies** as possible which can help in free and fair election.

Q.6) Which of the following Standing Committee/Committees has the “**tenure of one year**”?

1. Business Advisory Committee
2. Committee of Privileges
3. Committee on Empowerment of Women
4. Committee on Government Assurances

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Broadly, the Parliamentary Committees may be classified into the following categories: (a) Financial Committees (b) Departmentally Related Standing Committees; (c) Other Parliamentary Standing Committees; and (d) Ad hoc Committees.

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C. Other Standing Committees

| Sl. No. | Name of Committee | No. of Members | Tenure | Members nominated or elected. |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Business Advisory Committee | 15 | Not fixed. Can continue in office till reconstituted. | Nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha |
| 2. | Committee of Privileges | 15 | Not fixed. Can continue in office till reconstituted. | Do |
| 3. | Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitings of the House. | 15 | 1 year | Do |
| 4. | Committee on Empowerment of Women | 30 (20 LS+ 10 RS) | 1 year | Nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha |
| 5. | Committee on Government Assurances | 15 | 1 year | Nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha |
| 6. | Committee on Papers Laid on the Table | 15 | 1 year | Do |
| 7. | Committee on Petitions | 15 | Not fixed. Can continue in office till reconstituted. | Do |
| 8. | Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions | 15 | 1 year | Do |

Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct about “**International Science Council (ISC)**”?

1. The ISC was created in 2018 as the result of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC).
2. It is the only international non-governmental organization bringing together the natural and social sciences and the largest global science organization of its type.

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) D

Explanation: The **International Science Council (ISC)** is a **non-governmental organization** with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils. The **ISC was created in 2018** as the result of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). It is the **only international non-governmental organization bringing together the natural and social sciences** and the largest global science organization of its type.

Q.8) “**Budapest Treaty**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Inventions involving microorganisms
- b) Olympics
- c) Automobiles

d) Authors rights

ANS) A

Explanation: Adopted in 1977, the **Budapest Treaty concerns a specific topic in the international patent process: microorganisms**. All states party to the Treaty are obliged to recognize microorganisms deposited as a part of the patent procedure, irrespective of where the depository authority is located. In practice this means that the requirement to submit microorganisms to each and every national authority in which patent protection is sought no longer exists.

Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the “**Global Land Outlook (GLO)**”?

1. It is published by UNCCD secretariat.
2. The GLO aims to communicate a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales.

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: Global Land Outlook (GLO).

Statement 1 is correct: The **Global Land Outlook (GLO)** is a strategic communications platform and associated publications of the **UNCCD secretariat** that demonstrates the central importance of land quality to human well-being. The **first edition of the Global Land Outlook was launched in September 2017 at the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (COP13) in Ordos, China.**

Statement 2 is correct: The GLO aims to communicate a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales.

Q.10) The “**World Wildlife Crime Report**” is published by which of the following?

- a) United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- b) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- d) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

ANS) B

Explanation: The trafficking of wildlife is increasingly recognized as both a specialized area of organized crime and a significant threat to many plant and animal species. **The World Wildlife Crime Report (UNODC) takes stock of the present wildlife crime situation** with a focus on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, and provides a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. It includes a quantitative market assessment and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies.